

Keeping
in
Touch

All Saints
Gosforth



St. Hugh's Church, Gosforth

27th November 2023

From the Vicar

Still a deeply powerful story.

Dear All,

Five years ago I wrote of how I believe the Christmas story cannot be contained or fully explained. It is a mystery, and the story is one that continues to strike deep chords within many. I think there is something deeply symbolic and powerful in the narrative, and the familiar story told by the Gospel writers addresses some of the most basic questions we ponder, such as "Is there a deeper purpose to life in the face of a chaotic world?" and "What can we trust in in the face of evil and suffering?"

This year, as I am struck again by the darkness of conflict and inhumanity in our world, I think of those classical paintings of the nativity in famous galleries across Europe. I remember that so many paintings of the nativity seem graphic and dark. Artists down the ages have portrayed the light of the manger in a dark and dying world. The Flemish masters often show the darkness of a snowy, bleak northern winter with the light physically shining out of the baby Jesus. The painters of the Renaissance depict the stable as a crumbling palace or castle. The suggestion is this "ruin" is our world into which God comes to visit us. In Russian icons the stable is a cave, a symbol of human security and salvation from a violent and savage world. In the cave there is the hearth symbolising hope, light, life—outside darkness, chaos and death.

There is a rawness in these images. There is the vulnerability of Mary and the helpless Christ-child. Generally, in these classical pieces we see the tender baby in the midst of evil, God in the midst of tragedy. There is an innocence, a gentleness, joy and celebration in the mist of poverty and exhaustion. Alongside paintings of the nativity can often be found depictions of the holy family fleeing to Egypt with Herod being brutal and cruel. Again in these paintings the piercing light of God comes into a war-torn, troubled world.

As we approach Christmas I think these paintings remind us that despite the darkness, God does not abandon us. Seeing God, the "Word-made-flesh" in the baby, gives us hope and confidence that the world can be re-deemed. He came to such a world as this, and in his risen presence remains with us. Again at Christmas we read: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5), and celebrate "He is with us."

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrew Shipton

**INTO STILLNESS
TIME AND SPACE
TO REFLECT**



Join us in All Saints' church from 2.30 to 4.30 on 3rd and 10th December for some time for quiet reflection.

Draining the Green

In October our contractors were finally able to undertake the drainage of the Green. This involved screening the area off, digging trenches at 5m intervals in a herringbone pattern and installing porous pipes. The pipe trenches were then backfilled with gravel and covered, with the original turf being replaced on top. As water takes the line of least resistance it percolates through the stone and into the pipes.

The contractors worked long days to ensure work was complete before Storm Babet arrived to test the work! They reported that the new system was immediately running full bore in the face of the storm.

Once the ground has settled down, the contractors will return in Spring to roll the Green if necessary.

Our thanks go to all those who donated so generously towards the project, including the North of Tyne Authority and the Community Foundation.

We are also grateful to Alison and Simon who trimmed the hedge following this work. Coco the dog was also a great helper and attracted lots of chats from neighbours! Some even put the cuttings in their green bin, for which we were very grateful.

Once things have settled we will be looking at how we can improve the green to encourage wildlife and enhance its attractiveness.

Peter Brown and Christine Willoughby



Fairy Doors workshop

At half-term we held a fairy doors workshop in the Centre.

Some of you may have seen the fairy door in Ashburton Road (look hard at footpath level!). Ours were wooden, hinged with a latch, set on a base, and just waiting for young people and their adults to come and paint and decorate them.

Once completed they could be taken home and attached to a skirting board or hidden in the garden with the door ajar so that the fairies can magically come and go as they please!



Photos: Tricia Maylia

Photo: Andrew Shipton

Fellowship Lunches



Since June we have been meeting monthly for lunch under the banner of 'Life after Loss' which replaced the old 'Loss Adjusters'. The new format of a finger buffet in the Church Centre hall has proved popular, flexible and easy to arrange.

We tested the format in June with a small group of 11, which went well enough to us to establish the group which has grown steadily. At our last meeting we had 20 sitting down,

and we expect 4 more in December. Clearly we are meeting a need, and the way the lunches are organised means we can welcome many more.

Following feedback we have now opened up the group to people who will be on their own, not just those who have lost a partner. As a result of this we are re-branding to **FELLOWSHIP LUNCHES**.

