

Keeping in Touch

Spring 2026 Edition

Our Quarterly Magazine

From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

In my study, there is a painting my mother loved. It once hung in my grandparents' house, and I would see it whenever I visited as a child. The scene shows old trees just coming into leaf in the spring, with bluebells beneath them, and, at the top of the row of trees, there is light shining through onto a rough path in the distance. This painting would always raise her spirits. On her birthday in February, I remember how she would look at it and say "Spring is coming."

Now, as I look at it again, I see that this painting carries within it a quiet assurance that life always comes back. The return of life is not something we can manufacture; it is received as a gift. Each Spring the world is reminded that winter does not have the final word. This reflects a deeper hope rooted in our faith, that God's purposes remain steadfast, even in times of seeming loss or quiet. Again, with Easter and Spring, we are reminded that God is always bringing life out of death, renewal out of weariness, and hope out of what once seemed closed and final.

There is a matching painting of the same trees in the autumn also in my study, with the leaves falling but the light again shining in the distance at the end of the rough path. As winter drew near my mother would sometimes point to that light and talk about life emerging again and hope being never extinguished.

May we enjoy the colour and vitality of Spring and remember those words 'The Lord is good; His love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever.' Psalm 100:5

With every blessing,

Andrew

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, 31st May 3pm in the Centre, adjacent to Church
All are welcome!



All Saints in Action



All Saints Centre redevelopment project officially kicked off at the Farmers' Market in March

Many thanks to Claudia and Pauline who showcased our new plans, collected survey information, and answered questions. More information about this later in the magazine!

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

- We hosted an afternoon service for the housebound on **Palm Sunday** featuring music from Semi-tones Orchestra
- We hosted another busy **Farmers' Market** in March
- We celebrated the **Lord's passion and resurrection** with a meaningful Holy Week programme
- We had two groups meet during **Lent** to deepen their **faith** experience with a bible study
- **Eastertide** was marked with a special brunch after the 9:30am service
- **St Hugh's Church** welcomed a visit from the Lord Mayor
- We welcomed local churches to a **Lent Lunch** in the Centre
- We participated in the **World Day of Prayer** featuring Nigeria

All Saints is a busy place. Please join us in any of our upcoming events listed further in this magazine, we would love to see you!



All Saints Centre Upgrade

Help Future-Proof the All Saints Centre: Our £180,000 Appeal

Since 1907, the All Saints Centre has been at the heart of our community. After 120 years of continuous use, our historic home needs more than just a facelift—it needs a foundation for the future.

We are beginning an ambitious campaign to raise £180,000 to transform this well-loved landmark into a modern, inclusive hub. This vital capital project includes:

- **Universal Access:** Installing a new ramp and additional ground-floor room to ensure accessibility for all
- **Essential Restoration:** Expertly repairing plasterwork and structural elements to preserve our 1907 heritage
- **Modern Facilities:** Relocating and fully renovating our outdated kitchen and toilet facilities for a cleaner, more functional experience

Help us bridge the gap between our historic past and our accessible future by taking our short survey, attending an information session, or donating time or resources:

www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk/help-future-proof-the-all-saints-centre/

You're Invited!

Come and find out more about our plans, how we're going to accomplish it, and how **you** can get involved!

All Saints Annual Meetings
Sunday 10th May
10.45am in the Centre
There will be a Bring and Share picnic

Drop in session
Friday 15th May
7-8.30pm in the Columba Room, in the Centre
Wine and snacks will be served.

As we prepare for our upcoming renovations, we invite you to share your thoughts. Your input will help us prioritise repairs and strengthen our grant applications.



Thanks to representatives from Newcastle Building Society for giving a talk on avoiding scammers during our Monday Coffee and Conversation group.

News from the Tower

The Sound of The Bells

Some of you may have noticed that for a couple of months now we have only been ringing the front 6 bells. Our Tenor bell (the biggest bell) weighing 22 cwt has been out of action. Without this bell we are unable to ring 10 bells, obviously, but also 8 bells as tonally to ring 8 we need to use the bells from 3 to 10.

Several years ago when having a refurbishment of the bells it was suggested we change the clapper (the part that hits the bell to make the sound) in the tenor from the traditional cast iron to a clapper with a wooden shaft. This is a contentious issue as there have been problems with the wooden shafted cappers. However it can make it easier to raise the bell ready for ringing and help ensure that the clapper is set at the correct side of the bell. It is particularly helpful for very heavy bells.

Advice was taken and discussed and despite conflicting opinions the decision was taken to make the change. On a recent routine inspection, carried out by our Steeple keeper Bill Shepherd aided by Stuart Henderson and Mina Corso, Mina noticed a bolt lying beneath the bell. The bell then had to be designated unringable in case other bolts sheared as the metal ball could have come loose and caused significant damage to the tenor or potentially other bells within the bell chamber if it had flown off.

Thankfully Bill has been able to source replacement bolts and these have now been put in place. So on days when we are fortunate enough to have sufficient ringers you will once again hear 8 or even 10 bells again at All Saints.
Yvonne, Tower Captain

Eco Group Update

We did it!

As some of you may have read in the weekly Newsletter, All Saints has now been granted Silver level in the Eco Church awards. A Rocha, a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world, provides a framework through its Eco Church scheme aimed at equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment through practical actions involving church leadership and congregations. This award could not have been achieved without the help and support of so many at All Saints - so 'thank you' everyone!



