

Keeping
in
Touch

All Saints
Gosforth



St. Hugh's Church, Gosforth

28th May 2023

From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

After I became a Christian at the age of 15, on Ascension Day I would walk to my local parish church on lovely warm bright May evenings to partake with joy in the Ascension Day service. I would be, on those occasions, easily the youngest member of the congregation by at least 25 years.

I remember hearing a sermon about a stained glass window of the Ascension. I recall the preacher talking about the apostles gazing upwards, looking in mystification at a pair of feet disappearing. There was wonder and confusion in their eyes. I remember the preacher stating that these are a normal pair of feet, which had walked many miles around Galilee but were also marked by the nails that had healed.

So many years on, I remain touched by that message, that Jesus ascended with the visible scars of trauma, abandonment and betrayal, and that his experience is known in heaven as well as on earth.

During the forty days of Eastertide, the risen Christ met his disciples in their doubt and sorrow. He appears and disappears. He is sometimes with them, eating, talking, walking, and then not there any more. There were no words, there was no concept to explain or describe what they experienced. With Jesus' ascension to the Father, we mark an important transformation: the dying king, the risen prince of peace, becomes Lord of all the world.

After the Ascension I am struck by the change in attitude of the disciples. Although they still do not fully understand how God, in Jesus, will be with them, they are now resilient and faithful. They wait, prayerfully, in Jerusalem. They have stopped running away. They seem full of hope. This time, the disappearance of Jesus is not a bereavement or

an absence; it is a promise of things to come.

What is to come will not be fully realised until Pentecost, but the Ascension marks such an important moment towards it. By removing himself from a particular moment in history and a very particular place in the world, Jesus became available for all time and space. Because he was no longer "there" he can be "here". He becomes ubiquitous, available at all times and in all places. That is why the Ascension is truly a joyful feast day.

Andrew Shipton

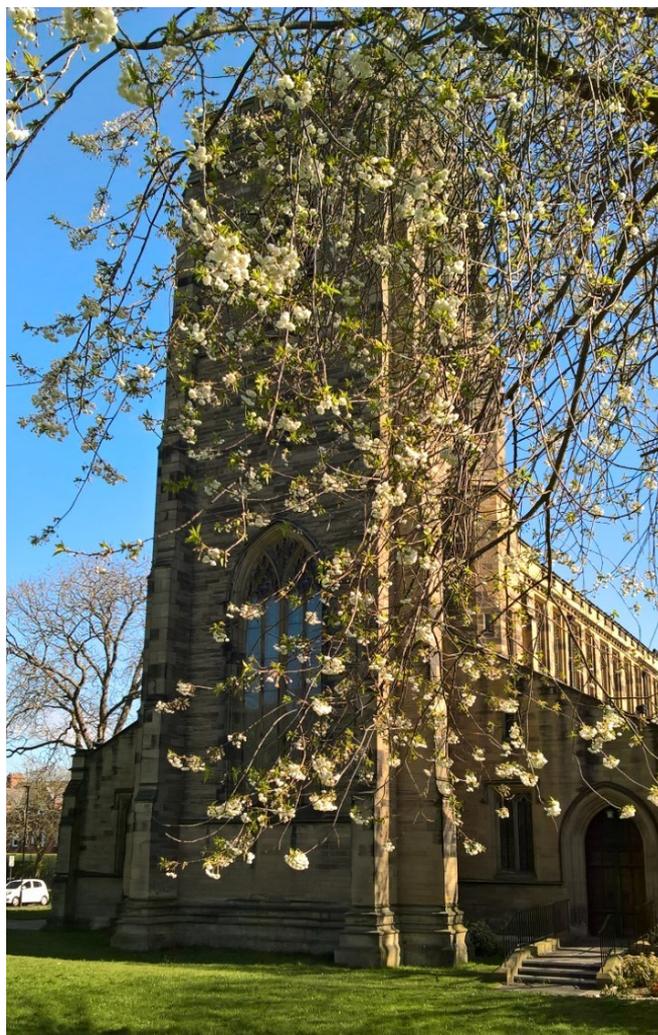


Photo: Paul Wilkinson

Coronation Weekend

The coronation marked a busy few days for people at All Saints'.

