



St Hugh's Church, Gosforth

11 April 2021

He is Risen!



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

The Church of England has opened an [online condolence book](#) which is open to anyone who wishes to send a message.

We will be holding Prince Philip and the royal family in prayer at all services and our flag is at half-mast for the time being.

Floral tributes may be left at the Cross in the memorial garden at All Saints' until the funeral, and All Saints will be open for personal prayer on Friday 16th April from 4.30pm, until a special service of remembrance at 6pm.

On Saturday 17th April, bells will be tolled immediately prior to the funeral service at 3pm.

Last month we featured the Last Supper tableau made by the Sew Knit and Natter group. They also created this Easter Morning scene (above) which is currently on display at the back of Church. Meanwhile in Church there was a triple effort as Daisy, Emilia and Juliet Bruce helped Ruth with the Easter Garden (see back page)



Daniel Sharp used stickers to create this lovely Easter picture. Thank you for sharing it with us, Daniel.



From the Vicar

Dear All,

I never cease to be surprised at our many different reactions to the same events. Simplistically, I suppose that's because each of us has an entirely unique package of life experiences, hopes and expectations; each of us encountering situations in our own particular way. A simple example is when we hear the same music or read the same book and yet respond in diverse ways.

Interpretation is worth bearing in mind when we encounter variation in the individual Gospel accounts of the Resurrection. If we try comparing those narratives, it's not too difficult to identify differences. They are far from identical. (Think of what might be a typical activity for us: a spectator at the Gallowgate end of St James' Park would gain a completely different perspective from someone in a director's box.) In the same way, the sources of the Easter story we receive are diverse. St Paul wasn't a witness to the Resurrection, yet had much to say about what he heard, and he was the first to write about people meeting Jesus after the event. Mary Magdalene and the other women at the grave told their story, as did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus but none of them are unified in the detail.

What exactly are the commonalities in these Gospel accounts? Firstly, there seems to be a wish to "hold on" to Jesus when He appears. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus implore Him to "Stay with us," but He does no such thing; suddenly He's gone. Mary Magdalene tried to cling to Him, desperately urging Him to stay, but was unsuccessful.

Secondly, what can be heard and seen (in all the stories) is that He won't stay at any place of encounter. He is elusive, He cannot be grasped, recruited or controlled. He disappears but then reappears. He promises He will be with us, but there is the impression too that we will find Him when we do His will, when we take risks, when we're brave and above all when we care. Jesus comforts us but also calls on us to do challenging tasks.

As we move beyond Easter, we will hear again in the Sunday readings that He goes ahead of us to meet us and call us to action. And whatever our experience, history or situation, He says we will meet Him in giving ourselves to His cause.

Andrew Shipton

A walk through Holy Week

This year, on Good Friday, a small congregation of people gathered for an outdoor service on the green behind the church. There were 8 stations, each representing a key part in Holy Week.

The first station was Palm Sunday where Jesus arrived on his donkey being cheered by the crowds. Beverley read an extract and every time she read "Jesus" or "the donkey" we shouted "YAY" or "Eeh aw".

The second station was about how Jesus reminded people that the temple was a house of God. He got so cross that he wiped the tables clean with a rope, upsetting the traders. I think Andrew enjoyed demonstrating this.

We walked on to the third station which was the Last Supper. Karoline asked my sister and her friend Ruby to sanitize everyone's hands, reminding us of how Jesus cleaned his disciples' feet.

The fourth and fifth stations were at the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed, before being betrayed by Judas with a kiss.

The sixth was about Pontius Pilate and the court, and we were shown what some of the Romans would have worn.

We walked to the cross in the Garden of Remembrance for the seventh station. We took a paper cross and wrote our name or a prayer before putting it at the bottom of the cross.

The final station, completing the circle, showed a picture of the tomb where Jesus was buried.

My family and I really enjoyed the service and at the end there were hot cross buns and Creme Eggs for everyone. Dad ate my bun!

