



All Saints Gosforth



St. Hugh's Church, Gosforth

Keeping in Touch 28th July 2024

From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

We have all seen the revival of the wartime slogan "Keep Calm and Carry On." I was recently given a note pad which bears these wise words. This motivational message and so poster was never actually issued by the Government, but has since become iconic.

I read a while ago that the modern revival started in Alnwick about 25 years ago when Stuart Manley, co-owner of Barter Books Ltd., found one of the original posters in a box of used books. He and his wife, Mary, framed it and displayed it by their cash register. The poster attracted so much interest that they began to produce and sell copies, leading to countless variations like "Keep Calm and Drink Tea" and "Keep Calm and Avoid Zombies."

Jesus often tells his disciples to keep calm and carry on. Life demands patience, persistence, and trust, and many parables encourage us to persevere. Important things, such as relationships and community building, take time. You cannot plant an acorn and expect to sit in the shade of an oak tree tomorrow. Today, we expect instant results—from instant soup to instant music. While the internet allows us to obtain news and goods quickly, some things, like building relationships or bringing up children, cannot be rushed. Nature does not take shortcuts, and neither can we.

Firstly, then, Jesus often encourages us in his parables "to keep calm and carry on". Some things cannot be rushed; we must be patient, faithful, and expectant.

Secondly, his parables often highlight that great things can come from small beginnings. A small spring can become a river, a long journey starts with a single step, and a lasting friendship can begin with a chance encounter. Small acts of kindness, such as giving way to another driver or visiting an ill neighbour can lead to significant outcomes.

Thirdly, Jesus warns against thinking that

building the kingdom depends solely on our efforts. God's mission grows organically within individuals and communities. We are called to provide space, warmth, and understanding, while God handles the rest. We are not kingdom-builders—that is God's job.

Fourthly, the character of the kingdom can seem chaotic and unpredictable. The smallest seed can become the greatest plant. God's work has limitless potential, and plants can grow in unlikely places, like on rocks and buildings. We cannot control God's rule. God's justice, peace, and joy can be found beyond the church—on Gosforth High Street, at the golf club, and among neighbours.

We hold a vision of the whole of creation redeemed and restored, where peace and justice reign under God's sovereign rule. The Kingdom of God embodies justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, requiring mutual care and putting aside egos. The challenge is to create favourable conditions for the kingdom to grow within us, in our church, and our wider community. Prayer, the Bible, fellowship, and worship all play important roles.

We are to "Keep Calm and Carry On." The kingdom's growth might be unseen, but our task is to remain calm, tenacious, and expectant.

Best wishes,

Andrew

Thank you and good luck

Dermot Killingley has been an outstanding editor of In Touch for many years and we are very grateful to him for all he has done to help deliver a lively and attractive newsletter. He is now moving to Cheshire and we wish him all the best for the future. He will continue editing from his new home, but if you are interested in helping with Keeping in Touch production—and developing it into the future please do get in touch with Dana.

The Garden of Remembrance – our last Open Garden of the season!

....and the first

For our first open garden of the summer we visited Ann Downey's quite beautiful garden. Thank you to Ann and all our hosts for your hospitality and for sharing your beautiful surroundings with us.



This event was tagged on to the end of the Open Gardens schedule rather as an afterthought, but quite a crowd gathered to find out more about the history of the site, in particular the Calvary Cross which rose to fame in a rather unusual way not so long ago!

Despite the rather miserable forecast, the sun shone all afternoon and we were able to spend time outside discussing the challenges of planting the shaded and sometimes impoverished borders, the weeds on the pathways – and the fact that we would love more volunteers to keep it in trim!

After showcasing the garden we did of course repair to the Centre for refreshments.

If you are interested in helping us to maintain the garden, which is a well used spot for quiet enjoyment and reflection within the Gosforth area, please do contact Ann Cross, anncross060@gmail.com



Tales from the Tower: Young Ringers Trip to London

In 2011 to celebrate its centenary year the Ringing World, the Bell Ringers' weekly magazine, introduced a competition for Young Ringers.

