Keeping in Touch

All Saints Gosforth





St Hugh's Church, Gosforth

20th March 2022

From the Vicar

Dear All,

Christians have been depicting Jesus on stage since the Passion plays of the middle ages, and on Good Friday we have the chance of seeing a rock Passion play.

As in the Passion plays of old, *Jesus Christ Superstar* helps us to gain insight into the last week of Jesus' life: what he faced and suffered. Learning the songs off by heart was certainly an important part of my faith development as a teenager!

The opera focuses on Jesus having very human characteristics like anger, irritation, doubt, and fear. Jesus shouts out that there are too many demands, and for everyone to just stop.

The performance comes from a definite perspective. The story is told through the eyes of Judas. The ordinary people around Jesus begin to get anxious after a while; they like him and don't want him to get in trouble with the Romans. Most worried of all is Judas, who advises Jesus to maintain a low profile. Judas doesn't so much betray Jesus as make a tactical mistake in his dealings with the authorities.

The play is not always "correct". Mary Magdalene is conflated with other biblical figures such as Mary of Bethany, the woman who anointed Jesus' feet in Luke 7, and the woman caught in adultery in John 8. There are some who find the play too dramatic. As a calm healer, teacher, and listener, Jesus does not always get so overwhelmed. Yet I so appreciate the play's portrayal of the highs and lows, the vision and vulnerability of the Lord's mission.

The music is haunting, and Tim Rice's lyrics occasionally hit that moment of genius.

It may be 50 years old, but *Jesus Christ Superstar* portrays Jesus' life and message today to many who might not otherwise know of them. In the end, I think the show is more about asking questions than answering them. "Who are you? What have you sacrificed?" Judas asks in the song "Superstar". "Do you think you're what they say you are?"

Do come and join in our Superstar Lent course and do come and see and hear the opera for yourself in church on Good Friday at 7.30pm.

Andrew Shipton



The Last Supper, depicted by our Sew, Knit and

From the archives

Our photograph shows the outdoor Easter garden planted out in 1954.



Keeping In Touch 20th March 2022 Page 1

Welcome

Our 9.30 service on 6th February 2022 welcomed a group of Air Cadets from their Gosforth base to celebrate 81 years since their foundation.

We were grateful to hear their pledge, join them in their prayer and hymn, and respect their parade of their squadron banner.

Their contribution elicited comments from members of the congregation remembering their own connections with and debt to the Royal Air Force.

Thank you from All Saints Gosforth, and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.





Calvary Cross update

It is now some 9 months since our beautiful Cross sculpture was stolen, which attracted public outcry such that it was recovered, albeit with some damage. Since then it has been safely stored away whilst we arranged for speciality repair and installation work to be carried out—and, of course, negotiated with our insurers.



We are now in a position to commission this work, and the Cross will shortly be travelling to Scotland for repairs to be carried out. We hope that we will be able to reinstate it some time in the late summer.

Meanwhile, we are looking at preparing a crowdfunding bid to enhance the environment surrounding the Cross and our wider estate. The outcry over the loss has made us more aware than ever of the value that our wider community places on this area as a place of reflection and enjoyment.

More details will follow in a future *Keeping* in *Touch*.

Peter Brown

Competition—Hedgehog mania?



Spring is on its way, and we can look forward to the longer days and the hope of some sunnier weather. Snowdrops and daffodils are

now in bloom in gardens, in parks, and in the church grounds too—but that's not all.

We have a little spiky visitor who has taken up residence in the piles of logs and twigs at the back of the grassy area, and wanders out from time to time hunting for lovely juicy slugs and worms—our very own All Saints' hedgehog!

It is probably fair to say that our little friend already has quite a

following, but there's one problem—we don't know what he (or she) is called! The only thing to do, we thought, would be to have a competition to see who can come up with the best hedgehog-y name they can think of.

So—put your thinking caps on and send your suggestions in to the editors of *Keeping in*

Touch at Allsaintsintouch@outlook.com or put them in the hedgehog box at the back of church—you can't miss it!

You can make up as many names as you

like, and the competition is completely free. We have a prize for this too: a lovely little soft cuddly toy hedgehog in its own carrying case, complete with bedding and a book about how to care for it. (It was hibernating from the cold when we took the it only photo, SO



shows the outside of the crate).