The group is open—there is no membership structure—you just need to let me know you are coming so that there is enough for everyone. So if you live alone and would like a bit of company on the first Sunday of the month do come along and join us.

Vic Spong

0191 236 4532 victorspong@btinternet.com

Advent and Christmas at All Saints

Saturday 2nd Dec.	11.00am-1.00pm	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 3rd Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
ADVENT SUNDAY	9.30am	Parish Communion
	2.30pm-4.30pm	Into Stillness: Time for space and reflection in church
	6.30pm	Advent Carols followed by mulled wine
Sunday 10th Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	2.30pm-4.30pm	Into Stillness: Time for space and reflection in church
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	3.30pm	Christingle service followed by refreshments
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Monday 18th Dec.	2.00pm	Carol Singing at the Shopping Centre
Tuesday 19th Dec.	6.00pm	Parish Carol Singing
Sunday 24th Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS EVE	9.30am	Parish Communion
	2.15pm	Service for young children
	4.00pm	Carol Service*
	6.30pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist of Christmas
Monday 25th Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY	9.30am	Christmas Communion
Sun. 31st Dec.	8.00am	Holy Communion
First Sunday of Christmas	9.30am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

** This is a very popular service, and for Health and Safety reasons once Church capacity has been reached a welcome will be issued to the 6.30pm service.*

Farmers' Market goes from strength to strength



When we first started our Farmers' Markets there was some trepidation from ourselves and also maybe from the stall holders. Would anyone come, how would it be received? It soon became clear that it was a very popular event, as goods flew off the stalls and stall-holders were only too happy to come back—and tell others!

The last market was held on 18th November. In addition to the stalls outside, we were able to offer some of the stall-holders an indoor space and deliver a full programme of musical events in church.



The music programme consisted of a number of steel pan groups, with members ranging from young children to retirees, as well as an excellent pianist who played his own arrangements and adaptations of varied popular songs from musicals, and hymns. They all attracted a very enthusiastic audience, with young children dancing in the aisles and the sound echoing outside!



Our thanks go to all those who worked long and hard to make the Market such a success, even on a rather damp and dingy day!

As we apply for a new licence we are looking to expand the permitted number of stalls, in response to demand. The events truly put All Saints' at the heart of our community.



Judy Riseborough displays hidden talents on the steel pans! Photo: Lesley Ogilvy



A particularly attentive listener!

Photos: Ros Place, Christine Willoughby

Another picture: see p. 14



Picture: Yvonne Carr

Harvest Festival

On 1st October we celebrated our harvest festival with a welcome to the uniformed groups at our Parish Communion and a generous collection of goods for Walking With, which cares for asylum seekers and refugees in North Tyneside.

In the afternoon we were delighted to welcome less mobile members of our congregation to an afternoon service of Eucharist in the Centre, followed by tea to the accompaniment of music by the Semitones orchestra. It was lovely to welcome so many.

All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is November 2nd, the day after All Saints' Day, but we delayed the celebration of both to Sunday November 5th. It dawned bright and sunny, in Autumn splendour.

At the well-attended 9.30 service we celebrated our patronal festival with a procession and a presentation to the Brownies, as winners of our "Community Challenge".

After the service we celebrated the launch of Magaret Wilkinson's amazing book *Just Fred*, based on her late husband's diaries. This was followed by a sandwich lunch in the Centre for people living on their own.

Our evening service was a special one for All Souls' Day, to which all those who had held a funeral at All Saints' this year were invited. Over 50 people attended this beautiful, poignant, service, which must have been a particular challenge to our vicar who lost his Mum literally days earlier. Many lit candles to commemorate their loved ones and joined us for refreshments after the service.

Both services I attended were enhanced by beautiful and original music. Meanwhile, outside, fireworks were being enjoyed in the first dry weather.

Valerie Farthing

Happy Birthday, Gardening Group

On a Sunday morning recently we were all treated to a celebration cake after the service. This was made by Judy Riseborough and decorated by her husband Alan, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Gardening Group.



The Group was formed in 2013 to care for the Garden of Remembrance. (Others keep the rest of the grounds looking trim).

Not only did it look good, it tasted good too. Thank you both, Judy and Alan.



The Open Gardens Scheme Summer 23

Due to our very generous hosts, the garden scheme was, as usual, a huge success. The hosts being Sue and George Scott, Pat and Vic Spong, Sue and Paul Finkill, Margaret Wilkinson and Pam Taylor.

