



All Saints' Church

Sunday 10th May 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

www.allsaintsgosforth.org.uk

Find us on Facebook <https://facebook.com/allsaintsgosforth>

Follow us on Twitter: @AllSaintsGos

The Parish Office closed.

Please log on to the All Saints' Website on Sunday morning for our recorded **Sunday Eucharist and hymns** <http://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/worship-with-us-at-home>

You can download the order of service. Please go to: <http://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/worship-with-us-at-home>

Please also log on for **Sunday Evening Prayer** with address on <https://www.allsaintsgosforth.co.uk/recording/>

Thought for Today

The gift of reassurance

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me."

This is quite a statement to hear today when there are so many anxious and troubled hearts around at the moment.

This week a friend, who does not profess a Christian faith, emailed and asked me how I was coping? He said that he thought that many people would expect me to remain cheerful and confident at all times.

Many Christians think this is what this verse 'Let not your hearts be troubled' means - that we should always be buoyant and carefree. However, they forget that Jesus himself was not immune to the effects of pressure. Three times in the chapters before this statement by Jesus, John records that Jesus was "deeply troubled in spirit."

Therefore, it is clear that none of us can escape – we are all exposed to pressures and danger. We have the record of the epistles to confirm this. The apostles went through times of great peril, during which they feared and trembled.

If it is not wrong for Christians to feel pressured and fearful what is this teaching then? What does our Lord mean by, "Let not your hearts be troubled?" Maybe he is saying that while we cannot prevent stress, we can some way overcome it.

Just before Jesus says "let not your hearts be troubled" everything seemed to be going wrong for Jesus and his disciples. Peter is told he will deny knowing Jesus. Jesus reveals that he would be betrayed and soon end up dead. And yet, Jesus says to his disciples 'trouble not your hearts'. Let me state this again, Jesus faces the annihilation of all His claims and hopes, he has and will give himself not knowing the outcome of his passion, but He says, "Trust in God, and trust in Me"!

When everything is hard work and uncertain it is so easy to think of only ourselves and be oblivious to others. But here Jesus turns from his own troubles and burden and turns to comfort and encourage his disciples. He knows that their world was soon going to collapse into unbelievable chaos. What was he saying?

All Saints' Mission Statement

Working together as a church we are pursuing a vision to put All Saints' at the heart of the wider community. Our vision is to be a vibrant, inclusive, compassionate and outward looking church with a sensitive and thoughtful approach to faith, where there is excellent pastoral care and encouragement for all and where diversity is welcomed and our worship inspires us to transform the world.

He seems to be looking them in the eye and saying in the face of trouble “believe in me, believe more thoroughly, trust more entirely, rest more unreservedly, lay hold more firmly, lean back more completely”—this is the prescription which Jesus urges His disciples to take in a time of crisis. He says “Believe! Believe more! Believe in me! This will keep you going”. Sometimes that is all we can do - believe in Him. There is here an act of blind faith.

Many years ago, I worked for a year at St Christopher's Hospice in London and encountered much suffering which I could not make sense of. At the end of a shift, I would go and sit for a while in silence in a small chapel side room, in front of the sanctuary light, which expressed the presence of Jesus in the bread and wine in the tabernacle. I would just be –sit and think of the shift and all whom I had encountered and bring to Him my own feelings and struggles. I always seemed to leave that chapel more centred, reassured and strengthened. I did not do much- just sat and waited. The reassurance was a gift.

We cannot do this in All Saints' or St Hugh's church buildings at present. However, perhaps we can imagine that we are there, in our living room, bedroom, kitchen, or garden, in front of an icon or a candle, and be ready to receive that gift.

Jesus says that “The Lord...anointed [Him] to bring good news to the afflicted; ...to bind up the broken-hearted, ...[and] to comfort all who mourn”. He knew in the words of Isaiah how to sustain the weary one with a word”. That is what we are called to do for others. By a phone call or an email and we express that still and strong presence.

Like Peter on the water, I wonder if we are called at this time to look more steadily at Jesus, and less at the waves and wind? I think of Mary in the garden on Easter morning. She just wanted to cling to Jesus – she probably could say no more than “Rabboni”.