The rules were fairly simple:

All team members must be aged under 19 on 31st August in the year of the Contest. Teams may choose to ring either six or eight bells.

There will be two contests: one for Call Changes, and one for Method ringing in each of those categories.

Over the years the number of teams taking part has gradually increased and eventually our association, The Durham and Newcastle Association joined them. Last year the competition took place in York and our team won the 6 Bell Call Change section.

This year the competition took place on Saturday 6th July in London and we once again entered a team who decided to try their luck in the Method section, ringing Plain Bob Doubles. Our youngest ringer here at All Saints, Mina Corso, was part of that team.



Photo courtesy of Roger Lawson/Andrew Cairns.

The others were Joel & Isaac from Wylam (my grandsons), Robert & Joseph from Tanfield and Cleo from Stranton near Hartlepool. The distances between their various towers required dedication on their part in order to travel and meet at several different towers to practice their test piece.

They held their final practice at Houghton-le-Spring on June 30th and 6 days later set off for London. This required a very early start for most of them on the 7a.m. train from the

Central Station. Once there all the teams had a planned route ringing at various London towers and our band rang at St Magnus the Martyr, Tower Bridge (12 bells), St. Michael, Cornhill (12), St. Botolph without Aldgate (8), St Mary-le-Bow, the famous Bow bells (12) and St. Lawrence Jewry (8).

The 6 Bell Method Contest was at St. James, Garlickhythe and the results for all sections of the contest were declared in St. Paul's Cathedral. Over 300 youngsters took part this year and there were 5 bands in the 6 Bell Method section which included our ringers.

When the results were finally announced we were delighted to find that our band had won their section. Our congratulations to all of them on what is a wonderful achievement and we hope they enjoyed their day.

Yvonne Cairns (Tower Captain)



Photo of the presentation thanks to Roger Lawson. Sadly 2 of the band had to leave before this took place to catch their train home.

Election Day Welcome

On Election Day the Church was open for prayer and contemplation. Andrew took this picture of the illuminated East window at 6.05am.



New Churchwarden: Welcome



I grew up outside of Chicago, raised attending a small Episcopalian church called St. Hugh of Lincoln. My parents helped start the church and were actively involved, serving as Bishop's Wardens and on the Vestry. Growing up, we spent a lot of time at the church: mowing the grass, painting walls, washing windows, singing in the choir, and serving as acolytes. My husband, Matt, and I were married there, and our two children, Mina and Leo, were baptised there.

We love to travel, so when an opportunity arose in 2016 to relocate to Newcastle, we jumped at the chance. We discovered All Saints while exploring on one of our first evenings in the UK. The beautiful bells were ringing before evensong, and we've attended ever since.

I have a passion for reading, project management, problem-solving and I enjoy a well-managed checklist. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a churchwarden at All Saints as we honour our church's history, and embrace God's plan for its future.

Dana Corso

Regular giving to All Saints

Generosity in Giving to All Saints is underpinned by loyal members of the congregation (and others) giving regularly through the previous standing order system and we are very grateful to all those who give generously to our church, supporting not just our congregation, clergy, and our historic buildings, but our community and outreach projects as well. In an effort to add value to your donations through gift aid and a more streamlined process, we are now offering a simple alternative, where giving is made via direct debit to a central account.

Terms can be confusing: standing order and direct debit are different banking procedures. The direct debit process is highly efficient and frees up time for our ever reducing pool of volunteers. Once Parish Giving begins, you will need to cancel your current standing order; this is not an automatic action.