Each of the gardens was special in their own right. Added to which our hosts, provided us, their visitors with lovely afternoon teas making the whole experience a delight.

The first to open their garden on a sunny June afternoon was Sue and George Scott. There was a very good turnout of visitors to enjoy and appreciate their spectacular garden with its lovely flowers and shrubs well bordered by George's beautifully manicured lawn. A truly delightful way to spend a sunny June afternoon.

The next garden to open was the Spongs whose gorgeous David Austin roses were in full bloom, and whilst their other plants sparkled, the roses with their beauty and lovely perfume won the day. There was thankfully a lot of visitors to appreciate the spectacle.



Picture: Ann Cross

Sue and Paul, our next hosts, have moved to their new home in recent years and inherited a lovely sloping garden with mature flowers, shrubs and fish pond. The terraces all had seating arrangements for us to sit and admire if we wished, and Sue had added new features to the garden for us to enjoy. I particularly enjoyed the use of stepladders to show some of her plants.

Margaret's garden was the next to be opened for us. Margaret, an expert gardener, has some rare species for us to see and enjoy. The weather that afternoon was less clement, so we gathered indoors for a lovely tea and chat, but managed to venture outdoors to make sure we'd seen all of the garden and the greenhouse where Margaret was bringing on some plants.

Pam's was the last garden to open this season. Pam also has wonderful roses but her

speciality must be her vegetables and the greenhouse which grows her lovely tomatoes and cucumbers which she very generously shared with the parishioners. Thank you Pam.



The three Margarets at Pam Taylor's house

All of our hosts had injected their own flair and personality into their gardens which made each of them a joy to visit. They also provided us, the visitors, with a very warm welcome, a lovely afternoon tea and somewhere to sit to while away the afternoon and contemplate the beauty that surrounded us.

Our very grateful thanks to all of them.

Valerie Hedley

Happy Flower Arranging!

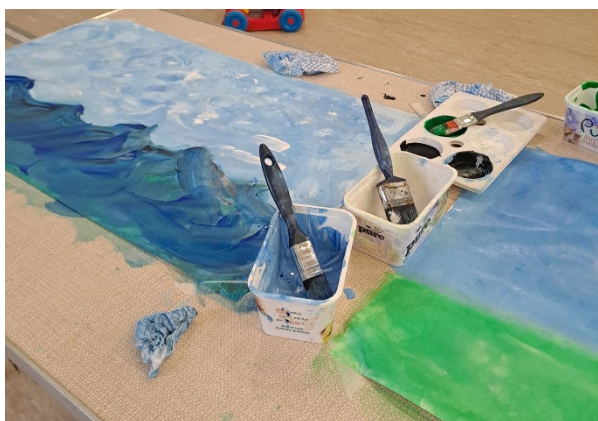
Thank you to Valerie Farthing who has send in this picture of Pat Spong and Joyce Nutt, two of our team of flower arrangers who work behind the scenes to keep our church looking beautiful week after week. If you are interested in joining the team or learning more please contact Pat Spong on 0191 2364532 or email pat.spong@googlemail.com.

No experience is necessary, as training can be given. Flowers are normally arranged on Friday mornings but other days and times can be organised to suit.



Art Workshops

October saw the launch of what we hope to be monthly Art Workshops, held principally to create “props” for the All Together services. Some of you will recall the beautiful pictures of The Creation last month, and by the time you read this another group of young people will have completed a Poppy Banner and other related art for Remembrance Sunday.



These workshops are free of charge and open to any children and young people from All Saints', attached groups such as the uniformed organisations, and also to the wider public. The first workshop was attended by 10 children, ages ranging from 2 to 12 years, and all had something that they could work on, from detailed drawing and painting to sticking and printing.

Sessions run from 2.30 to 4.00 pm on Saturday afternoons in All Saints' Centre, either the week before or the day before the



Hannah Marshall and Flynn hard at work

All Together service (please check website and notice boards for details) and are led by

members of the Youth Team. They start with a short explanatory “story” about what we will be doing and end with refreshments for everyone—including tea or coffee for parents who stay with younger children.

The December Art Workshop will be on Saturday 9th December, when we will be



making Angels, to tie in with the Festival of Angels that will be displayed in church from that date. We do hope to see some of you there, and if any older members of the congregation would like to help, and work alongside these young people, please let us know!

Ann Cross



A Reader Reflects

As I retire, I have been asked to look back over the last 14 years.