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me”. By daily deciding to take that leap of faith we may not avoid stress but we may find a way to overcome it. For through our encounter with the Lord our hearts are comforted.

Andrew Shipton

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

For more than 70 years' Christian Aid has been working in partnership with poor communities to enable them to thrive. They tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. Christian Aid also responds to emergencies. We see on the News that the virus is travelling across the world's poorest countries, putting vulnerable people at great risk. These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impact of the virus deeply and it is frightening to think of the consequences. We must respond now. We cannot hope to raise the £3000 as we normally do through house to house collections but we can still give. Please go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

The idea has also been put forward of us asking members of our WhatsApp groups or Facebook groups to make donations directly to Christian Aid. This can easily be done: Please visit:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Martin Carr (Yvonne and Fred's son) has organised a bibliathon on 16th May for Christian Aid either just to watch or participate as well as raising money. Please see: <https://www.ahbtt.org.uk/news/bibliathon-2975.php>

Bible Readings for Sunday 10th May 2020 – fifth Sunday of Easter

New Testament: Acts 7.55- end

New Testament: 1 Peter 2.2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Gosforth Community. We now have a tab on our website called Gosforth Community. This is where all local news, advice, helplines and activities for you to get involved with will be added. This is updated regularly; there may be information useful to you or someone you know.

Another Zoom coffee morning will be arranged by Ruth for Tuesday 11th May at 11am for 40 minutes. Please email Ruth if you would like to join by midday Monday 10th and the link and password will be sent to you. For security and safeguarding reasons please do not pass on the link or password to others. You will first need to download the Zoom App on your PC, Phone or Lap Top.

ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Mindful Body Dance via Zoom! Free during Lockdown. Female Only. You will need to get a ticket to reserve your place using the link below. An email address is needed to receive confirmation with an embedded Zoom link. Four classes per week, with a slower paced class on a Sunday. To book your place visit: <https://bookwhen.com/mindfulbodydance>

Limerick Competition. Thank you to all who entered our competition for fun. All entries were good, and after careful deliberation we have decided the winning entry is from **Peter Elliott**:

There was a young cleric called Eric
Whose temper was somewhat choleric.
Since losing his rag
When dropping his fag
Was moved by the Bishop to Berwick.

More fun competitions to be announced soon!

Roots at Home With worship services and groups of all kinds currently suspended, ROOTS is offering free resources for people to use at home. Please visit: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>

A lot of people are doing jigsaws right now so here is one that can be completed online: <https://iigex.com/YjBd> This picture is of All Saints', but if you would like to try a few more you can look at Jigsawexplorer.com where there are dozens to choose from! (You can also create your own, but thanks to Brendan Cross for sorting this one out for us.)

“Competition time for all Teens” (You could win a voucher worth £50!)

Do you fancy yourself as a viral smash hit dancer?

Time to strut your stuff and prove you have the moves!

Competition rules

- open to 13-18s
- Use the track available from All Saints' website - please go to allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth
- Upload your completed videos via your parent's email address to post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk



Closing date: Noon, 21st May

Mission of the Month Each month any plate donations from our services are given to a nominated charity but with services suspended this is not possible. Instead we ask members of the congregation to consider putting away money and later giving to: this month **uS**, a charity which aims to provide support and opportunities for young people with, or at risk of developing mental illness.

We commend into God's care **Elizabeth Hierons (Liz)** and pray for Nigel and Kate and all the family.

We remember with thanks **Joan Middleton** and pray for her family in their loss.

We continue to pray for **Andrew Laidler** and for Gwen, Karen and Paul.

We commend **Gerlinde Atkinson** into God's care, praying for her family many miles away.

We continue to pray for **Patricia Slinger** who lived in the St Hugh's parish and for her daughter Pamela and her family as they prepare for her funeral this week.

Broadcast Services from the BBC

- Live Sunday Morning Worship (BBC1 – 11.30am)
- Songs of Praise (BBC 1 – Sunday – 1.15pm)
- Prayer for the day (BBC Radio 4 – Daily – 5.43am)
- Sunday Worship (BBC Radio 4 – 8.10am)
- Choral Evensong (Radio 3 – Wednesday – 3.30pm)
- Daily Service 9.45-10am weekdays 198 Long Wave only.

