

The community of All Saints': living, thoughtful, caring faith

# In Touch

August / September 2019

## God of Creation



### Inside

Ordination      Safeguarding  
Bible Reading      Creation  
Howick Hall      Open Gardens  
Mowing      Obituaries  
Return of the Bells  
Schools' Week



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Deadline for submission of articles and/or photographs for the October/November issue is Sunday 16 September 2019. Everyone is welcome to submit articles of around 300–500 words. Articles can be emailed to: [allsaintsintouch@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintsintouch@outlook.com) or given to one of the editorial team.

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## Prayer corner

God of creation, we thank you for your good earth.  
We thank you for sun and rain in good measure,  
for long summer days and cosy winter evenings.  
We thank you for Sabbath rest and time for recreation.  
Help us all to be stewards of your creation;  
to nurture signs of growth;  
to weed out what is damaging;  
and to build your kingdom here in this place.  
Amen

**If you have a prayer you would like to share with *In Touch* readers, please email it to: [allsaintsintouch@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintsintouch@outlook.com)**

## Cover photograph

Our cover photo was taken by Christine Willoughby in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

# Sarah Moon

## ...on secondment



Well, they do say “time flies when you’re having fun,” and I find myself writing this at the half-way point, and you’ll find yourselves reading this two-thirds of the way through my secondment.

The time has really flown by, and I really have been enjoying my time here in Gosforth—the only downside being the road-works, but even that has encouraged me to cycle more, so I will be leaving you a fitter priest than when I arrived!

The summer is often a time of holidays and leisure, a chance to rest and recuperate, and I am very much looking forward to our family holiday in North Wales. Intentional rest is an important part of God’s plan for humanity, and Sabbath rest has always been an integral part of the life of God’s people. At this time of internet and 24/7 availability, we expect instant replies to our messages and next-day delivery of our orders.

In this frenetic pace of life, Sabbath time and holidays become increasingly important, time to switch off our devices and reconnect with those we love. Our challenge is to keep Sabbath time throughout the rest of the year; if done well it can be a powerful witness of what God desires for his people. God does not call us to be exhausted and worn out for him, nor to be constantly busy. God calls us to be whole, which includes time for rest and recreation.

So please never be apologetic about taking time to rest, or spending time with those you love; pull on your hiking boots, or pick up your book, and enjoy some re-creation in the company of God who created us, and return to his work refreshed.

Happy Holy days.

*Sarah*

Sarah Moon, who is in her third year of curacy at St John’s Church, Killingworth, is covering Andrew Shipton’s duties while he is on sabbatical, from the beginning of June to the end of August.

# Bible Reading

As I have been advertising in the pew sheet recently, I am intending to begin reading the whole Bible. Every week in church (and at other times individually or in groups) we read small sections of the Bible, but are often unaware of the context of the sections we read or of the whole sweep of the issues they deal with.

I’m aiming to begin on September 1st, and would be delighted if anyone would like to join me. I would envisage each of us reading on our own but meeting from time to time to exchange insights or questions.

Rather than starting at the beginning and reading the books in the order they appear in our Bibles (which is not the order in which they were composed or meant to be read) until we reach the end, I’d suggest using a book recently recommended to me which covers the Bible in a year and provides manageable daily readings, presenting related passages together. This book is *The Daily Message* by Eugene H. Peterson (available on Kindle as well as in printed format). It includes all the Bible passages in a simple version, but it is possible to use any other version of the Bible you prefer. Do let me know if you are interested—I’ve had a few interested queries about this so far.

To help you on your way there are a few useful books that you might consult:

*The Complete Bible Handbook* by John Bowker (Dorling Kindersley 1998)

*The Lion Handbook to the Bible* by David & Pat Alexander (Lion Publishing 1983)

Both of these provide very concise introductions to each book in the Bible and have useful timelines, maps etc. They may not still be in print but may be available second hand.

If you would like to explore various interpretations, I have found the following helpful:

*Reading the Bible Wisely* by Richard Briggs (SPCK 2003)

*How to Read the Bible* by Richard Holloway (Granta Books 2006)

*Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality* by Richard Rohr (St Anthony Messenger Press (2008)

*Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism* by John Shelby Spong (Harper San Francisco 1992)

I hope some of you may be attracted by this opportunity.

**Ruth Birnie**



# Knit and Natters go to Howick Hall

**I think I can say without fear of contradiction that we all had a wonderful day out at Howick Hall.**

The present house was built in 1782, but Howick has been the home of the Grey family since 1319. The 5th Earl Grey died in 1963, and the estate passed to his eldest daughter Lady Mary Howick. The present Lord and Lady Howick live in the west wing with their family. The most famous and distinguished of the Greys was the 2nd Earl Grey. He was the Prime Minister responsible for the Great Reform Act of 1832, and slavery was finally abolished in his term of office. It is the same Earl who is responsible for the aromatic Earl Grey tea, which was specially blended for him by a Chinese mandarin and flavoured with bergamot.