So what is a Reader? Well, he or she is a lay minister of the church who is licensed by the bishop to preach, teach, lead worship and assist at communion. We are distinguished by our blue scarf.

How did I become a Reader? For me it was a “tap on the shoulder” when two people quite independently suggested it to me. One was a friend who was already a Reader himself, and the other was our then Assistant Curate, Guy Tindale.

A Reader must be proposed by the Vicar and endorsed by the PCC before completing a three-year training course. As we were in an interregnum I had to wait for Genny Tunbridge to arrive and formalise my candidature. I was licensed by Bishop Martin Wharton in 2009 and started to lead Evening Prayer and to preach.

The “teaching” involved the Education and Discipleship Group starting with “The Big Read”. The Revd Alistair McNaughton (our former curate Diana’s husband) encouraged us to look at informal learning, which led to “Beer & Hymns”, “Schools Week”, and the Film Group which is still going. We took on board the “After Sunday” programme developed by the Revd Peter Sinclair which encouraged us to look beyond Sunday worship. From this came the “Loss Adjusters” programme which continues in the Fellowship Lunches.

Even with a team of three priests there were opportunities to exercise one of the more challenging yet satisfying aspects of ministry, namely funerals. Memorable moments included officiating for three members of two families, one very tragic teenage suicide, two chief executives and a tricky one where I was relieved to find a uniformed police officer on duty in the baptistery. At one winter burial I was advised by the cemetery staff not to go too close to edge of the grave as the ground would give way—imagine sliding down to join the coffin!

It has been a real privilege to have worked for the mission of Jesus Christ at All Saints’ in a formal role. Over the years I have been grateful for the advice and guidance of many clergy, but most of all for the support and encouragement from the members of All Saints’ past and present. It has been enormously rewarding to serve, so thank you all.

Vic Spong



Vic Spong with Bishop Martin Wharton at his licensing as a Reader in 2009

Thank you

to Vic for all your hard work over the last 14 years—your thoughtful sermons, services and a lot of activity behind the scenes. You will be missed.

Canon Connolly at St. Hugh’s

Canon Syd Connolly celebrated the Eucharist for the last time in the foreseeable future at St Hugh’s on Remembrance Day. This year he marks 55 years of ordained ministry. After appointments in the diocese of Liverpool, from where he hails, Syd came to Newcastle in 1980 to become Vicar of Christ Church, Walker. Subsequently he was Team Rector of Whorlton, Vicar of Holy Nativity, Chapel House, and Team Rector of North Shields. Since 2006 he has assisted at St Hugh’s. Our great thanks to Syd for his caring and faithful ministry.

Andrew Shipton

Book Group Review

In September the Book Group met on the last Thursday afternoon of the month as usual at Café Nero on the High Street. We had read

Lily by Rose Tremain.

This was a gripping and enlightening read. Lily was a foundling child brought up at the Foundling Hospital after having been rescued by a young policeman who suffered from severe pneumonia because he used his coat to protect the innocent little baby he found abandoned in a park and being attacked by wildlife (in his delirium he thought wolves, but probably rats). We learned with horror that the charitable intentions of the Foundling Hospital to feed, educate and care for abandoned infants would be considered draconian today, although it was a better alternative than starvation.

The babies were sent out to paid foster parents in the country for their early years—and here Lily was safe happy, loved and loving. Suddenly her foster parents (as was their contract) had to return the distraught 5-year-old, who felt abandoned. The security of early life gave her the strength of character to resist the worst restrictions and stand up to the only truly evil character—a senior teacher who was corrupted and corrupting and vicious against Lily. Neglect (and lack at that time of adequate medicine) caused the death of her dearest friend. The children were all trained in a trade or skill, and Lily eventually worked for a milliner with success.

She became obsessed in finding out about her natural mother, which leads her to many strange places and people and reconnects with the policeman who had saved her. They have a co-dependent friendship; she visits his home where he and his wife offer her a home and to be the child they had never had. Lily realises her feelings for her saviour are not those of a child and parent but a woman to a man. She is horrified and withdraws—and he realises she is very important to him.

Lily returns on an open day to the Foundling Hospital, and is horrified to see her enemy and abuser targeting a young girl and repeating her appalling abuse. Lily is incensed and slips into the staff quarters and kills the

teacher to save other children. She slips out unobserved and gets away. However, she is consumed with guilt and constantly imagines and dreads her execution, and possibly arrest by the man she loves who regards saving her life as his very best action in life—and she has grown up to be a murderess!

