

# Keeping in Touch

## Winter 2026 Edition

Our Quarterly Magazine

### From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

As we move forward into 2026 many of us do so with mixed emotions. For some, there is hope and anticipation; for others, weariness, anxiety, or uncertainty about what lies ahead.

The world as seen in the news can feel unsettled. Headlines - the continuing war in Ukraine, unrest in Iran, uncertainty about the future of other countries, the sense of a new world order, personal pressures, concerns for loved ones, and questions about our own future - can weigh heavily on us. Yet the Christian faith does not promise an easy path; it promises a faithful God. The same Lord who walked with His people through wilderness and storm walks with us still, step by step, day by day.

As we move into 2026, we are not asked to have all the answers, nor to face everything at once. We are simply invited to trust again - to "look unto the hills from where our help comes" - and to bring our lives, our worries, and our hopes to God in prayer. The Bible reminds us that God's mercies are new every morning, and that even in times of uncertainty, His love does not falter.

As you read this, the snowdrops will be appearing and the nights a little lighter. We are moving towards spring; colour is returning, though there will still be dark and stormy days ahead.

I hope that our community, and our church, remains a place of prayer, welcome, and support -where we share joys and burdens, whether we feel strong in faith or weak in spirit.

My hope for this year is not that it will be trouble-free - that is not possible - but that we will know God's presence more deeply within it and around us. May we find courage when we are afraid, patience when answers are slow, and hope when it seems in short supply, in God's faithfulness.

With every blessing,  
Andrew

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Join us in Church every Sunday at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 6:30pm  
Tuesday at 10:15

Monday-Thursday 8:45am Morning Prayer, south porch entrance  
or Messy Church, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 3pm in the Centre, adjacent to Church  
All are welcome!



# All Saints in Action



## Christmas Under the Angels

This year, the Christmas season at All Saints felt truly heavenly! Thanks to the creative hands of our local schools, congregation, and neighbours, dozens of handcrafted angels watched over us from above the nave. Complete with special lighting, these community creations brought a beautiful glow to our celebrations throughout the season.

We had an amazing Christmas Season full of lots of different ways to stay connected! Here's a taste of what we had going on:

- We sang **Christmas Carols** all around Gosforth
- We hosted another busy **Farmers' Market** in November
- We celebrated under the **Angels** during our Advent Carol Service
- We welcomed over **1200** friends and neighbours on Christmas Eve
- We celebrated **Epiphany** with a special brunch after the 9:30 service
- We enjoyed another successful **Christmas Fair**
- We shared the joy of Jesus with children during our monthly **Messy Church**
- We celebrated Christmas with six local **schools**

All Saints is a busy place. Check out our upcoming events further in this magazine, we would love to see you!



# Christmas Fair Roundup

From Valerie and Francine

All Saints Christmas Fair has a long history, with the aim to showcase the social side of church, while raising some funds to support our outreach.

We always have a great selection of stalls, some more traditional and some new. Our cake stall has had a design upgrade, and the Mothers' Union tables benefited from the youth and enthusiasm of Callum and Harry! There is always a bottle stall, and Guess the Weight of the Cake, which this year had a cake gift from Claire Errington. There were raffles, and the uniformed groups helped out with sweetmeats, crafts, and baubles. We have a garden stall and it provided colour from Sue May's floral arrangements, and contributions from local garden centres. New this year was a recycling stall and second hand jewellery. Led by John Lewis, our choir also gives us a performance. Don't forget the visit from Santa!

We provide a cafe area in the Centre where folk can sit down and chat between browsing stalls. We charge an entry fee which covers a delicious coffee plus shortbread and hot mince pie. The coffee team works their socks off during the fair!

The fair is a wonderful event, but it takes dedication, planning, and some hard work from many areas and people to pull it off. It's success depends on a lot of goodwill, contributed equally by volunteers and staff. There are so many to thank: Tricia our caretaker, Parish Administrator Louise, Paul W, Stuart, Ros, Nick, Claudia, Alan, Matt, Lee, and the Scouts to name a few!

We were both pleasantly surprised by the generous amount raised this year; and thanks to the volunteers that deal with the income with no treasurer in office. Like everything the brunt of the responsibility is borne by the Vicar, warden, and other volunteers, who we thank heartily.

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## Speaking of Volunteers...



We want to share a heartfelt thank you to everyone who keeps All Saints thriving all year round. From the visible smile of a Sunday morning greeting to the vital work behind the scenes—whether you're hanging Christmas lights and angels, tending to the garden, managing the accounts, executing community events, hosting a small group, or simply making sure the kettle is on—you make this church a warm place to be. Every leaf cleared, path weeded and every bulb changed makes a world of difference. We see you, and we appreciate you!



Congratulations to Nancy McCabe (centre) who was confirmed with Bishop Mark in November!