We arrived in rain, but by the time we had had our coffee and home-made biscuits in the beautiful tea rooms it had dried up, leaving us free to enjoy the lovely gardens and church. The church, an early Victorian building, is certainly worth a visit. Besides the tomb of the 2nd Earl Grey, it contains the most wonderful kneelers, made by the local community. One shows a portrait of the 2nd Earl, others had floral scenes, but my favourites were a Victorian kitchen, the rescue of the Forfar crew by Grace Darling, dancing round the maypole and a seascape.

After the church we walked around the beautiful undulating grounds of Howick Hall. Each corner you turned presented another spectacular view. There were woods and shrubberies, wild flower meadows, rockeries and herbaceous borders. All were a delight, and made you stop and look.

Then there were the specialist gardens. The Nas Sensory garden was created in collaboration with the North Northumberland branch of the Autistic Society. The idea was to appeal to the senses, which it did with things to touch, feel and smell. It was just lovely. Then on to the big garden, which was beautifully laid out with its water-loving plants, such as astilbe, arisaema, rheum and primula, to name but a few.

Finally we returned to the tea rooms for a light lunch. Some of us bought produce which was for sale. We then made our way past the Clock Border back to the coach for our return journey to Gosforth.

A thoroughly enjoyable day, and well worth another visit.

**Valerie Hedley**

# Ordination Day

**H**ello all, it was so nice to see some of you at the Ordination service at the Cathedral on 29th June. Thank you for coming and introducing yourselves to me and sharing your good wishes and encouragement.

The ordination retreat at Shepherds Dene was led by Father Alan Patterson of St. Peter's, Cowgate. It was a silent retreat with time for prayer and contemplation, focusing on Christ in our hearts, and we had glorious sunshine! By the time Bishop Christine gave us her Charge on the Friday evening, I felt ready to face the reality of the ordination.

The retreat had prepared me well, and as I prayed in the St. George Chapel I felt peaceful, and that God was indeed in that place. Archdeacon Mark Wroe led us out to join the procession and the service had begun!

As I sat with my fellow ordinands I could not help but give thanks to God who has patiently walked with me during my discernment and studying, and my heart was bursting with love and thanks for the love and support of my family and friends.

*"Give thanks to the God of heaven, his love endures forever"* (Psalm 136:26)

I am looking forward very much to the 1st September and joining you in service and worship in Gosforth.

With good wishes,

**Beverley**

**The Ordination of Beverley Davies, Deacon, took place at Newcastle Cathedral on 29th June 2019.**

A group of us from All Saints' attended this service, and were able to greet and congratulate Beverley afterwards. We also spoke to her husband Greg, looking forward to their arrival here in September.

Our former curate, Rev. Captain Steve Dixon and his wife Clare were there too, supporting their candidate Malcolm Railton to join them at Holy Saviour, Whitley Bay.

Presided over by Bishop Christine, the seven ordinands had already made their declarations of assent and oaths of allegiance and canonical obedience before being presented to the bishop by the newly-appointed Archdeacon of Northumberland, Mark Wroe. They were then led in their



declarations to the congregation to carry out their ministry with the help of God, before being presented with their stoles and bibles and receiving the Eucharist.

The service was of that kind the cathedral does so well: the liturgy beautifully paced, with wonderful music and hymns—some of them well-known tunes with new words, and one hymn specially commissioned for the service by the Anglican friar based at St Peter's, Cowgate, Fr Alan Paterson CMP. Here is a summary of his sermon:

Our hearts are the core of our being. We use metaphors to describe our hearts such as warm-hearted, big-hearted, having the heart of a lion, home is where the heart is. Julian of Norwich said "there is mystery within the heart of God." The heart is seen as a symbol of love. What is life without love? Love makes life worth living.

Jesus praises the Father. Jesus said "take my yoke upon

you and you will find rest." If we take on the yoke of Christ, it is to Christ that we are bound.

All of our worship helps us to understand our calling. We are to search out the lost and the weak, the ill and the lonely. We need to inhabit where we are and serve there. We need to be yoked to the people of Jesus. May we love Jesus so much that we can't keep it in.

The organist played a Mendelssohn prelude before we began, and a Louis Vierne voluntary as we left, and in between the cathedral choir led and sang exquisitely from a broad range of tradition, including plainsong and an anthem from Spain's 16th-century golden age. The cathedral was



full, its west doors open, with outsiders able to wander in fairly discreetly. We spilled out in fine weather at the end of the service in joyous spirits.