All Saints' Eco Group

Our community came together last Saturday to celebrate **International Organ Day** with a special concert featuring **Dr. Myles Hartley FRCO**. The programme consisted of a range of music from many countries. There were 3 contemporary women composers featured out of the seven pieces played, and it is difficult to imagine anyone able to showcase the organ's range of idiom and expression better than Myles. Our ears heard something different in every piece chosen, and two were picked out for particular admiration: Ghislaine Reece-Trapp's *In Paradisum* and Kristina Arakelyan's *Star Fantasy*. It was an uplifting afternoon of music and fellowship; Dr. Hartley's brilliant performance was a delight for everyone in attendance. Thank you for another very special performance!

Men's Group News

The Men's Group have been meeting monthly for around 18 months now, alternating between a social gathering in the Job Bulman and meetings where we welcome a speaker, and to date these have been on a variety of topics. The most recent was a very interesting talk by Reg Hall from Fenham Local History Society on the murals in Wallington Hall, which many of us will have seen. This talk was open to all, men and women, by popular demand! Do look out for publicised future events, we are a friendly group and welcome new members.

Paul Cross



In Memoriam

Following is an excerpt from the service of Alex Armitage:

At a Christian believer's funeral, it is customary to reflect on their life and to consider what we can learn from it. With Alex, there is much to remember, to be thankful for, and to learn from.

Alex became deeply involved in the life of All Saints from the time she and Tony arrived six years ago. We were so pleased to welcome them. From the very beginning, they brought with them a sense of warmth and encouragement, a real breath of fresh air, and quickly became an integral part of our church community. They were a wonderful team.

Alex valued the fellowship of several church groups: Coffee and Conversation, Sew, Knit and Natter (often while Tony was busy in the church green), the Tuesday afternoon singing group, the Film Club, and, of course, the choir. Music was one of the ways in which she shared both her faith and her companionship with others.

These groups are places where friendships are formed and sustained, and where people quietly support one another and Alex was very much at the heart of that. She did not need to lead or draw attention to herself. Simply by being present, listening, chatting, laughing, singing, and sharing, she helped to create that sense of warmth and belonging. She gave a great deal simply by being herself. She had a particular gift for putting people at ease. Her interest in others was genuine and unforced. She listened carefully, noticed how people were, and responded with real sensitivity. It meant she made friends easily and

naturally. People trusted her, because they knew they would find kindness, honesty, and warmth in her.

Her life reminds us that faith does not remove difficulty, but it does give us a way of facing it—with perspective, with grounding, and with hope. She did wrestle with questions, as many do, and found comfort in the Psalms. Yet she continued in faith.

Her family meant everything to her. She loved deeply and faithfully, and her relationship with Tony was a particular blessing, marked by closeness, affection, and mutual care.

As we give thanks for her life, we also hold on to the words of Jesus:
“Do not let your hearts be troubled... In my Father’s house are many dwelling places...”

These words remind us that death is not the end, but a step into God’s eternal care.

Alex lived well. And now, she is at peace.

Andrew Shipton

Floral Reflections

We had some nice comments about our Easter flower arrangements. These have prompted me to explain the workings of the “Flower Group”.

We are a group of about 6 regulars working in 3 teams taking it in turns to arrange the flowers on a weekly basis. I am responsible for creating a rota based on everyone’s availability – more complicated than it might sound! I also order the flowers for special occasions eg weddings, Easter, Christmas from our regular local florist. At other times the team leader will choose the flowers herself. Because of ever increasing costs we do try to buy flowers which are going to last more than one week.

Arranging the flowers does not require any specialist skill as there is a team leader to help new members. As we mostly seem to be ‘of a certain age’ it would be good to have some younger volunteers on the rota who will be able to take over in the future!

If you feel you would like to be involved in this very satisfying activity please do speak to me or contact me on 0191 236 4532 or email pat.sponge@googlemail.com



Upcoming Events

Future events featured this Spring - we would love to see you!

- Newcastle Male Voice Choir **Saturday 9th May 7.00pm**
- Ascension Service **Thursday 14th May 7.30pm**
- Centre info drop-in session with wine and nibbles **Friday 15th May 7-8.30pm** in the Columba Room in the Centre
- Farmers' Market **Saturday 16th May 10-2pm**
- Felling Male Voice Choir and Swingbridge Singers **Saturday 4th July 7pm**
- Check out the link below to view our regular **weekly** and **monthly** small groups

Important date: All Saints Annual Meetings are on Sunday 10th May following the 9.30am service. All eligible on the Electoral Roll are welcome to attend



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!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/all-saints-church-gosforth/

From the Registers

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Baptisms

Madeleine Orla Montague Ferguson 8th March 2026

Ava-Mae Mary Hartley-McEvoy 8th March 2026

Funerals

Thomas James Childs, 16th January 2026, died 21st January 2026 aged 91

Alexandra (Alex) Mae Armitage, 23rd March 2026 died 6th March 2026 aged 77

Daphne Leyburn, 16th April 2026, died 19th March 2026 aged 88

Memorial Service

Nola Maude De Kiewiet, 9th April 2026, died 28th February 2026 aged 94

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**.

 **All Saints**
Gosforth

City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir

Singing a range of popular music including
secular, shows and regional songs

Sat 9th May 7pm

Free entrance,
donations welcome

Refreshments, raffle

More Information :
All Saints Parish Office
Tel: 0191 213 0450
All Saints Church, West Avenue,
Gosforth, NE3 4ES