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## All Saints Centre Upgrade

The PCC met recently at a special session to discuss potential plans to upgrade the Centre. All agreed that the Centre needs improvement and with a couple of minor changes, have plans which we will be sharing over the coming weeks. The improvements include accessibility upgrades, like moving the kitchen into the space currently known as the Columba Room to make an allowance for a second large room on the ground floor. Delivering these upgrades will mean that we need to have a funding campaign to pay for the work. We will be sharing the proposed plans soon and will be arranging times for people to ask questions and find out more about what is proposed. This process is in the early stages, and here are some remarks from Andrew to the group:

“Our Church Centre is not just a building in which activities take place; it is an extension of our ministry. It is where the Church becomes visible and accessible to the wider community, including many who may not yet feel ready to step into a worship service.

For generations, our Church Centre has quietly carried out our mission. In many ways, the Centre is the front door of the Church — a bridge between Church and community. Not everyone finds it easy to walk into a service, but people will come into a hall for all kinds of events: a child’s birthday celebration, a funeral reception, dancing, performing martial arts, and much more. In our Centre, relationships are formed and trust is built. Very often, our faith is first encountered through our welcome and hospitality.

The challenge is that buildings age, needs change, and expectations are different. If our Centre is to continue serving future generations, we must ensure that it remains safe and accessible to all, warm and welcoming, fit for modern use, and flexible enough to support new ministries and the evolving needs of our community.

Without investment, our Centre slowly becomes a limitation rather than a resource. With care and thoughtful development, it can remain a vital tool for mission. We need to think again how The Centre serves our parish, how we can open its doors wider, and how we can ensure that the Centre remains relevant, welcoming, and alive.

We are custodians not only for today, but for those who will come after us. Previous generations built and maintained what we now enjoy. Surely we are called to do the same — to leave something strong, useful, and life-giving for the future?”

# Music News

## Master Musicians International recitals All Saints 2020-2025 Recap

Ernie Scott set up circuits of concerts and we at All Saints have been lucky enough to host about 40 world-class musicians, some starting out (Luke Jones 2020, Rose McLachlan 2021), 17 year old Ukranian Khrystyna Mykhailichenko who played at Carnegie Hall in New York days after playing for us, Nurry Lee from South Korea, and Xuxuan Zhao from China (2024). Others have decades of concerts behind them - Gulsin Onay from Turkey (2023), Viv McLean played several times as did Lithuanian Ugnius Pauliukonis; Italian guitarists Giulio Tampalini and Fabio Daniele have been with us every summer. Music across centuries has been represented up to present-day compositions by the musicians themselves.

Early in these series Mike Shoemsmith kindly chose and largely funded a piano stool for the Yamaha grand piano loaned to us by Ernie. The piano was tuned for free before every concert, and later booked for practices, piano exams, recordings for auditions, Farmers Market performers and other concerts and services. We have been able to promote church events, groups and projects and offer room hire. Having initiated it, I kept things modest, building up contacts to broaden our outreach, impressing audiences of between 20 and 60 to 9/10 concerts a year. Help came from Louise Waugh with flyers, and people providing refreshments, manning the gate, moving the piano, and publicising concerts.

These recitals aside, *I lend a hand with publicity* but there are also concerts run entirely by Louise and Tricia. Please consider supporting concerts if you can - manning the gate for 30 minutes before you head off home can be useful! All proceeds from refreshments go to church funds.

Upcoming concerts:

- 2026 Brundibar Concerts February 7th 1pm and 6:30pm
- Candlelit Valentine's Concert Every Ready Brass Band February 14th 7:30pm
- International Organ Day Recital featuring Myles Hartley April 25th 1pm
- City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir May 9th 7:30; they are offering a church fundraiser
- Felling Male Voice Choir and SwingBridge Singers June 13th 7pm
- Music Sunday piano recital with Ivan Hovorom in aid of Ukranian music students June 21st (time tbd)





Thanks to June Fletcher for this picture she shared recently while out doing some random acts of kindness. What a gorgeous sunrise highlighting All Saints Church!

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## Eco Group Update

Keep on Recycling!

At the beginning of January, we heard an interesting and informative talk on recycling – Beyond the Blue Bin - from a member of Newcastle City Council's waste management team. We learnt how the various items that we fill our blue bins with are taken away to go through a range of processing treatments until they are turned into useable materials which can be used in the manufacture of other goods.



Unfortunately, empty blister packs *cannot* be recycled at any of the processing plants in the way that other rubbish can, so if they are put in the blue bin they simply go to landfill. At All Saints we collect these and take them to High Street shops such as Boots (any branch) and Superdrug (Northumberland Street) where they are donated to a charity who sell them on to be manufactured into pellets used in garden furniture-making, amongst other things. Less landfill, a charity gains, and useful items are the end product. Winners all round.

People also often ask where we take the used postage stamps. St Oswald's Hospice are a collecting point for these, and they give them to a gentleman who sells them worldwide to collectors or – more remarkably perhaps – to the crafting industry where they are bought as decorative embellishments. Every so often St Oswald's receive a cheque because of these sales.