It is easy to help us by signing up in one of three ways:

- Scan the secure QR code below
- visit parishgiving.org.uk and quote All Saints unique parish code 250625092
- you can call 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm, also quoting our unique parish code 250625092

It is an easy step by step process; please consider supporting this simple way to donate, which will amplify your giving at All Saints in many ways behind the scenes. Donations take around a month to begin, so please wait to cancel your existing standing order until the scheme starts up. Then don't forget this final step!

Many will remember Tony Armitage who was a much loved member of our congregation. Tony was instrumental in developing the scheme and had always wanted to see its launch in All Saints. We are pleased to see his vision taking shape and we are grateful to all those who have already signed up to the scheme.

Thank you for taking this important step forward with us!



If you have any queries about the scheme please contact one of the following.

Peter Brown, Alison Charlewood, Christine Willoughby

Rewilding the Green

Following the draining of the Green last year (it hasn't stopped raining since!) we are undertaking a number of activities to improve the space and attract wildlife.

We have been keen to involve our uniformed groups, The cubs, with the help of their leaders, recently built two hedgehog



houses which are now installed at the back of the green and looking forward to receiving residents for the winter. As you can see they

worked really hard to create the new houses and then camouflaged them into the undergrowth.

Cubs have also sown wild flower seeds and are waiting for the seedlings to emerge, although the cold and wet weather hasn't helped germination!

Beavers, along with other members of the uniformed organisations will be refurbishing the insect hotel towards the end of the summer.

Brownies, who also planted wildflower seeds, now have a pot in the Garden of Remembrance with some lovely flowers starting to bloom.



In June tree surgeons removed a whitebeam which was in poor condition as well as a dead sapling. Some of the logs have been reused to provide a logpile for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

They removed some dead branches from our ash tree but we were relieved to hear it is still in generally good condition. Other trees were trimmed to remove overhanging branches. We will be looking at replacing the trees—and planting more—in the Autumn.

Other planned activities include putting up bat boxes (come at dusk and you can sometimes see them flying over) and maybe planting bulbs and other wildlife friendly plants.

If you are interested in helping to make our green a more attractive place and develop community activities please contact Christine Willoughby.



Photo: Tricia Maylia

A (sunny) Summer Stroll!

Anyone planning a holiday in the area next summer would do well to note the date of what is becoming our annual summer walk!

For the second year running the warm weather held out and on 21st July we enjoyed a delightful couple of hours learning about the amazing and often unknown history of our local area, led by our own Helen Langley, a City Guide.



Helen has an extensive knowledge of the who, what, when and why of landmarks we may walk, cycle or drive by yet manage to miss, the people who put buildings up (and took them down), the routes of roads and railways, signs of underground mines we never knew were there, and countless other snippets of information we can now go off and impress our friends with or, possibly, research further ourselves. If you weren't interested in local history before going on one of Helen's tours, you will be when you've finished!

We ended the afternoon at St Nicholas' church in South Gosforth for some very welcome refreshments, where we were able to admire their fine stained glass windows and look at memorials to some of the names who are familiar to many of us living in and around Gosforth.

Many thanks to Helen Langley for being our guide for this walk, and to the vicar and churchwardens of St Nicholas for their hospitality.



Ann Cross

Who can predict?

At Pentecost this year, I noticed that element of surprise in the Pentecost story. In Acts, the disciples are astonished to hear the Gospel in different languages coming out of their own mouths, while the people around them are amazed to hear the good news in words they can understand.

Thinking about the Bible as a whole, it is often the youngest or the least likely who is called to carry the promise forward and to do great things for God. Jacob, the younger twin and morally challenged, becomes the patriarch of the twelve tribes. Joseph, the eleventh of twelve sons, saves Israel from famine. David, just a boy who watches the sheep, becomes king. Mary, a young teenager in a backwater of the Roman world, is called to bear the Son of God. And now, a group of uneducated men receive the gift of tongues and are sent out to preach the Gospel in the language of the people, even to the ends of the earth. If there is one thing we can count on, it is that the Holy Spirit will surprise us, stretch our imagination, and challenge our comfort levels. Who knows what will come next?