Closing date for entries is 8th April.

We're really looking forward to receiving your ideas, so get thinking!

Editors

P.S. There's another hedgehog—or is it the same hedgehog?—on the next page.

Calling all under 5s



Greening All Saints'

We have been carrying out a number of initiatives to improve the environment around All Saints and are currently looking at further ways we can open up our spaces and make them more attractive for the wider community.

Here and on the next page we focus on a number of activities over the last month. More to follow!

Gardeners are growing...

in terms of numbers, that is!

Eight of us turned up to tidy the Garden of Remembrance and surrounding areas at the beginning of February, and that was with at least four other regulars unable to make it.

We concentrated on removing all of the fallen twigs and small branches, as well as tackling the border nearest to Linden Road, and even managed to make a start on clearing the weeds from some of the paths—but that will have to be next month's main task. As anyone will be aware who has, or has had, a garden, there is always something to be done!

Apart from doing our bit for the church, it's a lively social occasion too, and gives the opportunity for members of different congregations, and people from our wider community, to meet and chat.

Our next session will be on Saturday 5th March. Do come along—it's the "Green Gym" and costs nothing to join!

Ann Cross



Wildlife on the Green

Mowing the Church Green, Garden of Remembrance and All Saints' side lawns by myself and Tricia Maylia resumes in April—but is always weather-dependent! The annual "season" runs roughly from Spring to Autumn, and, since last year, has been speeded up by the PCC's much-appreciated purchase of a

new Mountfield SP42 petrol mower to add to our modest "fleet"—though completion takes around four hours, with usually a start around 9 or 10 am—earlier if rain is forecast later.

The Green is a precious urban green space in an increasingly-congested, built-up city, and we are always accompanied by opportunistic robins—often pausing to slug it out over territory with a rival—and there are hedge-sparrows, wrens, blackbirds, song thrushes, great, coal, blue and long-tailed tits to keep us company.



A hedgehog fresh from exploring the Garden of Remembrance. Picture: Tricia Maylia

I have seen hedgehogs utilizing their "hotel"—the heap of branches near the composting area where we heap brash, twigs and windfallen branches for them to overwinter, and once, on hearing drumming, I saw a greater spotted woodpecker.

On occasion, I have been mowing in early autumn as the light fades, and heard tawny owls, who seem to favour the large sycamore tree near the NSB boundary wall.

My personal favourites are the crows and jackdaws who follow the mower, looking for snacks - they are very bold, and seem quite undaunted by the engine noise: they even perch on it, eyeing me impatiently, if I pause for a lunch-break!

Keith Davies

More about hedgehogs on p. 3.

Laying our Hedge



Before...

All Saints' has the makings of a magnificent beech hedge alongside the Church Green. However, whilst bushy at the top, it was quite "leggy" at the bottom, as well as being slightly too tall for passers-by to see events unfolding on the green itself.

We have therefore been extremely fortunate to welcome a team of staff and volunteers from Northumberland Wildlife Trust to layer the hedge for us. This will make the hedge thicker at the bottom, reduce the gaps, and therefore make it more welcoming as a haven for wildlife such as nesting birds and our resident hedgehogs (see pages 3 and 4).

The "brash" that is left will also go back to helping wildlife, adding to the pile of branches which provides shelter for small mammals on the south side of the green.

The team was led by Rob Drummond from



After. As the beech begins to sprout in Spring, the hedge will thicken and grow.



During...Hard at work with a billhook

the Trust's Beelines Project. This is a joint project with Urban Green, who manage our parks to improve areas for pollinators and aid nature recovery in urban areas. Rev. Andrew Shipton commented:

We are so pleased for the help of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust to assist in protecting our Church Green and helping us to make it richer in wildlife for the benefit of everyone. Hedge laying requires specialist expertise and the knowledge and practical skill of those who work on the urban rewilding project is so welcome.

The work took place over two days, and attracted a lot of interest from passers-by.

Subsequent feedback has been very positive.