Rory Cartmell



Our Young Saints created this Easter egg tree on a very windy Easter morning

Tuesday Tea Club: Gone but not Forgotten!



Early in Lent, Beverley approached me with a suggestion to make a surprise afternoon tea in a box for the Tuesday tea Club members. Was this possible during the Covid lockdown, with social distancing, food hygiene and safety? Afternoon tea to me meant cream scones, meringues, decorated cupcakes—all rich and sticky! This was the challenge.

After some thought I e-mailed volunteers to join in. The response was very positive and it looked as if was off the ground,

Offers came in to make scones, cupcakes, teabread, shortbread, sandwiches, Easter cards, a quiz, even spring flowers. Bev said she would get the boxes, we were all set.

We had to trim our sails a bit: no cream, everything individually wrapped and flowers difficult to be fresh, so had to be abandoned. Never mind, we had pretty Easter cards and some chicks to brighten the scene.

I sent a reminder on the Wednesday of Holy Week for 20 of everything:

All were required to be in the Centre by 10am on Easter Saturday when Bev would be there with 20 cake boxes kindly given by Greggs laid



out ready for the cooks to fill the boxes.

It worked—what a wonderful show of team work and coming together, we also put in a few treats, a chocolate biscuit, an Easter egg, a chick, card and quiz sheet. By 11am it was ready to be delivered by willing drivers standing by.

A big thank you to all who made it work and by the afternoon thanks were already coming in from grateful elderly members of the club who were thrilled to know we hadn't forgotten them after a year of absence.

Elizabeth Crawford

Thank you

Thank you so much to you and the wonderful tea group club for the lovely box delivered. My mum was overcome and says it's very kind of you all to remember her. She's really looking forward to joining everyone on a Tuesday afternoon, once restrictions allow.

Tricia Maylia



Tricia's mother, Margo, delighted with her afternoon tea parcel.

Journey into Cyberspace March 2020-2021

How many of us have had to examine our aptitude for technology recently?

Twelve months ago, not many of us knew exactly what Zooming was. Plenty of All Saints' folk owned computers, and/or smart phones. And there was a HUGE range of abilities and ages among the congregation. But if graphs were drawn of these, the curves would not necessarily follow each other.

It is impressive now to see folk in their nineties, gaining so much from WhatsApp and FaceTime and even using Alexa, especially during the Pandemic, enabling them to attend our church services, as well as see their grandchildren on the other side of the globe.

Yet at the same time, some youngsters are not as technology-wise as others. Some, of course, are far too wise about the internet. And so we have to hope and pray that they can be guided away from the dark side, which is all too real and available. We need to "follow the light" and look on the bright side!

So—is it aptitude or is it attitude which enables us to go on this journey? How many of us experienced revolutionary changes in our careers due to technology, the pluses and minuses of which were unimaginable when we bought Acorn Electrons!

But as the first lockdown hit us a year ago, we found out about the pluses! We could order all our shopping on line, it would appear in a van, and we could pay for it as well, without leaving home.

And now here we are, a year on, and All Saints' church is on its own cyber-journey, from its beginnings in the vicarage into live streaming, using Facebook and other systems, to bring worship from our beautiful church into people's homes, as well as sending services out to the whole world if we like, and the whole world can come to us if it wants to. Just imagine what that means!

It was very moving that the first All Saints' funeral to be beamed out, I believe, was that of one of our most loved and respected members, Bill Shaw. It is possible that funerals could be the most successful services to be live-streamed, whatever the restrictions, or lack of them. So many more people can attend, with no concerns about car parking or the weather; they can hear all the tributes and share in the service and the respects.

This snapshot from Zoom captures members of the Parish Breakfast after the 9.30 service on Sunday mornings



But "Real Church" will never be equalled. Virtual church can be a wonderful substitute in times of need, but the technology has to be managed, and for sure there will be difficulties and glitches. A bit like automobiles used to be—we used to say "they're great when they're going...."

Live-streaming from parish churches is in its early stages, and we must support our clergy and the operators, and the PCC who have to make decisions in these disturbingly changeable times.