**Rosamund Place and Paul Wilkinson**  
Churchwardens

## All Saints' Mowing Group

**T**he 2,085 square yards of the church grounds, comprising the Garden of Remembrance (consecrated in 1964, with the cross added in 1966), the lawn strips alongside the church, the green, and the clergy houses built in 1962, have a turbulent history.

Originally intended



as land for a vicarage, the green has been a drain on resources, and on incumbents' and parishioners' patience. By 1929 sheep were grazing on it, and beehives were there until 1935, suggesting it had reverted to meadowland. It remained uncultivated until the 1937 Jubilee released funding for improvement: the railings and a thick hedge enclosing the church were removed, and "the remaining trees were well pruned and a completely new open layout with flagstones and turfing was introduced."\* This would become today's well-tended lawns, gardens, borders and church green—although a cost-conscious pre-war PCC lobbied Gosforth UDC to assist with upkeep and to fund a Garden of Remembrance. Citing other priorities, they refused, and the Garden of Remembrance was postponed. By 1938, All Saints' repaid a loan from the Cochrane estate and took full ownership of its grounds. The war brought six years of neglect. It was not until the 1960s that the land was "finally drained, levelled and laid out as a green which could be used to enrich the life of the parish with fêtes and festivals, activities for the youth organisations, outdoor services, barbecues and ecumenical picnics."\*

The Mowing Group is a group of volunteers who complement other groups' maintenance of the gardens, borders and planting troughs, by mowing routinely, weather permitting. There are four self-propelling petrol mowers. Given a minimum turnout of three, we can, in good conditions, have all lawns and the green cut in under three hours. Just one additional recruit, utilizing all four machines, could cut that by an hour. We use a bigger machine to cut the green, without attaching the hopper; emptying the cuttings into the composting area would take easily over three hours. Hoppers are used in the immediate vicinity of the church.

The green, bordered by a stout beech hedge, mature bird cherry, lime, horse chestnut and sycamore trees, is a fully utilized community resource—municipal green space is fast disappearing: the city's parks are now charitable trusts cared for by volunteers; the Natural History Society of Northumbria's vital reserve in Gosforth Park is threatened by developers; farmland on Newcastle's fringes is being obliterated as the Great Park and satellite projects expand. We keep wildlife corridors intact—cutting a "serpentine" edge along the south side of the green where cranesbill, speedwell, bugle, wood forget-me-nots, ramsons, primroses and bluebells thrive, and the Scouts have built a luxury "bug hotel". I have found early pink orchids favouring the green's sheltered side. Mowers are followed by robins and blackbirds; tawny owls call from the treetops at dusk. It's a pleasant, contemplative job, providing exercise and fresh air. All it

\* Quotations are from Patricia Hilton's invaluable work *Pennies from Heaven: The Story of All Saints' Church Gosforth to the year 2001*.

requires is a commitment to help for 2 hours, usually 5-7pm, every 7-10 days, weather permitting, between roughly late March and September.

We have come a long way since the church's first lawnmower was funded by selling the wartime fire-watchers' ladders in 1947, when petrol remained rationed and machinery and tools were scarce—previously, sickles and scythes were used. We hope to have a petrol strimmer soon.

Please consider joining us and assisting with this vital work which impacts on the whole community of Gosforth in so many ways. Petrol, oil, safety glasses, stout gloves, ear defenders and familiarization are all provided. If anyone would like to join the Mowing Group, please e-mail keithjdavies15@gmail.com or phone 01912841719.

**Keith Davies**

## PCC Digest

### At the PCC meeting held on 2nd July 2019:

The **Quinquennial Report** prepared by Ian Ness the Church architect was considered. Recommended actions were referred to the Church Fabric Committee for report back.

**Security of the Church** was considered following recent incidents. It was agreed that the Church should be reopened on weekdays, but closing at 2pm.

Possible **improvements to the Choir vestry** were referred to the Fabric Committee, to consider in discussion with the Director of Music.

Problems with the current **loop and sound systems** were noted and these will be looked at by specialists.

An advert has been placed for a new **Director of Music**.

Outside **paving** now has been improved and it was noted that a further four smaller areas will also be addressed shortly.

**Christine Willoughby, PCC Member**

*Full minutes of each PCC meeting are displayed at the back of the church following their acceptance at the next meeting of the PCC.*



# Garden of Remembrance



These three new wrought-iron trellis structures have solved the problem of supporting plants in the Garden of Remembrance without having to attach them to the church wall!