Our thanks to all those involved. For more information on Northumberland Wildlife Trust, or to join or donate, please go to NWT.org.uk



Christine Willoughby

News of former Youth Worker

David Filmer was our youth worker at All Saints' from May 2002 to May 2004, working alongside Rev'ds Richard Hill and Catherine Pickford. He spoke of the initial 6 weeks he took to get used to our ways (coming from a Methodist church), of organising a black-tie dinner with Elizabeth Norris, and a Murder Mystery event one Halloween with Andrew and Annette Cole. Since leaving us he has gained a wife (Sonia), 2 children, Ellen aged 11 and Andrew 9, taught and teaches religious studies, and is now leading the Humanities faculty in a state school in Hartlepool.

Ros Place



Tyneside Welcomes Quiz

Question 1: Are we nearly there yet?

Anyone who has ever heard this from the back seat of a packed family car will know that it is usually uttered before you have even crossed the Tyne Bridge.

We have definitely got further than that! However, whilst I share everyone's impatience to settle a refugee family in Newcastle, I have to explain why it isn't going to happen quite yet.

So, how far have we got? Your generosity has meant that we have got within striking distance of our target (over £8000 of the necessary £9000 have been secured). We have started to build a team of volunteers capable of managing the application process and of supporting a family once they have arrived.

There is, of course, a "but". The Home Office scheme requires that we have named volunteers willing and able to lead on several vital themes, such as: Housing, Health, Education, Benefits, Employment, Safeguarding and Welcome. We have been delighted and encouraged in equal measure that people continue to join us, and are pretty confident that given time, we will "get there".

Question 2: Who ordered what, in AD 122?

Yes, it's exactly 1900 years since Emperor Hadrian visited this region and commanded the building of his wall.

A group of Tyneside Welcomes supporters are planning to walk the wall from Bowness-on-Solway to Wallsend (where else?) to raise funds for the charity. If you are interested in joining in some or all of the 84 miles between 27th June and 2nd July, then email: anew.welcomes@gmail.com

Question 3: Have you got tickets?

In order to keep raising cash for Tyneside Welcomes, and (more importantly) to keep reaching out to potential new volunteers, we

are running a quiz night. It's in the All Saints Centre, on Saturday 19th March at 7pm. You can continue to support us by coming along with friends or family to have a fun evening and learn more about what Community Sponsorship involves. Tickets at £5 are available from Andrew Cole, Dorothy Henderson, Hannah Marshall or

Gosforthwelcomes@gmail.com



Question 4: Sorry, what's Tyneside Welcomes?

You haven't been paying attention—go back and read the last two issues of *Keeping in Touch*! Or go to:

https://www.tynesidewelcomes.org/

Andrew Cole



S. Y. Killingley Memorial Trust



Photo: Donald Dixon

Some of you will remember Siew-Yue Killingley, who came regularly to All Saints' until her sudden death in 2004. She was a poet, a flautist, and a scholar of English and Chinese. Her Northumbrian Passion Play was performed in All Saints' in 1999, and again in St. Thomas's, Newcastle, and in St. George's, Morpeth. She had taught in Newcastle University, in St. Mary's College, Fenham, and in evening classes. At the time of her death, she was teaching an evening class on Chinese language, and another on Chinese calligraphy. Her students and other friends wanted to do something in her memory, and as she was always interested in her students' welfare and their needs, we decided to set up a charity to help part-time learners.

The S. Y. Killingley Memorial Trust (Regis-Charity 1111891) helps part-time learners in the arts and humanities in the North-East, by giving grants to cover fees and expenses. The Trust has helped people study Arabic, English, British Sign Language, painting, history. music, dance. circus performance, and other subjects. They all have different backgrounds and different reasons for wanting to study, and their determination is inspiring.

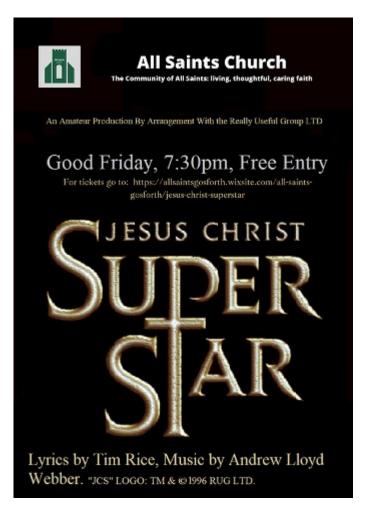
Applicants are interviewed by a panel of about three, drawn from the Trustees and from a list of Assessors who occasionally help with their expertise. During the pandemic, meetings and interviews have been held online, but we look forward to when we can return to having them at my house in Gosforth.