Apart from live-streaming there have been many adventures by various All Saints' groups into the sometimes dreaded Zoom! Some of these are adaptations, like Parish Breakfast, Film Club and PCC meetings. Some of our Zoom get-togethers have had quite amusing moments! One has to be mindful of what might go on in one's background!

New ventures have taken off in the last year, like the coffee morning on a Tuesday to catch up with the news and say hallo, and the singalong to provide some light relief. You can now even knit and natter on Zoom!

So, another question, is God in Cyber-space? YES HE IS! He is also in our streets and parks, on the Town Moor, on our allotments and our golf courses. He is at the People's Kitchen, in our shops and our homes. He is in pen and paper, books, film and television and many other of our Pandemic retreats, even our jig-saws. He goes to Knit and Natter and the Mothers' Union and He sings on Friday mornings. And during this Lent, some of us got to know Rowan Williams, thanks to our clergy and Zoom.

Valerie Farthing

Editors' note: Bill Shaw's funeral, live-streamed onto Facebook, had over 250 views in the hours and days after the service. Amazing!

Botswana Journeys and Journal

The Journey

There has been a strong link between the diocese of Newcastle and the diocese of Botswana for several years, and frequent visits have been made between the two.

In 2001 Bishop Martin invited Pat and me to go to Botswana for three months. We would stay in Francistown, where Father George Callender, a retired health worker and recently ordained priest, ministered to the Anglicans there. His wife Chris was a retired midwife who had spent many years travelling throughout the country doing splendid work. We would help with all aspects of parish life, sharing in the services in the two churches—St Patrick and St Carantoc. We would also travel extensively to many of the surrounding villages where there were Anglican churches, or sometimes a congregation meeting in a house.

During those three months (March to the end of May) Pat kept a journal, and as it's much more interesting than my account, I thought I would incorporate bits of it (with her permission, of course!) in the short articles I plan to write in the next few issues of this magazine.

It was a wonderful, life-enriching experience, and we hope you can pick up some of that as we share our reminiscences with you.

The Journal

Botswana here we come! On Tuesday 1st March we set off from Newcastle for a three-month stay in Botswana. We left Newcastle Airport at 1.15pm on an Emirates flight to Dubai. Dubai Airport is amazing and all brand-new—it is like a small town. We were to take another Emirates flight on to Johannesburg Airport. A security scare held us up for over an hour; twelve people plus luggage were removed from the plane, due to document irregularities, we were told! Then all hand luggage had to be personally identified. We finally arrived in Johannesburg at 12 o'clock today, 2nd March, just an hour late. This is another huge airport where it was easy to pass the couple of hours before our last flight. At 2.15pm we flew with South African Airways—a very small plane with propellers!—to Gabarone in just over an hour. We finally set foot on Botswana soil at 15.20pm, just over 24 hours of flying.

Pat and Syd Connolly

Gardening Grannies!



The border at the foot of the steps from the south porch is undergoing a major overhaul as it was becoming infested with Ground Elder and Crocosmia which were choking the other plants.

In order to keep it as low-maintenance as possible, the area will be covered with a weed-suppressant fabric topped with a wood bark mulch and planted with evergreen shrubs to provide year-round interest. The daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs have been moved to other parts of the church grounds.

Coronavirus restrictions have meant that we haven't been able to raise funds for the gardening with the usual cake stall at Parish Breakfast, but if anyone would like to contribute to this work please speak to one of the churchwardens. The cost of keeping the church grounds, including the Garden of Remembrance, is minimal, but occasionally we do have to buy plants to provide seasonal cheer.

When one of us remarked that gardening was the "reen Gym", it was suggested that we should be paying the church to allow us to work there—needless to say that idea was soon quashed! In the meantime we shall just keep on digging...

Ann Cross, Pat Spong

Communication Conundrum

I've just been sent this which I think others may find amusing as an example of cross-faith incomprehension.

Several centuries ago the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community so the Pope offered a deal.

He would hold a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy. If the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged and wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Italian and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, both sides agreed that it would be a "silent" debate.