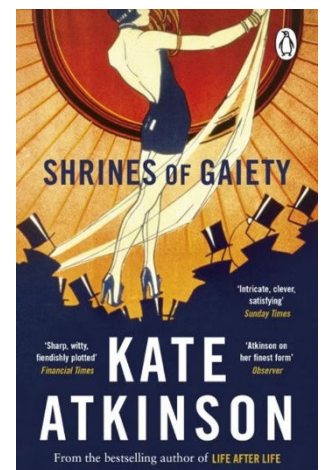
Unable to bear bringing disgrace on anyone who has been kind to her she gives up her job—and the employer (a lady of a questionable life-style and history) who cares for her gives her a substantial sum of money. However when she meets her policeman saviour, she confesses her love for him and her crime. He is appalled—his entire life and self-definition is being an honourable, married and uncorruptible policeman—but realises he cares deeply for her too. He tells her to run away and never return.

She has nowhere to go and no person to care for—so, like a wounded bird, she makes a difficult journey back to her lost paradise where she lived as a child. She is received with joy by the eldest son of her foster parents, and his bedridden mother who has had a stroke and is mentally confused but remembers her beloved girl. Lily has found sanctuary and love, but is still filled with guilt and fear that one day her policeman will surrender to his conscience and come to arrest her. No-one in this story has had an easy life and no-one is straightforward except her loving foster mother. Life may be hard for some now, but life for almost everyone in Lily's world is precarious dangerous and difficult most of the time.

We were engrossed with the story and hoped that there might be a bright future where she could love and have babies to have a happier childhood than hers.

This month we are tackling the latest Kate Atkinson, *Shrines of Gaiety*—why not come and join us one month?

Marion Anderson



PCC Awayday

On a glorious but windy day in October, PCC members gathered in the peaceful atmosphere of Alnmouth Friary. We were based in the delightful first floor library with the intention of discussing a range of issues, despite the wonderful distracting view from the window



over the village, the beach and the sea!

The afternoon enabled us as a group to spend more time together, both in a social setting and in discussion of the four main areas of concern that we felt are priorities for All Saints'.

Worship: It was agreed that the current profile of services, with a mixture of formats including the monthly All Age service and the "Faith at Four" service was broadly as desired. We emphasised the importance throughout our worship of being seen as a welcoming and open community.

Young People: we looked at ways engaging and attracting young people into the church. It was agreed that the problem of attracting young people is not confined to All Saints', and it was noted that through special services and school visits many young people do have contact with All Saints' and the Christian message throughout the year, even if they are not regular attenders.



Communication: we agreed that we must be open to using all methods of communication, from the traditional to the most modern online methods. We need to keep in touch with families who have contact with the church, through baptisms, weddings and funerals. All such communications need to be people centered showing individuals that they are important to the church. A working group led by Nick Glover is hoping to take these ideas forward.

The Fabric and the Organ: The need for repair works to the organ was discussed, and the nature of such a programme was agreed. We discussed the need to think of different ways to make use of the Centre and the associated need to modernise it. We will need to consult with the users of the Centre, and this will all be overseen by a small working group.

At the end of the afternoon, it was agreed that it had been a worthwhile, profitable and enjoyable exercise; a lot of good ideas were shared all of which will feed into the life and mission of All Saints' over the coming months and years.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these areas—or would like to get involved—please do speak to us or a member of the clergy.

Nick Glover, Christine Willoughby

School Governor Wanted

Archbishop Runcie First School was originally established as the All Saints' School before moving to its current site, and we continue to maintain strong links.

As well as hosting church services, clergy and volunteers visit regularly, to help with such activities as music, reading and hold regular services.

In addition we have 3 foundation governors representing All Saints' on the governing body and one of these posts is currently vacant. If you are interested in becoming involved in this way, please contact the Vicar.

No prior knowledge is required, but it is important that you are sympathetic to the School's ethos and prepared to represent the views of the PCC in discussions and decisions.

This is an interesting and rewarding opportunity to put your talents to good use and learn more about the world of education.

Obituary

Sonia Downing

Sonia was born Sonia Millward on 15th June 1936 in Tunbridge Wells. She grew up in Sheffield with her mother, father and older brother Maurice. She attended Sheffield High School for Girls as a Trust Scholar, and became head girl. She was academic but also loved music and sport. She played cello and violin, and regularly went to Hallé Orchestra concerts. She was excellent at tennis and netball, and played netball for the South of England when at university.