On Saturday morning bellringers joined other towers across the country in ringing peals in celebration.

On Sunday we marked the Coronation with a special service of thanksgiving, and on Monday we held an "All Saints' has Talent" event, showcasing the various activities which take place in Church and in the Centre with a view to letting people know what goes on behind the scenes and attracting new recruits.

On pages 2 to 5 we look at some of the hard work and activities involved.

'Choices' at Peter Pan House

We were delighted to receive a range of decorations and flags from 'Choices' at Peter Pan House in West Avenue to decorate All Saints' for the weekend.



Photos: Tricia Maylia.

All Saints' has Talent

Volunteering at All Saints' was on display during the "All Saints' has Talent" event to celebrate the Coronation on Bank Holiday Monday. The photographs show a sample of the groups which invited everyone to "have a go" and become involved in the varied range of voluntary groups based in All Saints'.

Lesley Atkinson



Mothers' Union display their work



Enjoying a game of bridge

Photos: Lesley Atkinson



Cubs help with the gardening

Photo: Tricia Maylia



Judy helps out at Coffee and Conversation on a Monday morning and makes wonderful cakes, including one for the coronation. Thank you, Judy!



Sew, Knit and Natter show their wares



If you are interested in any of these activities please do look on our website <https://www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/> or contact the Parish office, email post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk or telephone 0191 2130450.



Gardening Group move indoors (it was a very wet day!)



Joyce does the finishing touches



Spinning demonstration

The Choir entertains



Tales from the Tower

Just over a year ago Mina Corso and Paul Christian, both members of All Saints' congregation, started to learn bell-ringing. Within a year both have rung for at least three royal occasions, the most recent being the Coronation of King Charles III (last summer we had the Queen's 70th Jubilee, the funeral of Her Majesty and the Accession of King Charles).



Here they are proudly showing their Coronation badges.

Yvonne Cairns, Tower Captain

Coronation Psalm

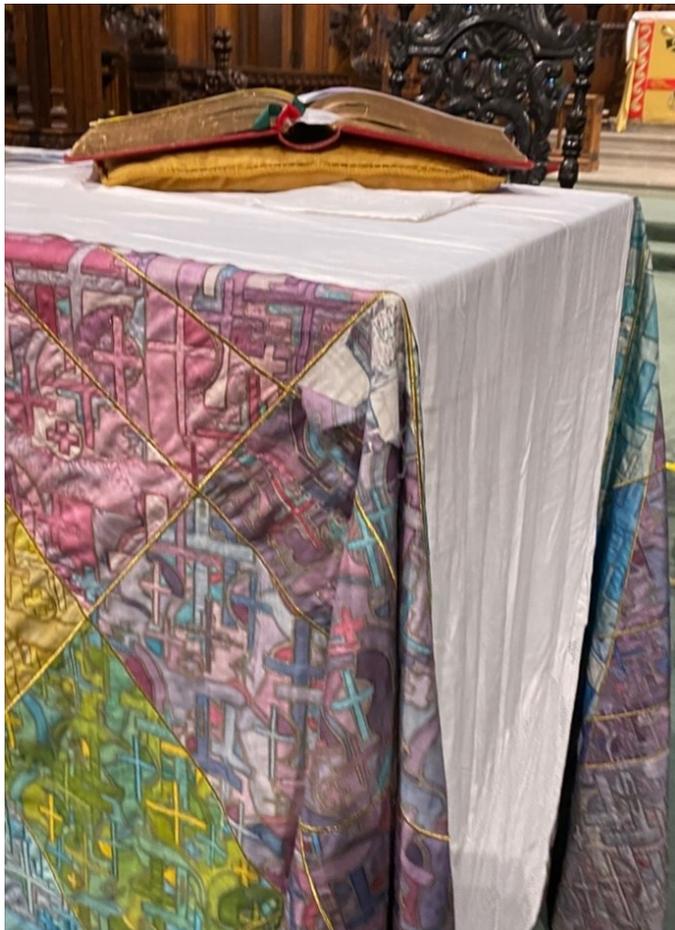
Visitors to the "All Saints' has Talent" event were entertained by the choir singing a range of songs. This included specially composed words set to a psalm tune, to showcase the choir's talents! Thanks to John Lewis for his creativity and humour!