Many garden flowers are now blooming. Would you like to send photos of flowers in your garden for a bright and colourful page on the All Saints' website? Please email post@allsaintsgosforth.org.uk

Use the following link to our website to view the photos: <http://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/garden-flowers-2020>

For those who love the songs and prayers of the Taizé Community in France they will be live streaming prayers every evening at 7.30pm our time, so do join them at: www.facebook.com/pg/taize

ETHICAL FOOD SHOPPING - AND REACHING OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY

Something Good opened 6 months ago at 265 Jesmond Road (Jesmond end of Armstrong Bridge). It sells good quality foodstuffs without any plastic packaging and customers weigh out quantities they require. At this time of social distancing, Something Good has changed to a safe way of operating. Go to the website (www.somethinggoodnewcastle.com), book a collection time slot, place your order. At the arranged time you will find your items waiting for you just inside the shop door neatly packaged in paper bags. This ethical small business deserves support - and there is FLOUR available! - please do check out the website.

Secondly, may we remind you about food and goods from **Traidcraft**, based in Gateshead (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/food). Currently it is impossible to operate Traidcraft stalls in churches nationally, so direct customer orders are very important to Traidcraft. Coronavirus is leading to serious economic and practical problems in countries which produce fairtrade products, those of us fortunate to live in wealthy countries can help by making Fairtrade purchases.

A suggestion.... if you cannot make up a large enough order for it to seem worthwhile, consider asking neighbours and friends if they would like to add a few items to your order. A way of reaching out to the people around us, when we all need mutual support, as well as encouraging ethical shopping.

The Eco Group now have a Facebook page linked to the All Saints' page. There will be regular postings that we think might be of interest and we hope that members of the congregation can contribute their own ideas, suggestions and anything else they would like to share on an ecological theme.

Thank you from All Saints' 'Eco Team'.

Louise Waugh and Tricia Maylia have joined the Government's Job Retention Scheme from the 1st of May. They remain very much part of the team but under the requirements of the scheme will not be able to work for us. We do hope this will be for a very short time, for their work is invaluable and we will miss them greatly. Please could notices for the pew sheet still be sent to post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

From Thursday 7th May Andrew has been permitted to enter the church building on his own to say morning/evening prayer but with the doors locked. We will keep you informed on guidance from the diocese.

Help. If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we can help with picking up shopping, posting mail, a friendly phone call or urgent supplies. Just call and we will do our best to help you 2pm-4pm

Monday Tel: 0191 284 1393

Tuesday and Wednesday: 07989145610

Thursday and Friday: 0191 2845540

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Helpful resources for this time:

<https://togethernetwork.org.uk/uploads/shared/Prayer-booklet.pdf>

Self-isolation prayer booklet **Together network**

http://thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/creative_prayer_idea_wild_worship_field_guide.pdf

Out in the Wild Worship

<https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland/>

Church of England Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/archbishopofcanterbury/>

Archbishop of Canterbury Facebook

Like many charities and businesses, churches are facing huge financial challenges during this time of lockdown and closure. All Saints' Church is a vital community hub serving Gosforth parish. We are usually open seven days a week, daytime & evening, for community groups, classes, support networks and events. During this time of closure our regular bookings have stopped and our income is severely affected. Although the church building is closed, we are continuing our vital ministry through online worship, phone support and outreach ministry.

If you are able to offer financial support to All Saints' during these difficult times we would be most grateful. Donations can be received online through bank transfer via BACS to:

Account Name: PCC All Saints Gosforth

Sort Code: 20-59-61

Account number: 00676314

Please contact the Vicar, Andrew Shipton, or the Treasurer, Fred Carr, if you have any questions about giving to All Saints'.

Thank you for your generosity and prayer at this time.

Prayers for those who suffer:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy, in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care, those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens, your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience, to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Treasurer	Fred Carr	01661 825863	fred.carr@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
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