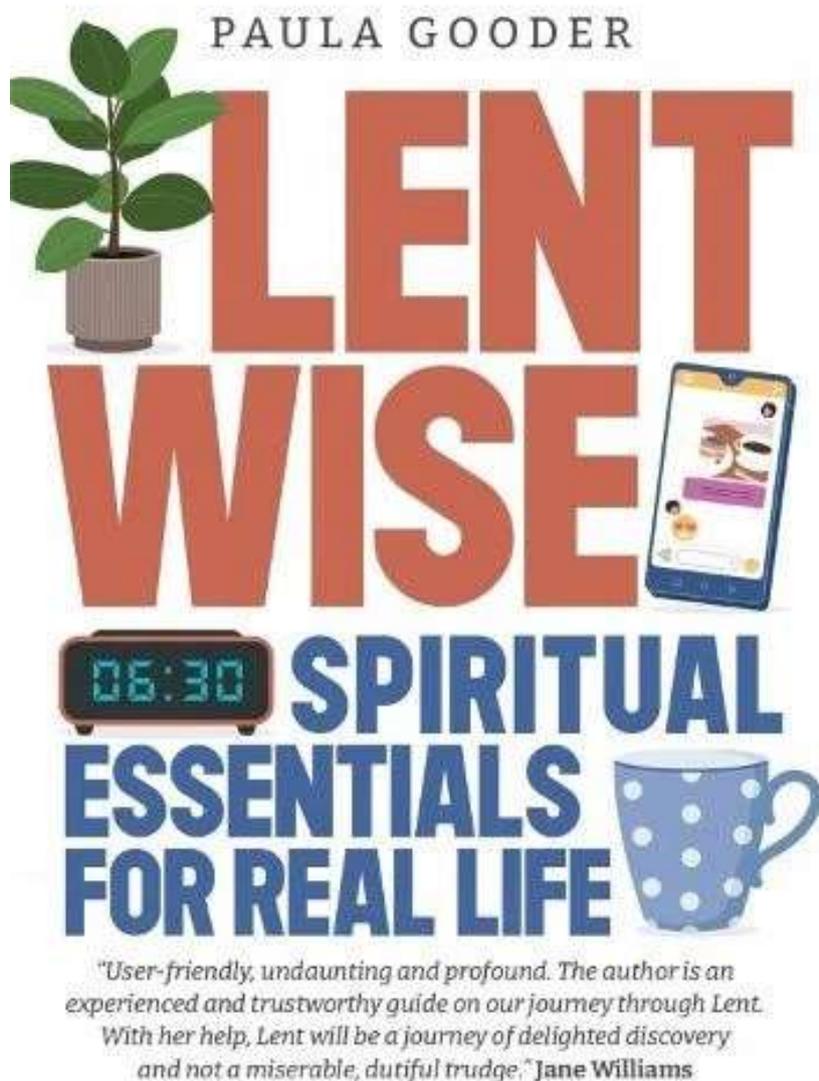
If you still haven't had your 'fill' of recycling, please do go see an exhibition, Intimately Connected, at the Bailiffgate Museum in Alnwick. Artist Claire Ward makes 'found items' from the natural world and from discarded waste into some quite amazing sculptures and wall art, and these are on display at the gallery until 28 th February. Well worth taking a look!

Ann Cross  
On behalf of the All Saints' Eco Group

# Upcoming Events

Engaging events to get us through the winter - we would love to see you!

- Brundibar short concerts **Saturday February 7th 1pm & 6:30pm**
  - Ash Wednesday Service **Wednesday February 18th 7:30pm**
  - Farmers' Market **Saturday March 21st 10-2pm**
  - Main Palm Sunday Service **Sunday March 29th 9:30am** begins in the Centre
  - Main Easter Day Service **Sunday April 5th 9:30am**
  - International Organ Day Concert **Saturday April 25th 1pm**
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Don't just give up chocolate – gain a community.

We're looking for hosts to help us bring this book to life in small groups this Lent. Interested in opening your home? Let Andrew know! It's the perfect way to upgrade your Lent.

All Saints Church Gosforth

has 17 supporters

You're in the top 20% of causes!



Don't forget to join our easyfundraising campaign! Book your holidays, add your weekly shop and more through the link below. It's so easy!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/all-saints-church-gosforth/>

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Check your emails ...

We will be launching a Parish Survey in the near future. This will be in a separate email. Please click the link to fill it out. This will help us form future plans!

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## From the Registers

### Funerals

18th November 2025 Teresa Souter died 25th October 2025 aged 55

22nd January 2025 Lesley Margaret Brookfield died 18th December 2025 aged 80

28th January 2026 Barbara Urwin died 6th January 2026 aged 77

### Burial of Ashes

12th December 2025 Edith Davison

23rd January 2026 Alan Mace

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## Support our Mission and Ministry



Thank you! Your donations are no small thing and help support not just our congregation, clergy, and historical buildings, but our continued mission and ministry in your community.

Scan the QR code to make a one-off donation.

Prefer to text? Text giving is now available! Just text **SUPPORTASC** with your donation amount to **70580**.

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