1. Greetings and salutations to / one and / all,
Allow us to / in-tro /-duce our - / selves,
2. We are a few select members of the / All Saints / choir
A merry bunch * tasked with leading of the / mu-sic / in our / church.
3. There are usually about fourteen of / us in / total,
Ranging in age from teenager * to some with a / lot more / miles . on the / clock!
4. We sing under the guidance of our / lea-der / John,
That's him over there * the / bald chap / at the / piano!
5. Anyway * the thing is * some in our number had never / sung in a . choir be-/ fore,
And yet it's fair to say * that they now / thor- ough- / ly en-/ joy it.
6. Yea * the choir is going from / strength to / strength,
We are building in confidence and number * yet there is / al-ways / room for / more.
7. Most of what we sing is in / four part / harmony,
Namely, soprano / al-to / tenor . and / bass.
8. This means that whatever your / voice range / is,
There / will be . a / part to / suit you.
9. We sing a different anthem every / Sun-day / morning,
And try to / keep our / reper-toire / varied.
10. Yea * we have performed music from a-/ cross the / ages
From the fifteenth century * right / up to . the / pre-sent / day!
11. So * if you fancied / having . a / go
We would be / ve-ry / pleased to / welcome you.
12. Just phone John on * get this down *
zero seven nine eight one one * five six / sev'n . five / one,
Or have a chat with / any . of / us at / any time!
13. Thank you very much for / your a- / ttention,
We hope you enjoy the re- / main-der / of the / day.
14. We're all off now to sample the / home made / cider,
And to stuff our faces with / chee-sy / scones. * A-/ men.

Nave Altar Frontal

Some of you may have noticed that the Frontal on the nave altar has been showing signs of wear, with damaged and torn areas of silk on the top corners. The frontal was designed and made by Jane Brown using silk she had painted by hand. It was dedicated on 22nd September 1996 in memory of William Charlton Alder, with the material costs being met by his daughter Margaret Patterson.



Advice on suitable repairs was sought from Tuula Pardoe ACR at the Scottish Conservation Studio LLP in Hopetoun House, Edinburgh. Tuula recommended the corners be reinforced with embroidered supports, and torn silk left visible to be then fixed and secured for the future with very fine conservation netting. Jane is very daunted at the prospect, but should be able to carry out these repairs herself at home. This will take time and cannot be rushed.

We can all look forward to the repaired frontal being brought back into use, hopefully later this year.

Peter Brown

Thank you for undertaking this very complex and time-consuming task, Jane!



Tuesday afternoon Youth Club

Working in partnership with Youth for Christ, All Saints is seeking to establish a "Drop in" Youth Club from 3.30pm to 5pm on a Tuesday in term time in the Centre, welcoming young people from local schools. Youth worker Jaddai Kambeya writes:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2: 9). With so much darkness in the world, and young people looking for identity in the wrong places, it is on our hearts to create a safe space where young people can connect, explore and discover. We want to raise champions, and not just future but current leaders of generations.

A culture where identity is explored and ultimately discovered in the one who created us and calls us his royal children, called to bring light to those around us as we come together and connect.

A passion for not just talking about, but living out the freedom found in who and whose we are. We want to equip young people in the Gosforth area with the tools to navigate their own lives and help their friends do the same.

We appreciate your support in prayer, not just for a successful after school club, but for young people in the area to find it a place where they can be seen, heard, valued and inspired to become better as they help others do the same.

Jaddai Kambeya

Fraser's Prayer

Recently Ethel Randall's third great-grand-child, now nine months old, had three hospital admissions for respiratory conditions, the last time being seriously ill with pneumonia. He has made a full recovery.



Ethel meeting Fraser when he visited her in November.

Gentle Jesus, meek and humble, show me how to pray,

Help Fraser, my great-grandson, lying still, no sound.

Take away his pneumonia and give him back his energy, his life.

Meanwhile I am praying "Our Father", day and night, as I know no other prayer for a very ill child.