**Ann Cross**

# Water Walk

My daughter Sarah and I are doing the Unicef water walk for a week in September. This involves walking for 5 miles a day, reflecting the distance children have to walk each day to get water, and will help to install water pumps and pipes in areas where children have little or no access to clean drinking water. If you feel able to support us, please follow the link:

<https://waterwalk2019-week3.everydayhero.com/uk/christine-page>

**Christine Willoughby**

# Tales from the Tower Return of the Bells

**T**he bells returned to All Saints' on Thursday 11th July. They set off from Loughborough at 3.30 a.m. in order to arrive before 8.30 a.m., when the bellhanger, who had travelled from London, intended to start work. The plan was that the 3rd and 4th bells and the fittings for all 10 bells should be unloaded, taken into church and raised through the ceiling above the baptistry into the ringing chamber before 1 p.m., in order to accommodate a service which was taking place in church.

Thankfully all went to plan, and by lunchtime the baptistry ceiling was back in place, the carpet hoovered, and no one entering would have been aware of the effort which had taken place to achieve the calm and welcoming atmosphere which greeted them. We are extremely grateful to the bellhanger for achieving this.



He was then able to continue working up above to raise everything through another level into the bell chamber. He finished work on that first day at 6 p.m.—a long day, given the early hour at which he left home.

Friday dawned, and back he came at 8.30 a.m. to continue



fitting all the clappers, etc., and to test and ensure everything was working well and safely. It is highly skilled work and requires great concentration, and of course an in-depth knowledge of bells and all their many parts. Another long day, only finishing shortly before 7 p.m., meant that our bells were once again ringable. What a joy!

On Tuesday 23rd July a celebratory peal was rung by a visiting band of highly skilled ringers, and people were invited along to listen to the beautiful sound. The peal of 5,000 changes was achieved in just over 3 hours, on what turned out to be a glorious day, and

there were many wonderful comments on the result from those sitting outside.

Our bells are now once again a delight to ring and we are extremely grateful to all who have made this possible, from those who so generously gave donations to those who gave time to ensure the work was able to go ahead.

**Yvonne Cairns**



## Schools' Week: Joseph @ All

**T**his year we were delighted to welcome 323 children from 5 local schools during Schools Week. They were well-behaved, engaged, great fun and sang with gusto! If you weren't there you missed a treat!

These events take a massive team effort, both behind the scenes and on the day so my heartfelt thanks go to:



Alisha Procter who designed and constructed Joseph's coat, ably assisted by Callum, Young Saints and some very enthusiastic helpers. Subsequently on display in the porch, it was "Amazing"!

Joseph (Andrew Mason) for his role as the leader and as part of the "Choices" workshop—shame about the jokes!

Keith Davies, Diane Cooper and Lesley Atkinson who were fabulous workshop leaders. The children were enthralled and engaged. Wonderful comments were heard.

The meeters and greeters, who guided the children round to the various workshops, pointing out the scenery displayed on the way.

The workshop helpers who assisted the leaders so expertly.

Keith Kennils for some great photos.

The music group who had previously visited schools to prepare wonderful songs, sung under guidance of Ros Place, Enid Mitchell and Diana Lavin. The children raised the roof!

Christine Willoughby and Louise Waugh for their support and computer skills and keeping me calm!

Thanks to Tricia for helping where necessary and to Chris for his patience over the last few months. We welcomed Rev. Sarah Moon all day on Thursday, and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her. I hope she enjoyed meeting All Saints'.

Thank you one all, enjoy your summer off and we look forward to doing it all again next year! Please do consider joining us.

**Dee Matthews**



Here are some unedited comments from the children:



Thank you for making all of year 3 soo happy. My favourite workshop in particular was dropping the stone in the water because it reminded me of every bad choice we make affects a lot of things. Sometimes we all make bad choices. Also it reminded me that if you lie you will always feel bad either for somebody else or yourself. Joseph on the other hand did nothing wrong and made the right choices and was doing good things then he ended in a cell.

I enjoyed the scratch cards. Benjamin was really funny. can't thank you enough for this 1 in a lifetime event. Archibald is lucky to be invited.



I liked meeting Benjamin because he was funny and he was good at telling stories.

I liked being forgiving people and wried a note about forgiving people is kind and not is being nasty to people.

I enjoyed doing all of the activities especially the scraper card and dream catchers because they were fun making. You put a massive smile on my face. Thank you for having us.

I enjoyed the storytellers and making the dream catchers. Thx for having Archibald First School. Bye.

It was funny when Jack and Patrick had sword and were pulling him and then threw Joseph down the drain with nothing to eat or drink so he might die if they don't take him out of the drain.

Thank All Saints' for setting up themed work-shops. We learned what Joseph did for revenge and how he got out of prison.

## Concerts Gilmore & Roberts



**A**fter the success of their first visit in November 2017, we welcome contemporary folk duo Gilmore & Roberts back to All Saints' on 28th September.