On the chosen day the Pope and rabbi sat opposite each other. The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. The rabbi looked back and raised one finger and shook it at the Pope.

Next the Pope waved his finger around his head. The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat.

The Pope brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine. The rabbi pulled out an apple.

With that, the Pope stood up and declared himself beaten and said that the rabbi was too clever. The Jews could stay in Italy.

Later the cardinals met with the Pope and asked him what had happened.

The Pope said, "First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger, shaking it to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs."

"Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God is all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground to show that God is also right here with us."

"I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin."

"He beat me at every move and I could not continue."

Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won.

"I haven't a clue," the rabbi said. "First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy so I shook my finger saying no."

"Then he tells me that the whole country

would be cleared of Jews and I told him that we were staying right here."

"And then what?" asked a woman.

"Who knows?" said the rabbi. "He took out his lunch so I took out mine."

Ruth Birnie



Dear Editors

One of the few positives brought about by the Covid restrictions has been the chance to worship in a variety of different churches. At the click of a mouse we can "zoom" off to anywhere we fancy in the world, as well as inviting others to join with us at our own church. In this new and special way we can worship with our friends and family who live in faraway places.

I have always enjoyed worshipping at All Saints' when visiting my close friends in Gosforth. I also enjoy reading Keeping in Touch and was most taken with the photo of the knitted Last Supper from Sew, Knit & Natter. 25 years ago I was given a knitted Nativity set, made by a friend. This has taken pride of place with my Christmas decorations every year since, even though this year nobody else saw it! I had no idea that an Easter version existed. Well done to those who made it, an extremely difficult task!

All the knitted figures are very different and I wonder if you have a favourite? The disciples were all different too, just as we are. Isn't it amazing that we are all different but equally valuable in the sight of God! So amidst the continued gloom of Covid, our Lord invites us all to celebrate the great joy of Christ's Resurrection, either online or in person. Happy Easter!

Rev'd Ruth from Poole

Archbishop Runcie Return to School

After several months of distanced learning Archbishop Runcie were delighted to welcome children back to school in March. Here we showcase how some of the children have been getting back 'into the swing'.



This March, Early Years have been very busy! Nursery have been reading *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell. We have been learning to retell the story using our Makaton actions. We drew story maps and wrote letters to the zoo. The zoo sent us a puppy to care for. We then changed the ending of the story and asked the zoo for a tortoise. When the tortoise arrived, we cared for him and even built him an exercise run through the Nursery!



Reception has been focusing on the story of *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell. We were able to learn actions to help us to remember the story and retell it to our friends. One morning we came into school and we had received a letter from the Owl Babies. They told us that their mother had gone missing again! We set out to help the Owl Babies by using our writing skills to make "missing" posters to put in the woodland area.



We then went hunting in the woodland area and found lots of clues that an owl had been there.



We kept searching and we found their mother hiding in the tree. As you can see, Reception were very excited to find her!

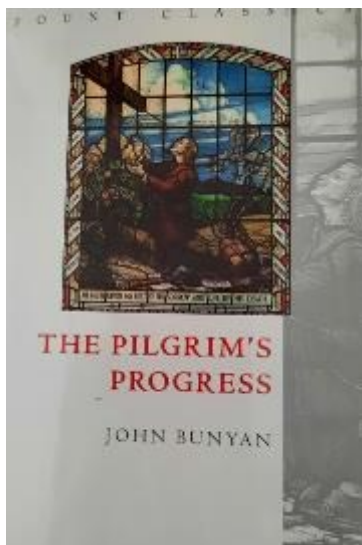
Kathleen Francis
Nursery Teacher



A book to remember: *The Pilgrim's Progress*

by John Bunyan

Among Christian publications, John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* is second only to the Bible in terms of mass readership. Its author was born in 1628, the son of a Bedfordshire tinsmith, and he followed in his father's trade. He served in the Parliamentary



Army during the English Civil War. He was a Baptist in religion and after the Restoration he spent twelve years in prison for preaching "dissent". It was in prison that he began work on *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and Part One was published in 1678. Part Two followed six years later. The book has been in print ever since.