She studied maths and chemistry at Reading University, but dropped chemistry after the first year. There she met Mike who was reading agriculture, but didn't like him at first. Her family moved to Cleadon while she was at university, and by coincidence Mike also independently moved to Newcastle. She met him again in a coffee shop in Newcastle and radically changed her mind about him. They married at All Saints', Cleadon in 1963.

Sonia was a secondary school maths teacher all her career—and never had a day off sick. After a year at Sandyford School and in High Heaton, she taught at Church High from the mid-70s until she retired. She was particularly effective working with young people who struggled with the subject. She was always thought to be patient and genuinely cared for the children. After retiring in 1996, she volunteered at Wyndham School.

Sonia's family was everything to her. The adoption of Tim and Jane brought her and Mike much joy, and she has spoken of the tears of joy which she and Mike shared. As good parents they always encouraged Tim and Jane to spread their wings. Sonia was an absolutely devoted wife, mother, gran and friend to many. She was passionately involved in the Silvers programme at the Sage. She was involved in many groups: guitar, choir, steel pans, ukulele, ocarina, and residentials (where she was chief photographer). She served as treasurer and was on many committees. She always valued the kindness of the Silvers team who made it possible for her to continue to sing by looking after Mike when he started to become unwell, and that is where she met her friends Jill and Lesley. Both Sonia and Lesley coped with caring for their husbands, which created a deep bond.

Sonia spent a lot of time with Jill, and loved spending time at Jill's cottage in Northumberland. She loved walking, particularly with the dachshunds that she always had. She had numerous pets and supported animal

charities. Her grandson Joe said the animals in the world will miss her.

After losing Mike she gained comfort from the All Saints' community and joined the Mothers' Union. She joined the afternoon tea club and helped with the welcome and catering, and during the lockdown she would be on the parish breakfast Zoom and the Friday morning choir. Her cards with her photos were beautiful and made more money at the Christmas fair than any other stall, bar the coffee and tea (and hopefully the ones still in the house will appear at this year's event). We have sent these cards to parishioners on "significant" birthdays and they have been greatly appreciated.

Sonia took the unusual step of being baptised later in life, after some deep conversations about what she believed. She was honest, sincere and concerned to be baptised only when she felt she could respond wholeheartedly to the questions put to her.

Sonia remained extremely sociable, despite deteriorating sight and hearing, and lived a very active life until the last few months, travelling to favourite places around the area—particularly with Lesley. She had tremendous energy and determination; she could be firm about the things that mattered to her and yet wanted to learn. She was interested in people. She remembered the names of her grandchildren's friends and always asked after them. Wise and thoughtful, she could get to the heart of an issue with one comment. Her combination of realism, humour and compassion was striking. She was fair in her views, with a directness which sought an honest opinion from you, and you had to be straight with her.

She was passionately concerned with her family, and followed closely the successes of her grandchildren of whom she was very proud. She was fiercely loyal. The wonderful photos of her in her room at Kenton Hall and in her home are a testament to her devotion. When she was ill she was surrounded by love and concern in the Freeman and Kenton Hall. She was accompanied by Lesley and family and we commend her into that peace and love she knew in this life and which embraces her now with God who is the source of all goodness and truth and mercy.

Ruth Birnie

Why Gifts in Wills: A Reflection

What are we doing now that will outlive us? What legacy will we leave to others? What will we be remembered for? The words of the 90th Psalm make us all too aware of the brevity of life ("our years come to an end like a sigh..."), but there is hope there too. This passage of Scripture indicates that however fleeting this life is, our work here can outlive us. What we choose to do now can have lasting value. Just as we ourselves have inherited the legacy of those who have gone before us, we all want to make a difference to our community and leave our mark. Our Christian faith encourages us to be salt and light to those around. That's why we write a Will, so that our contribution can be remembered and live on, beyond our lives.

Speaking about gifts in Wills in our churches has its challenges. It can be so tempting to put it to one side, believing it to be too morbid, or too personal or too sensitive a subject to handle with our congregations. It is clear to see why our worshipping communities do not say much about it. However, when our eyes are open to see how beautiful it is to share the gifts we have received from God with our neighbours of the future, and how amazing it is to know that our wishes for the future generations will be honoured, reflecting our own personal values and passions, we see life, not death, we see transformation not decay, we see hope, not morbidity. Giving a gift in our Wills to a cause we have loved and valued in our lives is a joyful expression of thanks and gratitude to God, as well as a hopeful expectation of better things to come for those who will come after us.