On this morning the consultant said, "Fraser has turned the corner." This is such good news. I feel so happy that Fraser is going to get better. How wonderful.

Lord, I want to thank you for doctors, nurses and all hospital staff; for blood transfusions, oxygen to help breathing, tablets for bad germs, and for lots and lots of love and care.

Father, I give you thanks for Fraser's recovery and pray for other sick children. Help them to recover as you have helped Fraser.

Amen

Ethel Randall

Volunteers wanted: Fabric Committee

No previous experience or expertise with a screwdriver required! Creativity, enthusiasm and vision are important.

The Fabric Committee is looking for new members who might like to get involved as part of a team in helping with a range of projects. These might include:

Major repair projects, such as the East Window last year.

Space planning projects, e.g. reconfiguring the Centre to improve facilities for disabled access and make it more attractive for commercial lets.

Helping with the next stage of re-envisioning the Green to make it more nature-friendly and attractive to users.

Meetings take place 2-3 times a year, and level of involvement can be tailored around your availability. Most of all this is an opportunity to get involved with planning for the future of All Saints' spaces, indoors and out.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please do have a chat to Peter Brown or Christine Willoughby

Some rather terrible riddles

Q. Why can't skeletons play church music?

A. Because they haven't any organs!

Q. What do vicars say to get rid of insects in church?

A. Let us spray!

Q. Why didn't Noah's family play cards on the Ark?

A. Because he was standing on the deck!

For some rather more serious questions for the family, see the next page.

My time as School Governor

All Saints' is privileged to have three representatives on the governing body of Archbishop Runcie First School on Christon Road. Andy McCabe is stepping down after 10 years, and here gives us a feel for what is involved in the role.

I am stepping down from the role of All Saints' Church Foundation governor at the end of summer term, and I thought it may be of interest to share my experience of the role. In 2013 I was asked to consider the role, and having had children in attendance at the school since 2006 I thought it was a good opportunity to contribute to a facility that my family had and would continue to benefit from. Being a parent of a child in school is not an essential criterion to become a Church Foundation governor.

I have had many very positive experiences as foundation governor, and have especially enjoyed meeting new people and improving my communication skills. The role has enabled me to gain valuable experiences and skills, covering a wide range of topics, that have helped me to develop my skills set which in turn has aided my career progression.

When I was asked to take on the role, my first thought was: I haven't worked in, and don't know about, education. However, I quickly realised that a school's governing body benefits by its members being from a varied range of professional, social as well as educational backgrounds.

I've seen many changes in school over what has been almost ten years, including several head teachers, teaching and support staff, kitchen and cleaning staff and site supervisors, as well governing body members. In addition to this, the Churches of both St Nicolas & All Saints' have had changes to the members of their clergy.

School is presented with challenges on a regular basis; many challenges are overcome with the support of the governing body. OFSTED inspections provide an opportunity for the governors to show their understanding of the systems in place and how they hold the school leadership team to account, as well as supporting them to fulfil all their obligations. COVID is another example of such a challenge; the governing body supported the school staff who were determined to provide the best opportunities for all their pupils. One

of my proudest moments as a governor was pitching mess tents, to be used as classrooms, on the school field, to enable the then year 4 pupils to attend school for their last weeks at Archbishop Runcie.

Governors are supported throughout their term of office, starting with induction training, with regular training opportunities being offered both online and face to face. During my term I have served on several committees as well as serving as Health and Safety link governor. As governor you assume the role of a critical friend to school staff; getting the balance right can seem difficult at first, but by following the example of other governors and having completed training sessions it soon becomes second nature. The role provides the opportunity to develop your communication as well as leadership skills, and employers often recognise having served as a school governor as a positive attribute.

Andy McCabe

Family Coronation Quiz

1. Which of these ingredients was *not* in the new recipe for Coronation Quiche?
Spinach peas mint parsley
broad beans tarragon
2. Who is fourth in line to the British Throne?
3. Which crown was King Charles III crowned with?
4. In which building did the Coronation take place?
5. Who wrote the new Coronation Anthem?
6. —and who wrote *Zadok the Priest*, which was also sung?
7. The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, was placed by the Throne. Where is it normally kept?
8. Penny Mordaunt was Sword Bearer during the ceremony. What is her usual role in Government?
9. The Gold State Coach was used to take King Charles and Queen Camilla to Buckingham Palace after the ceremony, but which coach was used to take them to the Abbey?
10. In the past 950 years only three British monarchs have not been crowned—who were they?