Andrew

Semitones

On 14th July we were delighted to hear a concert by the Semitones orchestra in church. Semitones is a group of players from all ages and abilities—and all instruments—who practice twice a month in the Centre and perform locally in care homes and elsewhere. If you would like more information or are interested in joining please contact semitonesmusic@gmail.com



School Report: Archbishop Runcie

Year 2 have very much enjoyed the warmer weather recently! We have enjoyed a geography fieldwork trip to Whitley Bay to look at the physical features and find out how our local coastline is used.

We have enjoyed many Sports Week activities including golf and of course, Sports Day! The children showed our school values of love and determination in all of their races. We enjoyed Forest School and hunting for mini-beasts that live in our school habitat.

Year 2 are looking forward to their visit to the Grace Darling museum in Bamburgh next week to find out even more about our local heroine.

Year 2 wish you all a fantastic summer!

Emily Crozier
Year 2 Teacher and Key
Stage 1 Lead



Year 3 have had a lovely last half term in which they have used their Geographical knowledge of the River Tyne from this term to visit Waters Meet in Hexham. During this trip, they were able to look at different land uses from Alston, Waters Meet itself and Red Burn. The sun was shining and it was a perfect day!



Year 3 also had the best time at their summer residential sleepover hosted by Mr H Outdoors. During their residential, the children were able to show their determination by taking part in archery and orienteering, whilst also enjoying a silent disco, campfire songs before bed and a cooked breakfast in the morning.

Year 3 wish everyone a lovely summer!

Sian Kelly



A Big Shout!

We missed it! This year was the 40th anniversary of National Volunteers' Week which has been celebrated in the UK starting on the first Monday of June since 1984. Communities are given the chance to recognise, celebrate and thank all those who so selflessly give their time and talents to the service of others and, perhaps most importantly, are often unseen and overlooked even by those who work and live close to them.

Next year will not be too late, but between now and then, perhaps we can all keep an eye out and subconsciously make a note of all those among us who spend so much of their time dedicated to giving and not receiving and putting other people before themselves. We can say our own prayers for them, remember them on special days and occasions, and next summer perhaps we could build into one of our services a time for giving thanks to those who may not want to be named but make such a difference to the lives of others.



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The Handlebards present The Comedy of Errors

All Saints Church Green

Saturday 17th August 7.00 – 9.00pm.

Tickets £19.50, 21 and under £12.50, 12 and under £5.00 (under 5's are free – no ticket needed!)

Book tickets at: <https://www.handlebards.com/show/the-comedy-of-errors-all-saints-gosforth/>

Stand Charged!



This photograph, taken at the Guildhall on 15 June 2004, is of me, my daughter Gail and Gail's son Ben at the 400th meeting of the Butchers' Company of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Butchers' Company, one of several trade guilds, was incorporated in 1621 and the earliest record I can find is that of my three times great-grandfather Thomas Alder who was an apprentice butcher to Lancelot Stout on 12th September 1716 and was made free on 25th August 1724.

Many of the City's butchers moved into the Grainger Market when it was completed in 1835 and in fact it was originally known as the Butcher Market until the 1950s. Apprentices had to serve at least seven years and at the age of twenty were then eligible to become Freemen of the City, with the right to graze two cows on the Town Moor. Thereafter a Freeman's sons were able to become Freemen as well when they became twenty, as indeed did my brother Ian in 1965.

In 2010, following an amendment passed by Parliament, this was extended to daughters as well.

A new Freeman, holding a musket and bible, is sworn in by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle and swears to 'stand charged with a musket for the defence of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne'.

Margaret Patterson



Fellowship News

Pat and Vic Spong, organisers of the monthly Fellowship Lunches, have now stepped down and Pauline Gallacher has taken up the reins.

The lunches were started in June of last year after group discussions with a number of recently bereaved people of the parish. It has some similarities to the old Loss Adjusters but the format has been revised and this has proved very popular.