To leave a lasting memorial to our membership of a worshipping community is to live on in the lives of others and to continue to make a difference even when we are no longer here ourselves. We can be part of the church's vision for the future by playing our part now and pledging to support the church on its journey to becoming the church of tomorrow.

Helen Cunningham

Christian Aid Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer (North East & Cumbria)

Money matters

Planned Giving Officer

Margaret Patterson retires from being our planned giving officer and recorder in December, after more than 20 years' service. Keeping track of our planned giving and Gift Aid has been a critical part of our administration and operations. We are very grateful to Margaret for keeping the system organised and confidential. She has submitted monthly a summary to HMRC who pay the reclaimed tax back into the church's bank account. This means that every donation has been worth 25% more, at no extra cost to the giver. This has made a huge difference for many years. Thank you, Margaret.

Treasurer

On Advent Sunday, 3rd December, we officially give thanks for Fred Carr's work as our treasurer. For over 12 years Fred has worked hard to keep good financial records, ensuring they comply with charity law. He has demonstrated fine computer skills, served as a member of the PCC, and produced the annual accounts and annual report ready for the annual meeting.

We are also grateful for Fred's help in passing on a detailed understanding of how the accounts have been organised, as well as full information on the church's current financial position, banking arrangements and so much more, to his successor Chris Bolland. A treasurer's responsibilities are weighty. Thank you, Fred, for carrying them for so long.

How to Give

Following our new Treasurer Chris Bolland's presentation on Sunday 19th November about our present financial situation, some have asked how to give effectively to support our vision and ministry and mission across the parish.

We do this primarily through our planned giving scheme, where members contribute a regular amount, either monthly, quarterly or annually, by standing order payable to:

PCC All Saints Gosforth. Sort Code:
20-59-61. Account Number: 00676314

Standing Orders can be set up or amended using online banking, or by completing a Standing Order Mandate that can be found at the back of the church together with a Gift Aid Declaration form.

Andrew Shipton

School Report: Archbishop Runcie First School



It has been a wonderful start to the school year. We have been busy over the summer refurbishing several areas of school including the school library, Early Years outdoor areas and the classrooms have all had a lick of paint. Please see Twitter for pictures (you can follow us @RuncieOf). We have also welcomed Mrs Ravel as our new Deputy Headteacher after Mr Booth gained a Headship at Warkworth CE Primary School. Both have settled into their new roles amazingly!

Our new Reception children have settled into their new school and routine with such maturity and positivity! It feels like they have been here forever, and it is lovely to watch them as they have made new friendships. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been enjoying their focus text 'The Enormous Turnip'. They have engaged with a variety of activities linked to the topic and have shown determination when completing their individual work.

Year 4 hosted a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer Care as part of the World's Biggest



Coffee Morning. It was great to welcome so many parents, carers and friends of the school.

We look forward to sending you further updates from each class during this school year.

Kate Massey, Headteacher



From the Registers

All Saints

Funerals:

29th September 2023 Margaret (Peggy)
Coates, died 7th September 2023 aged
100

6th October 2023 Andrew John Waters, died
13th September 2023 aged 53

27th October 2023 Sonia Pauline Downing
died 10th October 2023 aged 87

Thanksgiving Service:

7th October 2023 George Stedman Deas,
died 24th January 2021 aged 87

Burial of Ashes:

7th October 2023 George Stedman Deas
27th November 2023 John Norris

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

Church contacts

Vicar: Andrew Shipton 2845540
andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Assistant Curate: Miriam Jones
07474095190
miriam.jones@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Ruth Birnie 2841393
ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Parish Office: 2130450
West Avenue, Gosforth, NE3 4ES
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Looking online?

Keeping in Touch can also be viewed online at
[https://www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/category/
church-news/](https://www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/category/church-news/)

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, and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

Lesley Atkinson, Ann Cross, Dermot Killingley, Christine Willoughby



A stall at the Farmers' Market on 18th November—see page 4.

Anyone for Bridge?



St Hugh's Church set up ready for its regular Bridge night on Wednesdays from 7pm to 9.30 pm, organised by Jan Stronach. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Photo: Andrew Shipton