Answers on the next page

Palm Sunday in the Centre

On Palm Sunday, we once again welcomed guests to an afternoon service, followed by afternoon tea, accompanied by the Semitones Orchestra, in the church Centre.



The afternoon was a lovely opportunity to see friends who are no longer able to attend our morning services, and also to meet new friends who have not previously been to All Saints'.

Thanks go to everyone who contributed to a delightful afternoon.

The photos show the Semitones Orchestra in action along with some of the guests.



Spring blossom in the church grounds

Photo: Paul Wilkinson

Answers to Family Coronation Quiz (p. 8)

1. Peas, mint and parsley were not in the official recipe.
2. Princess Charlotte.
3. King Edward's Crown.
4. Westminster Abbey.
5. Andrew Lloyd Webber.
6. George Frederick Handel.
7. Edinburgh Castle.
8. Leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council and MP for Portsmouth North.
9. The Diamond Jubilee State Coach.
10. Edward V, Lady Jane Grey and Edward VIII.



Taking Action on the Climate Emergency

On Monday 24th April, I got off the Tube at Westminster and made my way across Parliament Square, bright with banners and flags and swarming with people in colourful attire. It was the fourth and last day of “The Big One”, a peaceful climate demonstration that aimed to bring 100,000 people together outside the Houses of Parliament calling for decisive action to halt climate change.

My destination was the Faith Hub, where a range of Christian organisations had come together to be a visible Christian presence at the demonstration, to pray and worship together, to lament the sad destruction of God’s beautiful creation at human hands, and to speak up for those already suffering the devastating effects of global heating.

On Friday, this had been the end point of the No Faith in Fossil Fuels service and pilgrimage. All weekend there was a pattern of daily services and marches. Careful liaising with the police and the organisers of the London Marathon on Sunday the 23rd April had paved the way for a demonstration that ran smoothly and caused minimal disruption. When I arrive, there is some disappointment among the activists: the event has not received the hoped-for level of media coverage. Disruption and arrests make for better headlines.

Among the issues being raised at The Big One is the exploitation of new oil and gas reserves. In 2021, the International Energy Agency said that development of new oil and gas fields must stop if the world is to stay within

safe limits of global heating. Despite this warning, all major oil companies are continuing to explore for and develop new fossil fuel reserves, and our government has opened a new licensing round for companies to explore for oil and gas in the North Sea.

The Bible teaches that “the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1), and that God cares about how we live our daily lives, like what we eat and wear, or how we spend our money. In light of the evidence for climate change, I believe Christians should show our love of God and neighbour by seeking to reduce our carbon footprints. But what brought me to Parliament Square that day is a belief that this by itself is not enough. Individual changes will get us only so far; collective changes are needed.

Which is how I found myself standing in the streets of London feeling self-conscious as I helped to hold up a large banner with the words “Creation cries out.” Some people were visibly irritated, waiting for the march to pass so traffic could get moving again. Others smiled, gave us a thumbs-up, or spoke words of encouragement. There was, perhaps predictably, no response from the government. But as I travelled home that evening, I was glad I had been able to play a small part in The Big One. I hope it made people think. And I hope it encouraged more people, like myself, to take a step from individual to collective action.

While we wait and pray for the day that “the creation itself will be liberated” (Romans 8:21), there is a lot of work to do.

Miriam Jones



Obituary: Meriol Penn

Meriol and John's lives are inextricably entwined and linked with All Saints', which has been a vital part of their lives. During more than sixty years of church membership, both have served in so many roles: as Churchwarden, as Communion assistant and as members of the PCC; in the Young Wives, the Badminton Club, and the bell-ringers.

Meriol first attended All Saints' with her parents in the 1950s, and then again from 1964. Her children were baptised and confirmed in All Saints' and became active members of AYPAs, Guides and Scouts, and choir.