The 2017 concert went down very well with over 120 adults and children turning up. As well as showing the church off to a new audience, it also demonstrated the lovely acoustics of the building. Since that concert, the duo have released a fifth studio album "A Problem of Our Kind", and they are embarking on an autumn tour that includes All Saints'.

Tickets will be available online (<https://www.wegotickets.com/event/477148>) and from the All Saints' office, £12 for adults and £6 for under 18s. There is a booking fee for online bookings, but not at the office. We hope this year's event will be as popular as the last. Further details from the office, or from Fiona and Eric Hurrell. For details on the duo's history see [www.GilmoreRoberts.co.uk](http://www.GilmoreRoberts.co.uk).

## Musica Johannis

**A**fter a moving Remembrance Concert last year, All Saints' were delighted to welcome back the wonderful singing octet Musica Johannis on Friday 5th July.

The concert, "Music for a Summers Evening", consisted of classical and choral works in the first half then after the interval more popular works including a great rendition of the Simon and Garfunkel classic "Bridge over Troubled Water".

The concert was very well received and we look forward to welcoming them back to All Saints' soon.

**Yvonne Carr**



# Ten Commandments for Safeguarding Creation

**R**osamund Place, one of our churchwardens, received these commandments in a paper, known as the Assisi Paper, produced by the International Ecumenical Fellowship, of which she is a member.

As the full paper is too lengthy to include in one issue of **In Touch**, the fourth commandment, the longest and concerned mainly to reduce the use of plastics, is printed here; the others will be included in the September/October issue.

## **Reduce the use of plastic: The 8 Rs**

**Record** your use of plastic over two weeks on a chart: where it's from, is it single-use? Has it any long term-value? Could its contents have been bought in a non-plastic container or wrapping?

**Reduce** useless packaging. Ban single-use products like plastic cups, plates, cutlery, bottles of water.

**Replace** with refillable cups and bottles. Carry cutlery if you need it.

**Refuse** plastic bags; carry your own reusable bags. Refuse receipts or ask for an emailed version. Prioritise loose fruit and veg; swap products that come in plastic pouches for tins, jars and boxes that can be **reused**. If you can't avoid plastic, choose pots or trays that can be reused, even if just for children's paints or growing seedlings.

**Refill** jars, durable plastic containers etc with dry goods, meat or fish rather than buying in polystyrene packaging that cannot be easily recycled.

**Rethink** plastics like those hidden in teabags, face wipes and items that look recyclable but aren't! Many gift-wrapping papers cannot be recycled. Switch to reusable material wrap or gift bags—or use brown paper.

**Recycle** responsibly so that your recycling is less likely to be rejected.

*If you would like to read all ten commandments together, a booklet containing the full Assisi Paper is available from the table at the back of the church.*

# All Saints' Amnesty Group

**O**ur Amnesty group writes letters every month on behalf of prisoners of conscience who are imprisoned for their beliefs or for the peaceful expression of their beliefs.

In May our letters were written in support of Senator Leila de Lima, a critic of President Duterte and the extensive human rights abuses committed in his “war on drugs” in the Philippines. Senator de Lima, who had been the country's Secretary of Justice under Duterte's predecessor, had raised concerns about the killing of thousands of people allegedly suspected of using or selling drugs, and launched an inquiry into the issue. She was arrested in February 2017 on spurious drugs charges, and could face life imprisonment. She is denied access to internet, phone, radio and TV and, despite a request from her doctor, is not allowed air conditioning in her cell.

The June letter was on behalf of seven human rights activists in Zimbabwe who face mounting attacks on their rights to freedom of association and expression. They were detained for “subverting a constitutional government”, and face a sentence of 20 years in prison because they went to the Maldives and attended training sessions in civic engagement, advocacy and communication. This is part of a crackdown on dissent in Zimbabwe.

There is increasing concern for Nazanin Ratcliffe, about whom we have written previously. She was given a five year prison sentence in Iran in April 2016 on unsubstantiated charges of spying. Her physical and mental health are suffering, and in June she went on a 15-day hunger strike in parallel with her husband Richard in London. She has now been moved to a mental hospital where she is being held by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. Richard says: “The longer she is left isolated—particularly in the control of the IRGC whose job it is to be tough—the more ominous it gets”.

**Marilyn Champion**

# Open Garden Scheme

**I**would first of all like to thank Margaret Wilkinson, Pat and Vic Spong, Dorothy Henderson and Pam Taylor for once again opening their gardens for everyone to come and enjoy, and they did come and they did enjoy.