The story describes how a man called Christian leaves the City of Destruction and makes his way to the Celestial City in search of salvation. On the way he overcomes many obstacles, including the Slough of Despond, By-Path Meadow, Doubting Castle and Vanity Fair.

He must pass through Vanity Fair on his way to the Celestial City. Vanity Fair, whose lord is Beelzebub, never closes and it offers many earthly pleasures. Christian resists its temptations and he tramps on until he reaches his journey's end, the Celestial City. Part Two of the book describes his wife's journey to the Celestial City following in Christian's footsteps.

I was nine when I first came into contact with *The Pilgrim's Progress*. I heard a dramatized version of it on the BBC's "Children's Hour". It was broadcast as a serial and I was enthralled by the voices of such characters as Apollyon the Destroyer and Giant Despair. I read the book when I became a teenager, but I did not find it an easy read because it was written in the language of Milton. However, I was impressed by the power of Bunyan's imagination and his skills as a storyteller.

Reading it more recently I was struck by Bunyan's ability to ask big questions and to give succinct answers. For example, modern

theologians and moral philosophers experience problems in dealing with the concept of Hell. In Bunyan's book a character called Prudence questions Christian's son, Samuel: "What is Hell?" and the boy replies: "A place and state most woeful, because it is a dwelling place of sin, the devil and death." We live in a secular age and it is not difficult to pick holes in this definition. If Hell is a place, where is it? What is sin? Who believes in the devil these days? The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre observed: "Hell is other people." I don't believe this statement gets us very far, and I much prefer Bunyan's definition.

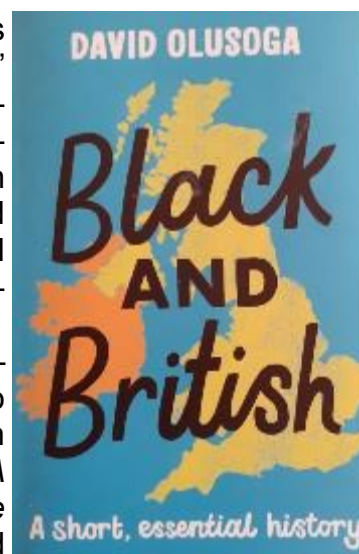
Widely read for over three centuries, *The Pilgrim's Progress* has inspired paintings by William Blake, music by Vaughan Williams, and the plot of a journey through life has been used by many writers. Bunyan's book is not read so much these days for its religious message, yet the message is still there for those Christians prepared to search for it.

Archie Potts

Black and British by David Olusoga

"When did Africans first come to Britain?" "Who are the well-dressed Black children in Georgian paintings?" "Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?"

David Olusoga—probably known to many of us through his television series *A House Through Time*—answers these and



many other questions in his book *Black and British: A short, essential history*, which covers 1800 years of Black British history, from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day. This book is aimed at the 12+ age group, and follows the success of Olusoga's earlier book *Black and British: A forgotten history*. I bought this book primarily for my grandchildren (who enjoyed it) but found it so interesting and informative that I asked for it back!

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May

Christian Aid Week this year will focus on Climate Justice for people living in the poorest countries in our world. Countries which used to provide sufficient nutritious food to feed their populations, but whose rainfall is now so unreliable that they experience drought and hunger for months at a time.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this lack of water more critical, as hand-washing with soap and water is vital to help stay safe against the virus.

All Saints' does not plan to hold a house-to-house collection this year, but we can support Christian Aid in other ways. You can sign up for Quiztarian Aid, an online quiz suitable for all the family, hosted by Christian Aid, or we could organise our own virtual quiz, using questions provided by Christian Aid. We can also invite people to use e-Envelopes as an easy, cashless way to donate this Christian Aid Week. You might also have other brilliant ideas.