The Trust started in 2005 with eight Trustees who were all friends of Siew-Yue. Since then, some Trustees have had to leave us because of other commitments or because they were moving away. At present there are two vacancies, so we are looking for people who are concerned about part-time education, and are willing to give some time and thought to supporting it. The work of a Trustee involves four or five meetings a year, and four or five interview sessions. Each Trustee keeps in touch with a few of the grantees while they are studying, and this is more a pleasure than work.

Have you time, energy and an interest in part-time education in the arts and humanities? If you would like to be a Trustee or an Assessor, or make a donation, or help in any way, please get in touch.

trust@grevatt.f9.co.uk www.syktrust.org.uk

Dermot Killingley (chair, S. Y Killingley Memorial Trust)



Fair Trade Fortnight

Fairtrade's Choose the World You Want Festival returned for a second year for Fairtrade Fortnight 2022, which ended on 6th March. It featured a series of virtual events designed to engage, inform and educate people around the urgent message of Fairtrade and climate change, the future of our food and those who produce it. The online initiative will bring the Fairtrade movement together and feature panel discussions, performances, workshops and collaborations between the Fairtrade Foundation retailers, chefs and high-profile names in the world of food and sustainability. See

https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/ for more information.

A Prayer for Fairtrade Fortnight

Creator God, we look around our world; we can see our homes in the city or in the country; in them and around them we can marvel at the beauty of your creation, if we just open our eyes. Through the wonders of digital technology, we can see the world far from us too, and the ecosystems living in it.

Yet we are also the ones who have caused chaos and harm to these beautiful places and to flora and fauna within them. Give us eyes that see beyond the beauty.

You have given us enough land to feed our populations, yet many go hungry. You have given us wealth, yet we are often slow to share. You have given us the ability to look outwards and to see where others need help, but often we only look at our own lives.

Forgive us Lord, when we do not open our eyes, and when, as a Parent, we make your heart sad at our selfish nature. Touch our eyes afresh today and enable us to see what you have created. Help us nurture and care for all that lives on this beautiful planet we call home. Help us to seek always for justice and fairness for places and people and to make this world a better place.

Amen.

Carol Finlay

Happy Birthday

The family of Enid Green would like to thank the very supportive group of friends from All Saints who helped make Enid's 99th birthday a true celebration by coming to see her.

We were delighted to join you, Enid. Not that we're counting, but we look forward to celebrating a major event with you next year!



Above: Andrew with Enid, and below: Linda, Sheila and Ruth



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School Report:

Archbishop Runcie First School

Year 4 at Archbishop Runcie C. of E. First School have been working extremely hard this month! In English, we have been reading the engrossing *Goodnight Mister Tom*, and have completed excellent pieces of writing! During our writing, we have used a range of grammar such as subordinating and coordinating conjunctions, direct speech and expanded noun phrases.

Linking to our text, our history topic of childhood has allowed us to delve deeper into how the concept and expectations of children changed from the 1800s to 1945. We were able to look at some interesting sources, and compare children's experiences back then to our own.



In D.T., we have investigated what ingredients would be appropriate and available to soldiers during WW2 and which would provide them with the necessary sustenance. We



decided to make a wartime trench stew, which passed the Year 4 taste test!

Year 4 have loved being a part of every worship, and have reflected on key themes in different stories such as Paul and Saul. We have had the pleasure of leading our own Candlemas worship, and we created our own special candles which represented what we were grateful for.



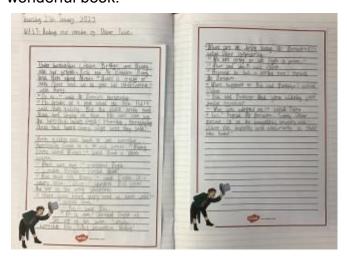
Chris from Music Partnership North has provided us with fantastic music lessons, and we have learnt how to play different instruments such as the gogo bell, the surdo drum and the repinique drum.

Lastly, we have gone strength to strength each week during our gymnastic lessons! We have put all of our knowledge of mirroring, jumps and rolls together to create some fabulous routines.



Year 3 have also been working very hard this month!

In English, we have enjoyed reading the much-loved *Oliver Twist*, and we have completed some fantastic writing based on this wonderful book.



We have really enjoyed learning about global trade in Geography, we have researched and learned about mineral trade, and also found out where lots of our food comes from and how it gets to us here in Gosforth. We couldn't believe that lots of our bananas come from over 5,000 miles away!

We have enjoyed having music lessons with Chris from Music Partnership North and learned how to read music, play different instruments such as the agogo bell, the surdo drum and the repinique drum.



Lastly, we have been testing our flexibility in gymnastics in PE this half-term. We have been using lots of muscles we didn't even know we had in our bodies to pose, balance, jump and roll!





More about our recitals on the next page

New website

A small group of us are currently working with a web designer to redesign our website.

We hope this will be much more visual, showing images of All Saints at worship and in our community and promoting our activities. Most of all, we hope to create a simpler link to our online worship and make it easier to search for information about the many things that are happening at All Saints.

We hope to have the new site up and running by the end of May, but to make it work we will also need to update our content. So if you run a group or an activity we will be approaching you over the next few weeks for up-to-date information—and maybe some photographs—about your activity or group.

We look forward to working with you.

The web team

Piano Recitals and Organ Day







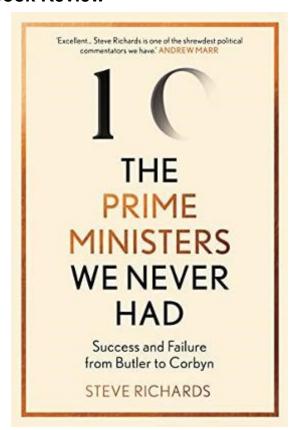
Mark Viner's recital on Wed March 9th is behind us, but we are looking forward to Rose McLachlan's piano-playing on Wed April 6th at 7.30. Rose is 19, and has two brothers who are also concert pianists. Just under a month later (Wed May 4th, 7.30) we will welcome Nurry Lee, from South Korea. Details on p. 10, and on our flyers (please distribute some!), posters and website. Tickets are £10 on the door, under-18s free. Please contact Rosamund Place (below) if you would be willing to be part of a team offering drinks at these recitals when we decide to start doing that.

Please mark your diaries for around lunch-time on Sat 23rd April, when we are marking International Organ Day—look out for more details! Nearly 2000 years after organs were first played, Mozart is alleged to have deemed the organ the King of Instruments! This celebration is free of charge.

I would be particularly glad to have offers to help with food that day! It would be good to hear from someone who could put our information on Twitter!

> Rosamund Place (0191) 285 7244 rosamundplace@btopenworld.com

Book Review



The Prime Ministers We Never Had by Steve Richards

This is a fascinating book which follows the careers of 11 eminent politicians, including Roy Jenkins, Barbara Castle, Denis Healey, and Neil Kinnock, who were thought to be potential Prime Ministers but never made it.

In addition to their individual personalities, the candidates share certain common features seen as responsible for their failure to reach the top position, including: lack of sufficient single-minded drive to achieve the premiership, the incapacity to be sufficiently devious or manipulative (!), loyalty to the existing party leader, or having been responsible for unpopular policies in their previous Cabinet posts, significant issues in that respect being largely to do with the economy and relations with the EU. In many cases the individuals discussed enjoyed more popularity with the voters than with their parties.

I had the great pleasure of meeting the author (a well-known political journalist) on a walking holiday in Derbyshire at New Year, and interesting conversations helped in negotiating the challenges of the muddy footpaths.

This book is a good read, and at £1.19 on Kindle must be one of the best bargains available.

Ruth Birnie

Ash Wednesday

Readers have asked for an explanation of the some of the symbolism used in our church, starting with Ash Wednesday. Other short pieces may appear occasionally. If you have a topic that you would like to read more about, let

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important days in the church's year, being the start of Lent, a season of self-examination, penitence,

self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, as Sundays are not counted in the days of fasting which symbolically remind us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested by Satan.

At the Ash Wednesday service, Christians are marked on their foreheads with ash in the shape of a cross as a sign of penance. The imposition, as it is called, comes from the dust and ashes used in the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. (We may recall Job sitting among ashes, and his friends throwing dust in the air.) Since Christianity started as a Jewish sect, the use of ashes was carried over. Writings from the second-century Church mention wearing ashes as a sign of penance. Originally they were sprinkled on the head of penitents, but women were marked on the forehead as they had their heads covered.

Starting Lent by being marked with the sign of the cross developed during the Middle Ages. Christians who had committed grave faults were required to perform public penance, and on Ash Wednesday the Bishop marked them with ashes made from the palms from the previous year. The penitents were then turned out of the church because of their sins—just as Adam was turned out of Eden. They were admitted back on Maundy Thursday after forty days of penance and absolution.

The ashes also symbolise the dust from which God made us and as the ashes are applied to a person's forehead, the minister says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," reminding us of our mortality. We are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Some Christians choose to keep the mark visible after the service, but this is not a rule; the ashes may even be wiped off immediately after receiving them. It is a matter of personal preference. Lay

people may assist the priest in distributing the ashes which may also be taken to the house-bound. In the USA, I have read of enterprising ministers setting up drive-through ashes stations.

The ashes are traditionally made from palm crosses left over from the Palm Sunday celebration of previous years. I remember seeing our former verger Charles Coxon doing this and we are still working through a stock.

Vic Spong

How candlewax became a crossgenerational, cross-diocesan, ecumenical and international recycling project

Over years we have accumulated large amounts of used stubs of candles which it has seemed too wasteful to throw away—so they have sat in cupboards and in the crypt. About four years ago, we used dozens of them in various shapes and sizes to display on windowsills during Advent



up until Candlemas, together with just a few brand-new ones.

Following notices in our pewsheets, someone in Lanchester asked if his 11-year-old daughter could have the melted wax to make candles in aid of their church's charities. Her father David picked up a box that had taken months of work to cut and collect, much of it from plastic candle-holders designed for single use and then to be discarded, with a solid block of wax never getting used.

Ellen received a candle-making kit from her godmother and began her candle-making project just before Christmas 2021, followed up by a serious session completed when her family all went down with Covid, after which her batches of candles were sold for two charities: one for a Methodist Hospital in Kenya where two of Lanchester Methodist Churches currently work as missionaries, and the second working locally in the North East with young homeless people, again linked with members of Lanchester Church. Ellen will send us some of her candles for sale in aid of our own church funds.

Another request for some candlewax that came in has been noted for the future.

Ros Place

From the Registers

Baptisms:

13th February: Blake Sean Smith

Funerals

11th February: Andrew Jonathan Malt (died

2nd January)

17th February: Eleanor Mary Aylen (died 27th January)

22nd February: Harriet Doreen Slowther (died 2nd February)

4th March: Audrey Tindale (died 8th February)
10th March: Sally Anne Johnson (died 11th
February)

Paul Wilkinson recently took these photographs of the beautiful silver cross on our High Altar. The cross is dedicated to and inscribed: "Thomas Davidson RIP 12th August 1887", so it's been in place since the church was built.



Church contacts

Vicar: Andrew Shipton 2845540

andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Assistant Curate: Beverley Davies

07989145610

bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Ruth Birnie 2841393

ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Parish Office: 2130450

West Avenue, Gosforth, NE3 4ES post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Burial of Ashes

Lilian Kirby 17th February
Harriet Doreen Slowther 24th February

From the Editors

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of *Keeping in Touch*. Its purpose is in the title—to try and help us all to connect with each other during these strange times. Please get in touch and tell us about yourselves and how you have been getting on. 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.

Lesley Atkinson, Dermot Killingley, Ann Cross, Christine Willoughby

Easter weekend 2022

Good Friday 15th April

10.00am An informal service on the Green followed by hot cross buns

11.15am Act of Witness at Trinity Church

1-3pm Three Hours of Devotion led by Revd Christopher Wardale in the Centre

7.30pm Jesus Christ Superstar concert version in Church

Holy Saturday 16th April

8.00pm Easter Vigil and lighting of the Easter Candle beginning in the Centre

Easter Day 17th April

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

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://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth

Sunday services at St. Hugh's

11.00am

Updates will be posted on our website: www.facebook.com/St-Hughs-Church-Gosforth