This year we only opened one garden a week, which seems to have been a success, with guests able to stay as long as they wished and not leave to go to another garden. The other innovation was what the garden openers had been asking for: to open their gardens in June when they were at their best. The only exception was mine, in the first week in July.

I can see why June was so popular, as all the gardens have been gorgeous. Margaret was the first to open her garden. It is a work of art designed by her late husband Fred and herself with beautiful specimens. I was so impressed by one of her beautiful trees, the crinodendron, that I went out and bought one for my garden. Margaret continues with her garden and has the wonderful ability to propagate plants.

The next garden to open was the Spongs'. I could see why Pat and Vic wanted a June opening as we were met with sights to fill our senses. The beautiful David Austin roses were in full bloom. The sight and smell was gorgeous. Some of these roses were the old varieties which only bloom once in the season, so it was the first time we had seen all of them.

The third garden to open was Dorothy's, which as usual was pristine. I particularly admired her passionflower because they can be so difficult to grow, but her other shrubs and flowers were equally impressive.

Pam's garden always leaves me feeling envious, with her ability to grow such lovely tomatoes and vegetables. They all look so healthy and inviting, and together with her roses and flowers are a treat to behold.

The last garden was mine. Some of the early flowering shrubs had gone back, but my roses, hostas, mallow, day lilies, astilbe and others were still in bloom. It was a most enjoyable afternoon and I would like to thank Jackie, Edith and Ann for the hard work they put in making and serving teas, filling scones, serving cakes and washing up. Thank you, Ann, for your cakes. The gin and tonic ones went down particularly well.

Thanks to both garden openers and visitors, who made it such a lovely and popular few Sundays in summer. The Open Garden Scheme doesn't just happen. The garden openers spend time not only preparing their gardens but also supplying visitors with lovely teas. So thank you all.

**Valerie Hedley**



## From the Youth Worker

**E**veryone knows a “Betty Dodds”—the salt of the earth who, even in her advanced years, never stopped serving the children and contributing greatly to God's work in her church.

But, when I was 8 years old, this was much harder to see. Betty was the old lady who would force me to church every Saturday morning for several months. Me, the other children and someone's parent, would go into the “Stobart Room”. This was a small room with very old leather-ish chairs, which were starting to fray, lining each wall. Scariest of all, however, was the huge painting of old Stobart himself. Even to this day, I have no idea who Stobart was. All I knew was that he must have been a very creepy man, because his eyes would follow you around the room!

Anyway, back to Betty Dodds. In turn, each of the tired-looking children would be dragged away from wishful imagining of playing football, going to a dance class or, in my case, building some kind of Air-fix model. As we were dragged away from our daydream we would stand up in front of the scary Stobart man, knowing his eyes were boring into the back of our head. And we would begin to speak.

“The owl and the pussy cat...”

“NO! NO! NO!” would come the shrill voice of Betty Dodds. “You need to emphasise the word OWL and the word CAT”. With a heavy sigh we would try again.

“The OWL and the pussy CAT...” we would begin again, this time emphasising the animal names as if we were trying to teach a toddler the difference between a bird and a mammal.

“NO! NO! NO!” chirps in Betty Dodds. “You aren't emphasising the word PUSSY or the word AND”.

“The OWL AND the PUSSY CAT...” I'd begin again, hoping that this time they might make it out to sea, but...

“NO! NO! NO!” Even Stobart was rolling his eyes by this point! “You're not emphasising the words THE.” OK, just keep smiling and try again. The sooner we get this over and done with, the sooner Stobart will stop staring at me!

Obviously, looking back now, I may have exaggerated some of my memories of this. Betty was getting us ready for the Ryton Speech and Drama Festival. And she must have done a pretty good job, because there



are numerous Bible Readings and Poem Recital trophies with my, my siblings' and another church family's names engraved on them.

At the time it may have seemed like a chore or even a bit boring, but looking back now I actually quite enjoyed it. We were working towards a future glory. The joy of knowing our church had won a competition and the knowledge we could perform really well.

*"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14).

Sometimes, we find a million and one reasons not to do things with God, or our church: "I'm too busy", "I can't miss Call the Midwife", or "I'm planning to have a cold on that day". But with God's work we shouldn't find reasons NOT to do something, but rather a reason why it is worth doing. Think to the end goal. Because, when we look back on our work, if it is for God, we will take great delight in all we have done.

**Andrew Mason**

## Mothers' Union Strawberry Tea

**O**n the afternoon of Monday 8th July, our strawberry tea was attended by approximately 30 people. Everyone enjoyed the scones, the strawberries, and the fellowship.

The total raised was £153.15, which will go to the MU "Summer of Hope" appeal—a project to raise millions of pounds to help those, worldwide, who at present have no hope at all. Many thanks to all who supported this event.