The meal is now a finger buffet with wine as an option and is held on the first Sunday of the month in the Centre. The Group has also been opened up beyond the bereaved so that anyone who is alone or who would like a bit of company is welcome.

If you would like to join the group yourself or know of someone who might benefit please let **Pauline Gallacher** know.



Above Vic and Pat, below Pauline



From the Registers

All Saints

Baptisms:

12th May 2024: Norah Lilac Hutchison, Eliza Madeleine Clewlow-Stead

9th June 2024: William James Gianfreda

21st July 2024 Archie Alexander Branch, Rory Jack Branch, Alice Amos, Annie Amos

Funerals:

28th May 2024: Dr Hamish Anderson McClelland, died 29th April 2024, aged 94

18th July 2024: Doreen Margaret (Margot) Maylia, died 4th July aged 86

25th July 2024: Maxine Ann Peel died 30th June 2024 aged 69

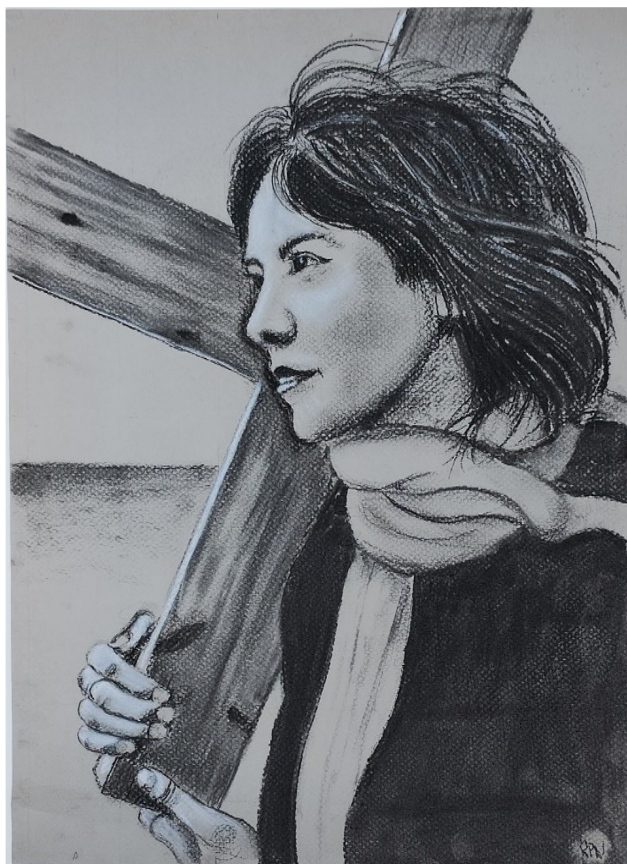
St Hugh's

Funerals:

16th May 2024: Joan Francis Mackay, died 15th April 2024, aged 92

16th May 2024 Trevor Huntley Harris died 30th April 2024 aged 89

To be a Pilgrim



A member of the congregation has sent us a copy of this delightful charcoal and chalk drawing of a pilgrim. Their art group is currently exploring charcoal and chalk portraits.

From the Editors

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of *Keeping in Touch*. It is only as good as its contributors, so please do let us know what you have been doing, review church events for us and send in future plans/news. It all helps us to connect with each other. As soon as we have enough to publish we will put out a further edition.

You can hand contributions to any of the editors, or email to:
allsaintsintouch@outlook.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Lesley Atkinson, Ann Cross, Dermot Killingley, Christine Willoughby

Looking online?

Keeping in Touch can also be viewed online at <https://www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/category/church-news/>

Sunday services at All Saints

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

—all livestreamed on YouTube

Updates will be posted on our website:

<https://www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/>

Sunday services at St. Hugh's

11.00am

Updates will be posted on our website:

www.facebook.com/St-Hughs-Church-Gosforth

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