Meriol's story is inspiring. Her family, the Godfreys, were close-knit. Her father's work took them all around the country, from Nottingham to Manchester, then Cambridge, and finally Newcastle upon Tyne, where, in 1946, Mr Godfrey was appointed as the Diocesan Divisional Inspector of Schools in the North of England.

Meriol enjoyed her education, attending Perse School for Girls in Cambridge, where she eventually became Head Girl. Following her teacher training she moved to Bristol to take up posts, first as teacher of biology at Redland High School, and later at Colston School.

On moving back to Newcastle, Meriol and John had a house close to her parents' in Causey House, Elmfield Road. This made it easy to alternate Sunday lunch between the two! Sadly, Meriol's parents died within a few months of each other in 1970.

As a teacher, Meriol was known to be strict in the classroom, expecting only the highest standards. However, Eastcliffe alumni often wished her an affectionate hello as she and John walked around Gosforth.

Meriol was an active member of All Saints'. She set up a branch of Young Wives, and initiated a babysitting group. Together with John, she was a volunteer for the Northumberland National Park, where they undertook roles as voluntary wardens, being part of a Hadrian's Wall walking patrol.

Meriol possessed tremendous energy, commitment, outward focus and a deep Christian faith, from her early childhood, to being a young mother caring for her family, doing the housework, cooking and shopping until the end of her life. It was that zest for life,

nature and walking pursuits; her love of animals and nature; being outside to enjoy it, and her devotion to family and friends, that we so much admired about her and makes us want to give so much thanks for her.

Always a thoughtful person, Meriol considered others first and often had little time to sit down to relax. Dependable and busy, she could be relied on and would do the tasks that held no appeal to others; for example, late in life she would sweep the steps to the ringing chamber of the tower. Giving of herself was Meriol's calling.

We think of Meriol as a sincere and warm person with a non-sentimental willingness to get on with things. Throughout her life, she loved to care for others. Her devotion as a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt was unconditional, as was her passion to share what she enjoyed and treasured. Serving others, she believed, brought true fulfilment.

After experiencing a stroke in 2017, Meriol showed immense courage, patience and humour in learning to communicate anew with mime, gesture, single words and phrases. Continually striving hard to be understood, she kept any of her own problems under wraps. She broke her hip on a bollard on Gosforth High Street, but was undeterred. She was always a familiar sight in Gosforth on her bike, and then latterly her walker.

Devout, Meriol would not miss a service, wanting prayers said with her when she was unwell. She received communion on her knees, and blew kisses to give thanks. She was grateful for the care she had received. Her ability to bounce back demonstrated a resilience so often noted in the lives of the Saints!

We thank God for Meriol. Her life really was her message: she'd probably say 'enjoy your life and the gifts you're given; give all you can, overcome setback with courage and entrust yourself to God, Father of us all; in the end, give your life graciously back to the one who gave it to you God himself.'

After all she has done and given may Meriol rest in peace and rise in glory.

Andrew Shipton

From the Registers

All Saints'

Baptisms

7th May Emrys Sauti Guha-Niyogi & Nia
Helen Guha-Niyogi

Wedding

14th April Robert Alan Matthewson & Sarah
Jane Makepeace

Funerals

3rd April 2023 Sarah Penelope Jones, died
9th March 2023 aged 49

28th April 2023 Meriol Dorothy Penn, died 5th
April 2023 aged 94

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**

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

Disciples Wordsearch

D J E U V F Z W S C Z Y
G H R E T E P E I R L N
Q J A M E S W H M F S N
S A D U J B N T O F U A
W D T O G I P T N X E S
C E J Q U Y V A I T D R
T G R A T H O M A S D P
Y G M D M V H O O M A H
X S V H N E E G E F H I
P X K Y V A S N B W T L
A J W Y D V N H O J B I
W E M O L O H T R A B P

Can you find these disciples in the wordsearch above? Names may go forward, backward or diagonally.

JOHN
JAMES
JUDAS
PETER
SIMON
BARTHOLOMEW

ANDREW
PHILIP
THOMAS
MATTHEW
THADDEUS

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