**Pam Taylor**



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# Noel Waterson

**R**obert Noel Waterson was born in the small town of Devonport on Christmas Day 1924 to parents Bertie and Elizabeth and with an older brother, Joe. Bertie was a member of the Mounted Police until he was called up to join the army in WW1, but was invalided out after a gas attack.

At that point the family moved to Babbacombe, where they took over the running of a guest-house. Noel grew up in this idyllic setting, spending much of his time playing on Babbacombe beach with his friend John and exploring the moors. All was well until Bertie died suddenly and Elizabeth became ill with the stress of running the guest-house on her own. One day when she was alone in the house she collapsed and fell down the stairs, sustaining a fatal head injury, and Noel (aged 13) and his brother were suddenly orphaned as their idyllic life came to an end.

Noel went to live in Stocksfield with his aunt Nell, his mother's sister, and remained in the North East for the rest of his life. He left school at 15, after some pressure from his aunt to earn some money, and took a job as an apprentice painter and decorator. At about the age of 20 he joined the navy as a radio operator on a supply ship for the troops engaged in operations in the Middle East, and he remembered celebrating his 21st birthday on board ship.

At the end of the war Noel took a flat in Gateshead to be closer to his new job as a Post Office telegraphist in the main Post Office building, next to the High Level Bridge, where he remained until the Newcastle office closed down around 1982, when he took early retirement. During his time with the Post Office he met Ishbel, a young woman from Aberdeen, whom he married in Aberdeen in 1951. A year later their daughter Margaret was born. They lived in Noel's flat in Gateshead for a few years, then bought a house in Jesmond when Margaret started school.

Margaret was six years old when tragedy struck Noel for the second time, as his wife became very ill and died suddenly. At this point another aunt came to the rescue. Ishbel's older sister (also called Margaret) who was a nursing sister in Aberdeen, came to Newcastle to take care of her niece, taking a job at the Fleming Hospital in administration.

After Margaret began to make her own way in the world as a student nurse at Northampton General Hospital, Noel joined the Ramblers' Association. Walking was later to become an important pastime for him.

Some years later he was invited to a concert in the City Hall by a friend, who had arranged to meet some members of the (now Royal)

Northern Sinfonia at a pub after the concert. There he met Ruth Bennett, sub-principal cellist, who had come to England from South Africa as a music student and never returned. After an initial misunderstanding when Ruth assumed that Noel, introduced to her as "from telegraphs", must be a journalist from the Daily Telegraph, and didn't pay him much attention, she was put right and apologised. They became firm friends, and enjoyed their mutual liking for walking and love of the countryside. Every weekend for many years was spent following footpaths in the surrounding area. They married on August 1st, 1970, at St George's Church, Jesmond, where Noel was a committed member and head server for many years.

In 1973 they bought their first house together. In 1975 their son Matthew was born, and the walking weekends were put on hold until Matthew was old enough to participate. When Noel felt unable to undertake any more serious walking after a foot injury, Ruth was able to persuade him to take up cycling, which she had long enjoyed. After that the bicycles were taken on holiday every year! As well as cycling holidays, Noel and Ruth became acquainted with the island of Sark where they spent many happy times. Their last holiday on Sark was in 2008, when Noel was 84 and beginning to develop various health problems. In 2014 he was diagnosed with vascular dementia. Although it was in its early stages then, he was getting to the stage when he couldn't be left alone for any length of time. Ruth had already decided that she could no longer work as a free-lance musician, so she gave up playing and became Noel's full time carer. This was her choice, as she wanted to have Noel at home as long as possible and she did this devotedly as long as she could.

When it became obvious that Noel's needs could no longer be met at home, he moved into Moorfield Care Home in July 2018, where Ruth visited him every day and helped to feed him. Eventually he was confined to bed and able to be cared for only by the staff at Moorfield, although Ruth did feed Noel with his last meal before he was unable to swallow at all. Noel died on June 30th after a short stay in the RVI.

We here at All Saints' knew Noel for many years as a member of the congregation and chalice assistant and continued to visit him with communion at home and in Moorfield as long as possible. There's no telling how much of these visits Noel was able to understand or respond to but I hope they helped both him and Ruth in some way.

Noel is now out of our hands and is committed to God's care, as we said in the words of committal at the crematorium "in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life", a hope which Noel surely shared. St John tells us not to let our hearts be troubled as in the end love is stronger than death—both our love for one another and God's love for us.

**Ruth Birnie**

# Jim Roper

**O**ver the first couple of years of Dee and I attending All Saints' in the mid 70's, we got to know the Roper family and became friends—made easier by the fact that we sat in the same area on the south aisle each week.

For a time Jim took on the role of Planned Giving Recorder, which back in the 80's/90's would be quite a time-consuming task, due to the numbers then in the scheme, but was an invaluable help to the Treasurer.

Jim, and Raymond Dance, who was Churchwarden with him until I took over, were All Saints' representatives as Governors of the old Church School at the bottom of Salters Road. During their time on the Board the school had to move to temporary premises at Gosforth Central Middle School due to the premises being affected by dry rot. Both Jim and Raymond resigned when the Council wanted to close the school.

In 1978 I became a Churchwarden alongside Jim, and had two very enjoyable years working with him in that role. He was always to the fore when it came to being involved in arranging family occasions such as social events, particularly on Shrove Tuesdays and at Halloween, parties and games afternoons on the Church Green.

The Christmas Fair back then was always run by the Churchwardens, and was an all day event, with teas/coffees and lunches being served throughout the day. We had more space in the Hall then for stalls etc., as we still had the stage. Jim and I collected the tables and stall surrounds from St Mary's, Fawdon in a Bookless flower van to enable the set-up on the Friday night.—and he still had time to dress up as Santa! One thing that I'll always remember, is that after our first year of doing the fair together we raised over £1,000, this being the first time a four-figure sum had been achieved.

Jim was always highly respected by everyone here at All Saints' not only for the roles he undertook but for himself—as our daughter most succinctly put it, he was a kind man and always had time for everybody.

**Chris Matthews**

# Missions of the Month

**E**ach month any plate donations from our services are given to a nominated charity agreed by the PCC, unless otherwise stated.

Gift Aid envelopes, when received from the organisations we support, are placed in the pews for those who feel able to increase their donations in this way. If there are no envelopes in your pew, please use a yellow All Saints' envelope by crossing out "All Saints'" and writing the name of the relevant Mission of the Month in its place.

## August: PCDC (Practical Compassion for Destitute Children)

PCDC is an international charity with UK-based support, for children in the Bible lands who have lost their parents or whose parents are unable to get work. It provides, for example, school and hospital fees, whilst working under the most difficult conditions in the Middle East.

## September: Northumbria Deaf Church

This is a local organisation based at St Andrew's Church, Newgate Street, supporting services for deaf people in Northumbria and Durham by providing lay pastoral assistants who are fluent sign language users.

**Donations** sent out since the last **In Touch**—many thanks for your continued contributions:

April	Church Mission Society (CMS)	£1,470.77
Good Friday	Amnesty International	£15.00
Easter Sunday	Smile for Life	£ 272.20

**Nominations for Mission of the Month 2020:** We would like to give all members of our congregation the opportunity to nominate their favourite/preferred charitable organisation for 2020. We ask that these have recognised registered charitable status and support our current mission action plan of:

- deepening our faith
- outreach into the wider community
- welcoming the outsider

Please let us have any nominations by Friday 25th October at the latest so that the Mission & Justice Group can draw up a list which will be considered by the PCC at their meeting in November.

Please send your nomination with a brief description, or attach a leaflet of the nature of their work, along with your name and contact details to: Chris Matthews, tel. 285 6494 or email: [cdm65@talktalk.net](mailto:cdm65@talktalk.net), or leave them in M/N pigeonhole at the back of the church.

**Chris Matthews, Mission Secretary**

**In Touch**



## From the registers

Send us your photographs to  
allsaintsintouch@outlook.com

### Baptisms

14th July

**Robert Widdowfield**

28th July

**Mila Evelyn Richardson**

**Ada Victoria Bundle**

### Funerals

25th June

**James (Jim) Snowdon Roper**

11th July

**Robert Noel Waterson**

### Weddings

15th June

**Adam Harrison and Sarah Kears**



## All Saints' Weekly Services

Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	11.30am	Café Church (first Sunday of every month)
	6.30pm	Evening Service or Prayers for Healing. Evensong last Sunday of the month.

## Dates for your Diary

September	
Sunday 8th	Welcome Party in All Saints' Centre
Sunday 22nd 12.00—5.00pm	Heritage Open Day
Saturday 28th 7.30pm	Gilmore & Roberts Concert
October	
Sunday 6th 9.30am	Harvest Festival Service
Sunday 6th 3.00pm	Special Service in All Saints' Centre
November	
Saturday 9th 7.00pm	Quiz Night in All Saints' Centre
Saturday 16th	Culture Kitchen in All Saints' Centre
Saturday 30th 7.30pm	Jesmond Choral Concert in Church
December	
Saturday 7th 10.30 - 12 noon	Christmas Fair

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Sarah Moon has captured the beauty of this rose during one of our Open Gardens visits.

If you have a picture you would like to share with us, please email  
[allsaintsintouch@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintsintouch@outlook.com)