But **volunteers are needed**. If you could help to organise an **online quiz** or create and **send an e-Envelope** or have any other ideas, please contact Lesley Atkinson at l.atkinson1@btinternet.com or phone 2847163.

Thank you for your help.

Lesley Atkinson

Pcdc update

Pcdc (Practical Compassion for Destitute Children) is an All Saints Mission of the month, and they have sent us this Easter message:

Our hearts turn to Easter and the celebrations that last year we missed because of the pandemic. Will there be any celebrations this year? It looks good, but anything can happen in these uncertain times.

One year, Pcdc was in Bethlehem for Easter, and we hoped to join in the celebrations; instead, we went to one of three refugee camps in Bethlehem and spent all of Good Friday there. We did not need to stand at the foot of the Cross to witness Christ's suffering. It was all around us. We went into many houses and were welcomed in each one. We went as friends, not as sightseers. As people in the churches were singing "See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down," I thought, this is like Calvary, a camp of abandoned, forgotten people, in a

kind of prison. A place that tourists and pilgrims rarely see.

We have stood with families whose homes had been bulldozed. One family we know lost their home to the bulldozers twice before they were left in peace. Nothing was left of their destroyed home. No clothes. No toys. No school books. All destroyed. The son was a child at Hope School and all he found was a letter sent to him by his sponsor. And he carried that letter around in his pocket till it fell to bits. It was, to him, his only possession. He has since been to college and is now married. But Pcdc still supports 5 children from all 3 camps in Bethlehem.

It is such a marvellous privilege to just sit with these people. Words are not really needed, not explanations or political statements. People are still made to suffer. Our greatest privilege is to just to be there.

Easter brings a message of hope. Pcdc tries to bring hope. Thanks for your support which makes this possible.

Happy Easter to you all. May God stand with you and beside you.

Malcolm Jones and the Pcdc team.



Daffodils at
St. Hugh's

Photo:
Stuart Henderson

Shrove Tuesday Quiz 2021: Answers

Art: Rembrandt; A lantern; The Starry Night; Stanley Spencer; Jolomo

Geography: The Urals; Istanbul; Antarctica; Damascus; River Severn

History: SS Great Britain; 1890s; Stanley Baldwin; Abraham Lincoln; Seychelles

Literature: The Tabard Inn, Southwark, London; Twelfth Night; Anne Bronte; Edna O'Brien; Lionel Shriver

Music: House of the Rising Sun; Billy the Kid; The Beverley Sisters; American Pie (Don McLean); A: Fan; B: Fille; C: Fantasia

Science: Yew trees; Gabriel Fahrenheit; Quinine; Capillaries; The Orangutan

All Saints Easter Garden



Making the Easter garden was really fun.

Firstly, we arranged all the stones laid outside the papier-mâché tomb into a long, winding path. We could see the stone rolled away from the tomb and inside was a neat, folded cloth on top of a stone that Jesus's body would have been on.

Next, we collected a couple of jam jars and picked a few flowers. Then we carefully placed the flowers in the jars and laid them either side of the path. If the flowers were too long or too short, Ruth cut the stalks.

After we had done that, we put three miniature wooden crosses on top of the tomb. We had to be very careful as the crosses could fall over in the middle and the smaller ones at the side.

Finally, we placed a small crown of thorns onto the head of Jesus's cross. The Easter garden was complete.

Daisy, Emilia and Juliet Bruce



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 when many of us are still hesitant about venturing out or our normal social activities are curtailed.

As restrictions continue please do contact us and let us know how you are finding things—what are you doing, what new skills or hobbies are you cultivating, how are you keeping in touch with others?

As soon as we have enough to publish we will put out a further edition.

We are particularly pleased to hear from those who are not linked up electronically but are certainly not forgotten. Please get in touch and tell us about yourselves.

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

Sunday services at All Saints'

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion, and livestreamed to Facebook

6.30pm Evening Prayer, and livestreamed to Facebook

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

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

Youth Worker: Jamie Donaldson
contact via Parish Office

Parish Office: 2130450

West Avenue, Gosforth, NE3 4ES

post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk