

PARISH NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2021



The Eildon Hills from Gattonside, Melrose: picture credit John Pearce

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR, TYNEMOUTH
www.holysaviours.org.uk

July and August at Holy Saviours

[correct at the time of going to press – Monday, June 28th, 2021]

By the time this is read on Sunday July 4th, we will have been holding public worship for three months, beginning last Easter Sunday. Using government and Church of England rulings we will continue to observe the following procedures:

- masks will be worn throughout services except for clergy, readers, singers and intercessors who may remove them while speaking or singing
- sanitising facilities will be available on entering and leaving the church
- social distancing – a two-metre gap between worshippers – will continue to be observed, and seating capacity is dictated by this: **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WORSHIPPERS SIT IN THE PEWS TO WHICH THEY ARE DIRECTED**
- although congregational singing is still forbidden, a group of three singers sitting in the chancel will sing two hymns at appropriate moments; the singing group has resumed its weekly meetings, and is making recordings of anthems to be used during communion at live-streamed worship
- social fellowship is permitted in the church gardens after the service, when groups of [maximum] six people [or two households] may meet and talk, social distancing rules being observed at all times
- Communion continues to be taken under one kind only, the use of a communal chalice still being suspended for the time being
- arrangements for Sunday and weekday services will continue to be published in Steve Dixon's weekly emails and any changes will be announced there first

For the time being we plan to continue services as follows:

Sundays at 1000 and 1130: Holy Communion

Sundays at 1800: Evening Prayer on Zoom – the Meeting ID is 932 5122 1332 and the Passcode is 932986

We will also continue to meet for **Coffee and Chat** on Wednesdays at 1100 on Zoom – the Meeting ID is 970 9701 3865, and the Passcode is 036447

Please note that you can dial in on a landline telephone to both the Zoom meetings above by ringing 0131 460 1196 and entering the Meeting ID number and Passcode number when prompted.

And please remember that we are still dealing with a fluid and rapidly changing situation – keep an eye on our website, Steve's emails and church-porch notices.



THE VICAR WRITES.....

I'm not usually a fan of celebrity "fly-on-the-wall" documentaries, but I recently caught the BBC series *Pilgrimage – The Road to Santiago*. This followed the trials and stories of seven celebrities as they travelled the mediaeval pilgrim route of the Camino de Santiago. The travellers were Kate Bottley – a vicar and *Songs of Praise* presenter: Debbie McGee – the widow of magician Paul Daniels: Neil Morrissey – an actor: Heather Small – a pop singer: Ed Byrne – a comedian: Raphael Rowe – a broadcast journalist and presenter:

and John-James Chalmers – a former Royal Marine and an Invictus Games recumbent cycling medallist. All of them came from different backgrounds and understandings of spirituality and faith. Some were agnostic and others atheist or humanist; while others would say they were Christian, though with varying levels of commitment and belief. They all entered into this challenge with open minds and a sense of wanting to discover what the experience would bring them.



It was both fascinating and moving to hear the life stories of this diverse group of pilgrims, many of whom had overcome severe disadvantage, injustice, injuries, disabilities, prejudice and suffering. Like all of us, they carry scars on their journey. As the group progressed on their physical journey, they shared their personal stories and beliefs encountered and developed during their life journeys. In

overcoming adversity, some had gained a strong sense of personal belief in themselves, and showed remarkable resilience in adversity.

Each step of the road enabled an encounter with another's story of personal experience. This stimulated an increased respect for the way in which each viewed the world and their place within it. These individual stories combined with questioning about the existence of God revealed insights into the roots of each participant's understanding of God, or 'something other'. Some had no religious upbringing and found the notion of a God to be alien and illogical. Others had experienced Christianity in childhood but were unsure what it could mean for them as an adult, and how it could relate to their life experiences. It was encouraging to see that the participants had all thought deeply about their standpoint on faith and had well-reasoned responses to the question of God.

The programme probed the notion of morality and how this develops in a person. Again, there were very different approaches and those without an understanding of God found it hard to accept the phrase 'Christian values', preferring to simply describe them as 'good values' such as every person should aspire to follow.

This travelogue has reinforced my conviction of the importance of listening, and of sharing experience in mission, a crucial element in our standpoint as we try to reach out to others with our faith. There is little point in forcing faith on others – and I am sure that most of us would find doing this as distasteful as it would be pointless. Faith can be understood and expressed only when a genuine attempt is made to learn about the other person and then to share our humanity with them.

Like Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we need first to enquire about the feelings and experience of the other person before we can begin to explain our understanding of how God interacts in our own lives. This takes time and the patience to journey with each other. The best place to witness to our faith is in a caring relationship. Perhaps what God requires of us is to mention how our faith is important to us, silently pray for the other, and simply allow this to percolate into the other's thoughts.

As for the seven travellers, as they reached Santiago they reflected on their shared journey. Most felt they had, in some sense, become pilgrims. All were pleased to have made new friendships and to have gained a respect for the beliefs of their fellow walkers, and some were left pondering where life might lead them next with the new insights they had gained.

Steve

Editor's note: *Pilgrimage, the Road to Santiago*, is available on BBC Iplayer free of charge for a year, along with other episodes in the *Pilgrimage* series.

EDITORIAL: HOLIDAY READING.....

John Pearce writes: Kingsley Amis [1922 – 1995] one of the best authors of the later twentieth century [certainly the most readable] was, by all accounts, not the easiest of company in the last fifteen years of his life. This was not least because, to be sure of a civil welcome, you had to catch him after he finished his three-hour writing stint each day at about twelve, and before he began the day's drinking with a very hefty Macallan whisky at about ten-past. He would despatch two more of these by way of *aperitif* before his daily lunch at the Garrick Club, a meal always accompanied by at least one bottle of wine, with a rummer or three of brandy as *digestif*. The rest of the bottle of Macallan saw out his evening at home. This daily intake may explain in part why his later novels were sometimes mean-spirited and suffused with a degree of spite, particularly towards women.

However, the misanthropic asperity that makes *Jake's Thing* intermittently uncomfortable reading, and *Stanley and the Women* merely disgraceful, is a factor in the forcefulness of two earlier novels on the theme of religion – *The Anti-Death League* and *The Green Man*. Amis was not only an atheist, but also an atheist who professed to hate God – although how you can hate someone in whose existence you don't believe is perhaps a question for theologians to consider. His personal position was, more or less, that of the philosopher Epicurus – *Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?* You don't need to be all that much of a logician to see the flaws in Epicurus's arguments – the question-begging reductionism posing open questions as closed questions, the false dichotomies and bogus equivalences, presented in what looks like a logical sequence. In fact Epicurus's is a classic straw-man argument, couched in a series of *non sequiturs*.

That said, *The Anti-Death League* is a book still well worth reading for its interesting and well-told story, set in the modern Regular Army, which poses a series of uncomfortable questions about the nature of religious belief. A woman recovering from a violent marriage is providentially redeemed by a relationship with a man who honours and cherishes her as much as he wants her sexually – only to fall perhaps fatally ill with cancer. A homosexual man finally accepts his sexuality, only to be coarsely rejected by the first man to whom he declares himself. We meet engaging and attractive people who are no sooner established as such than they are killed off in road accidents, by medical malpractice or vicious twists of fate. In the last scene, the regimental padre, for the first time since his ordination, experiences a certitude that his prayers are being heard and heeded – “he was no longer speaking to an unanswered telephone in an empty room” – and

finally begins to believe in the God in whose service he has worked for thirty years. At this transcendent moment, his beloved dog, the only solace of his life since the death of his wife, is run over and killed in the road outside the church. The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, indeed: but with what sardonic cruelty.

There is a great deal more to the novel than this brief outline, and it is a book from which any thoughtful Christian can acquire much food for thought. The same can be said of *The Green Man* in which, as Maurice Allington [like his creator, a high-functioning alcoholic and unprincipled serial adulterer], Amis explores the world of a thoroughly selfish and solipsistic man, suddenly beset by experiences – hallucinations, illusions, visions, nightmares, waking dreams, hauntings – that he can neither understand nor control. The climax of the novel is a visitation from God himself – “a tall young man in a well-cut suit” whose teasing cruelty is only partly mitigated by whimsy about his omnipotence: “You can’t imagine what a temptation it is to drop a live dinosaur, just a small one, into Leicester Square”.

Amis’s professed hatred of God did not prevent him, however, from recognising Christianity’s central importance to our culture. Remove Christian imagery, context, reference and metaphor from poems, plays and novels, and you lose many of literature’s most powerful images. If musical settings of Christian liturgy were lost, the greatest achievements of Bach, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven would disappear. Strip art galleries of paintings on Christian subjects, and we would be left with many bare walls; and that is before we even begin to consider Christian architecture. Equally, Amis recognised the King James Bible and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as repositories of much everyday wisdom and ethical guidance, couched in the most resplendent English prose ever written. None of these points is an argument, of course, for Christian belief; but taken together they illustrate the centrality of many of its outcomes to our culture and way of life.

All of which reflection was prompted by re-reading an appreciation of Kingsley Amis in the online *Spectator* archive published when he died in 1995. I hope that it may stimulate some readers to get hold of *The Anti-Death League* and *The Green Man* [which are more entertaining as novels than perhaps I have made them sound] and evaluate for themselves just how successfully Mr Amis makes his case against God. For myself, I take note of his own words, in an essay, *Godforsaken*, written in 1987: “*I can accede to the principle that human beings without faith are the poorer for it in every part of their lives...to those of us partly brought up as Christians but who cannot believe, a world without religion in it would nevertheless be as sad and dreadful a place as a world in which art as we have known it might become impossible to create, and great tracts of existing art would become fatally impoverished.*” Which makes me wonder to what extent Mr Amis’s atheism might have been as much fashionable attitudinising as genuine unbelief.

NOTES AND NEWS

Confirmation:

Paul Christopher Doughty and Dylan William Railton

Sunday June 13th 2021

by the Right Revd. Mark Wroe, Bishop of Berwick



L to R: Paul, Bishop Mark, Dylan.

Picture credit – Glynis Railton

The Editor writes: Our congratulations, love and prayers go to Paul Christopher Doughty, who was confirmed, and Dylan William Railton, who was baptised and confirmed by Bishop Mark Wroe on Sunday June 13th at Holy Saviours Church, Tynemouth. The sun shone on a church as full as it could be under our present regulations, and on this important day for both of them, they were supported by a full turnout of their families. It was a doubly joyful occasion

for the Railton family, as Dylan's grandfather, our curate Revd. Malcolm Railton, acted as assistant to the Bishop throughout the service. Welcome to both these new members of the body of Christ in Tynemouth.

In his confirmation sermon Bishop Mark preached on the parable of the mustard seed from St John's gospel, and began by saying how the past year has accustomed us to endless cancellations, postponements and re-arrangements. How good it was, therefore that Paul's and Dylan's booking had been confirmed in every sense of the word and could take place today.

Dylan and Paul's confirmation would have the effect of strengthening the spirit of God within them, a spirit which had already spoken to them so as to bring them to this day. And, just as the growth of the mustard seed consisted of three actions – planting, growing and flowering – the growth of the Spirit within them was a function of three factors now crucially influential in their lives.

In the first place, the seed itself had to be sown – and who knew how that may have happened? The impressive example set to them by a good Christian person, a chance conversation with another worshipper, a prayer heard at a wedding, a poem read at a funeral, a hymn that touched the heart, a sermon that spoke to their condition? All these could sow the seed, put the penny in the slot while God waited patiently for it to drop. However it had happened to Paul and Dylan, their coming to confirmation was proof that the spirit of God was already in them and had grown sufficiently strongly to bring them to this first point of commitment.

Secondly, the gardener – God and his son Jesus Christ, would nurture the seed of faith in them as it grew. The growth itself may seem slow and fitful, and sometimes seems to stop altogether, but it is no less transformative for being gradual, and sometimes the only way to see it is to stop looking for a while before comparing then with now. In any case, faith is not measured as a quantity but as a force – its power resides in what you do with it, where you put it, the difference you allow it to make. And, having come to baptism and confirmation Paul and Dylan could trust in God that he will continue to grow his spirit in their lives, and be confident that he will lead them wisely in the way they have to go.

And finally, the seed of their faith, lovingly tended in them by God, was growing in a garden both enormous and miraculous; that is, the kingdom of God on earth, its message of love and peace part of the outworking of His purposes for us and in us. Because the kingdom is so large and various, it is sometimes hard to understand, easy to get lost in, which is why we need faith and trust in the first place. Today's confirmation of Dylan and Paul was and would remain a source of great joy both to them and to everyone who love them, a moment in their lives which nothing could cancel or postpone, a confirmed booking to make us all rejoice.

LOOKING BACK AT THE 365 CHALLENGE.....

Malcolm Soulsby writes: 366 different pieces of music located, practiced, played, videoed and uploaded to Facebook daily for one year. On paper this may seem an onerous task, in fact it wasn't; the challenge I had set myself was a joy and a privilege to meet. The two main factors in the success of this enterprise have been the heartening support and encouragement given to me by so many of you in the form of kind words both verbally and via Facebook and also by your generous donations to Church Funds in the form of sponsorship for which I am truly grateful: thank you all. And yes, as Malcolm Railton observed on Sunday 20th June, I do like to hide behind the organ console. Front of house is not my thing, but this challenge has given me the opportunity to share with all of you some of the wonderful music both written and arranged for the instrument and its huge repertoire that I love.

The completion of my 365 challenge has perhaps left a gap. What of the future? There are plans afoot involving the singing group, which is a case of 'watch this space': whatever we do will be again with a view to supporting church funds.

At the same time, if any of you would like a specific piece of organ music for an occasion to be videoed and posted on the Facebook page then let me know and I will see what I can do; it will cost you though, for church funds. I would probably also play your requested piece at some point during worship at the closest Sunday to your requested date. In the meantime, thank you all again.

Editor's Note: Malcolm's 365 project gave enormous pleasure to a lot of our congregation, and for many, myself included, our daily Facebook visits became a form of prayer using the spirituality of music. It also reminded us of how lucky we are to have such an accomplished and committed church musician as Malcolm.

Praying and Listening for Mission Prayer Meeting

9:30 – 10:00 every Saturday

July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st: August 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

If you would like to contribute to this prayer group but cannot attend church to do so, why not set aside the allocated time at home? either on Saturdays at 9.30 or at another set time during your week?

The Holy Saviours Honours List – Ian Buxton, MBE

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, Ian Buxton was awarded an MBE for '*Services to the preservation of British maritime history and the community in Tynemouth*'. Ian says it came as a complete surprise, as unbeknownst to him, his children Keith and Fiona (both baptised at Holy Saviours) had nominated him. They had submitted several letters of support including one from Revd Steve Dixon. It may be that his long service at Holy Saviours was a factor, including having been Churchwarden (with Paul Johnson and the late Gill Harrison) during the building of the Parish Centre and during the interregnum between Revd Richard Ford and Revd Geoff Lowson. He has served on the Parochial Church



Picture credit: Ian Buxton

Council during a period spanning thirty years, and until recently was chairman of the Investment Sub-Committee. Many of you will know of Ian's passion for ships which, starting even before his teenage years, continues undiminished to this day. He is one of those fortunate people whose hobby coincided with his profession, which is naval architecture, the designing and building of ships. Since retirement from his position as Reader in Marine Transport at Newcastle University, he has been able to devote much of his time to that aforementioned 'preservation', not only with well researched books and articles but also with the establishment of the Marine Technology Special Collection at Newcastle University. This archive of the British shipbuilding and allied industries is a unique resource which also includes a comprehensive database of the 81,000 ships built in the last two centuries in the British Isles. He has been a member of the World Ship Society for over 60 years, serving as President and Vice-President several times. Its Tyneside branch uses the Parish Centre for its meetings.

The only minor downside to this happy news is that the Cabinet Office has advised Ian that because of the Covid pandemic there is now a large backlog of honorands waiting to receive their awards in person. In the meantime, many, many congratulations to Ian on this well-deserved award.



MBE Civil Award medal: Picture credit: Ebay

IN MEMORIAM DOROTHY SMITH: SATURDAY JULY 31st

Dorothy Smith's daughters, Julia, Anthea and Kathryn, write:

Our family would like you to join them in a service of celebration to remember Mum's life. The service will take place at Holy Saviours Church Tynemouth on Saturday 31st July at 2pm. This will be followed by afternoon tea in the Church Hall. To help us with our planning could you let us know if you would like to join us in our celebration. RSVP by 12th July if possible. Contact Julia Dyer by any of the following means:

Telephone [landline] 0191 259 6236

Telephone or text 07853 209 322

Email julia.emary@btinternet.com

As we are all aware, the date for fully opening up the country has been put back by 4 weeks until 19th July. We will then have to see if any new regulations or limitations are being placed on Church Services and Church buildings. This means that it is possible that this whole event might have to be cancelled.

Nevertheless, as a family we felt Dorothy deserved the full service and all of the singing and chatting she loved so much, therefore we felt it was a case of "all or nothing". We will have a final decision by Monday 26th July. I am sure you will all understand our situation.



Thank you so much
with love and thanks

Julia, Anthea & Kathryn.



Dust on the Needle II

A night of Music for you to dance to, featuring favourite songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s

Songs you remember

**Songs you've forgotten
about [or wish you could]**

Dancing round handbags optional

**Performed by *Me and My Shadow*
and
The Aggie Christie band
plus guest singers.**

**Holy Saviours Church Hall,
on 22nd January, 2022**

Starting at 7:30

**Tickets will be available from
Holy Saviours Parish Office**

**Drinks and Nibbles, Raffle, Silly games,
Period dress competition
Bring your friends for a night of nostalgic
entertainment or a voyage of discovery**

Julian Brown writes: So much has happened [and a great deal more has not happened for reasons with which we are all far too familiar] since January 25th 2020 that *Dust on the Needle I* now seems like a very distant memory. But, sore guitar fingers having healed, and John Pearce's ears having ceased to bleed, we are going to celebrate the next New Year by treating Tynemouth village to *Dust on the Needle II* on Saturday January 22nd, 2022, in the Parish Hall at 7.30.

The format will be very much what we got away with last time, dusting down some old songs that many of us will remember, along with some that perhaps we would rather we hadn't. The only change is that we will be providing food – either pie and peas, or fish and chips, we have yet to decide, but the ticket price will reflect this.

The house bands will be similar to last time, featuring Alan Dotchin, Malcolm Railton, and myself [guitars], John Pearce, [keyboards], and [we hope] Bongo Bob on percussion. Steve Fairley will be joining us on guitar, and it is possible that John Latimer may also appear as guest percussionist.

Apart from making an early announcement of the event, I would like to put out a plea to our congregation, and their friends and relatives. We have hidden amongst us a plethora of musical talent, much of which lies unseen. With a bit of arm twisting, I wonder if we could add some extra voices or instrumentalists to add variety to both the sound and the repertoire, and maybe even sell tickets to their supporters.

Performers can choose their own music which needs to be within the chosen era, roughly from 1955 to 1975 but perhaps avoiding heavy metal or punk [*Editor's noteand definitely no rap....*]. Performances will need to be not too loud for the seasoned eardrums of the audience and although the basis of the evening is that the performers must enjoy themselves, there will be a friendly "light touch" audition process to make sure that the audience enjoys itself too. Individuals and groups will be expected to make their own rehearsal arrangements, with perhaps two larger rehearsals in the Parish Hall to ensure continuity as well as to do a thorough sound check. And even at this early stage we need to be sure that performers can commit themselves to the date: late cancellations are both disappointing and frustrating for the whole team. If you would like to offer some items for *Dust on the Needle II* then in the first instance contact me at julianbrown180851@gmail.com or speak to me at church at any time.

PS: if anyone fancies singing *Groovy Kind of Love* [Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders, 1966], I'm afraid that someone else has bagged it. There are plenty of other songs to choose from, though.

THE PARISH REGISTERS: 2019 – 2021

Stuart Crozier, Parish Administrator, writes: Ordinarily I submit a termly or quarterly 'report' for the *Parish News* as regards entries in the Registers, depending on how many there are. You can see from the comprehensive listing below that I had previously covered entries up to the winter quarter of 2019. The next input would have been for Easter 2020 so in the *April News*. However, as we all know, Covid struck and I was sent home by Boris. Steve and Malcolm were then hugely busy keeping the show back on the road whilst subject to stops and starts, very often at very short notice. I was able only to achieve brief stints of part-time work, which simply did not extend to anything resembling 'normal service'.

However, I am fervently hoping that this has now resumed and I will endeavour to keep you posted with the register entries every quarter, later this year. In the meantime, I hope that this report brings everyone up to date.

Editors note: The next “*From the Registers*” note will appear in the October 2021 *Parish News*, and will thereafter appear quarterly in January, April, July and October.

[1] BAPTISMS

2020	2020 [continued]
12 th January – Henry Michael Anderson	1 st November – Cali Rose Middis
2 nd February – Jaxon Denis Bonham	4 th November – William James Lilly
16 th February – Frederick Ainsworth Macgillivray	2021
23 rd February – Lily Grace Towers	4 th April – Kayleigh Concannon
26 th July – Lewie Layton Young	6 th June – Alice Lilian Purvis Kennedy
12 th January – Henry Michael Anderson	13 th June – Dylan William Railton

[2] CONFIRMATIONS – JUNE 13th 2021

Conducted by Right Revd Mark Wroe, Bishop of Berwick

Paul Christopher Doughty
Dylan William Railton

[3] HOLY MATRIMONY

2020
2 nd August – Michael Hannant and Jessica Rutherford
8 th August – Barry Allan and Samantha Lockyer
12 th September – Elena Rose and Ian Crawford

[4] FUNERALS

2019	
26 th November – Margaret Hill	3 rd December – David Hollings
2020	
10 th March – Gweneth Eirlys Lynch	20 th August – Lionel Black
23 rd March – Mamie Taylor	2 nd September – Bill Graham
27 th March – Eileen Mace-Pullen	23 rd September – Audrey Stringer
29 th March – Ashley Adams	26 th September – John Playfair Harvey
14 th April – Gladys Swinhoe	29 th September – Barbara Ellen Stevens
21 st April – Nancy Heath	8 th October – Ernest (Ernie) Rowan
28 th April – Elizabeth (Betty) Westgarth	9 th October – Audrey Davison
30 th June – Elsie Dixon	19 th October – Elizabeth Alice Whittle
2 nd July – Joan Dixon	2 nd November – Dorothy Smith
17 th July – Marian Mason	3 rd November – Marjorie Stainthorpe
29 th July – Elizabeth Bell	15 th December – Joy Rayner
6 th August – Lillian Elsie Rose Cliffe	20 th December – Irene Wedderburn
23 rd August – Denis Armstrong	31 st December – Peter Dutton
2021	
1 st January – Joan Vincent	5 th February – Ronald McGregor
11 th January – William Hadlock	18 th February – Hannah Baines
12 th January – Joan Dirckx	20 th April – Warren Philip Shore
16 th February – Stephen Wedderburn	30 th April – Doris Menmuir Tapster
17 th February – Ken Fairs	15 th May – John George Casson

THIS MONTH'S COVER

The Editor writes: Not the least of my wife Helen's virtues is her skill at choosing holiday venues, and last year's was the best she has picked in twenty years. The Scottish Borders remain one of the best-kept secrets in the British Isles, and the Border Abbey towns – Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose and Dryburgh – are their chief adornments. We lived for a week in a converted farmhouse on the north bank of the Tweed across from the Eildon Hills [said to be the favourite view of Sir Walter Scott]. Part of the charm of the place was the fact that, as my picture shows, the steepness of the River Tweed valley between us and the hills concealed from view almost completely the town of Melrose and its two-and-a-half-thousand inhabitants. August 2020 was, of course, the false dawn of what we saw then as the national recovery from the pandemic, hopes blown away by the sequence of disasters which saw us all locked down [and in] last Christmas. Let us hope that August 2021 will see, if not the end, then at least the end of the beginning of our learning to live more safely with Covid 19.

CORRESPONDENCE

Margaret Gibson writes: Can I use the *Parish News* to say a big thank you to all who sent me their good wishes in recent months? Who would have thought, in December 2021, when I very quickly started to be breathless, that those symptoms would turn my life upside down? I ended up being kept in the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care hospital at Cramlington for bed-rest, without any outside contact, which I can tell you was very hard. Eventually I was transferred to the Freeman to have my mitral and tricuspid valve repaired as well as a hole in the heart closed and secured.

Through the pages of the magazine I'd like to thank you all for the prayers and good wishes that have been sent to me in various forms, it made me realise what a caring community our congregation is, and it was so good for my morale that so many people were thinking and praying for me. I received lots of cards wishing me well which made me realise in lots of homes around the parish and outside it, people had taken the time and trouble to send me their love and good wishes. This reminded that I was still part of the Holy Saviour's family and, because Covid meant my being isolated in hospital for a month away from my family, knowing that you were all there supporting me made me feel I was being cared for.

Things are slowly improving and I need to get my strength back so I can again do normal things and hopefully when Boris eventually frees us from restraint I will be able to join you all again. I'm told not to expect too much, as it could take up to 6 months from operation to make a full recovery. On the day I left hospital the occupational therapist said that I should remember that my body had been invaded as if I had been hit by a bus. At the time I was still very fragile, and so I said to her "No, not a bus - a train."

Once again thank you all, and I will never forget that at one of my darkest hours so many of you were there for me.

IS THERE ANYBODY THERE.....?

The Editor writes: The American poet Don Marquis once compared publishing a book of poetry to the act of dropping a rose petal into the Grand Canyon and listening for the echo as it hit the canyon floor. Just occasionally editing the *Parish News* can be like that. This is a mildly peeved way of reminding everyone that [a] we are still looking for a **Parish Environment Champion**, and [b] that **Malcolm Soulsby and the Choir** are still poised to record your favourite hymn and put it on the **Holy Saviours Music Facebook** page in exchange for a small donation. All details were in the June *Parish News*. I am now waiting for the echo.

BIBLICAL WORDS [XIV]:

“The wind blows where it wills” [John, chapter 3, verse 8]

Clive Harper writes: One evening, some years ago, I was walking down the main street of a town in the west of England, on my way to a meeting of the Bible Society, when I bumped into Tom, the local road sweeper. We passed the time of day during which interchange he enquired where I was going. When I had told him, his expression changed and a dreamy look came over him, as if remembering. ‘Ah! the good book’ he said; ‘a little leaf bloweth where it listeth’; I thought about this, and decided he was quoting from St John’s Gospel in the King James Bible where, in Chapter 3, Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus and saying: ‘the wind bloweth where it listeth’. No doubt Tom was looking at the leaves blowing about as he was tidying the street and it took him back to the classroom where he had heard the teacher reading from the ‘the good book’; in those ancient, far-off days when he was a small boy.

That wind which ‘bloweth’, in Tom’s reminiscences, was the Holy Spirit, the wind of God blowing through the world; it is the power of God to influence and change lives and people and it that testifies to Jesus. And Jesus tells us that without that Spirit we cannot see the Kingdom of God; indeed, we are told that we must be born again, born of water and the Spirit.

As we know, and as prophesied in the Old Testament, that Spirit was released upon the world at the Feast of Pentecost and has never ceased blowing all over the World, transforming lives and people. But as Tom so eloquently remembered, the Spirit ‘bloweth where it listeth’ and so it has a mind of its own, or better, it has the mind of God.

In 2004, Dame Kelly Holmes won the 800 metres and the 1500 metres in the Olympic Games; she had been trying for years and so often was denied by injury; but, on this occasion, she was injury-free. Speaking after the events she said: ‘when I sat down in the changing room before each race it seemed as though there was a gentle breeze spiralling above my head’; and I thought of old Tom and his words about ‘the little leaf blowing where it listeth’. And I wondered.

PS It seems good to have a change of topic for these monthly offerings so, from next month, Deo Volente, I thought I might look at ‘God’s messengers’; there are so many interesting characters that we can read about, and learn from, both in the Bible and Church history.

Editor’s note: It will be good to have Clive’s thoughts on *God’s Messengers*, just as it was to have them on *Saints Alive* and *Bible Words*. His happy knack of combining scholarship and readability has taught us a great deal. Bless you, Clive.

Malcolm Railton writes: Winter is coming! Yesterday afternoon, June 22nd, I started to ponder what I could write about this month for the parish magazine. The first thing that came to mind was, the dark nights are closing in now, it will soon be winter [yes, I am joking]. It is a clichéd image – but is my glass half-empty or half-full? Is June 22nd the height of summer or the beginning of winter?

By the time I write my next article for the parish magazine, late in August, I hope and pray that all of the restrictions that we have had to live with for the past year and a half will have been lifted, but this expectation puts a question to all of us.

Are you a glass half-full person or a glass half-empty person? I think that most of us switch between the two extremes and generally reside somewhere near the middle. However, I know that I have learned during the last eighteen months or so that we all need to find pleasure and joy in whatever we encounter, wherever, it can be found and whenever we find it.

I remember during the first lockdown, last March, re-discovering the pleasure of a simple local walk, taking in the beauty of God's creation that is all around us. It was always there, but maybe in the past we were too busy and too distracted to see and appreciate it.

The joy of watching ducklings, squirrels, and swans in Wallsend Park and in the Dene, the beauty of the trees, birds and [even] the rats scurrying about; in many ways, this last year or so has caused me to open my eyes and appreciate all that is around me. Just yesterday I watched two squirrels in my garden. Late one evening last week, I watched a vixen in St Peter's church yard which is behind our house. I am told by a neighbour that she often has cubs with her, but I have not managed to see them yet.

I have been waiting impatiently for our local swans to produce this year's cygnets, reflecting just the other day that this makes me a swan hunter, which rings bells when you live in Wallsend. I also await the growth and flowering of a beautiful garden full of dahlias which I often pass when out for a walk. Last year the display of vibrant colours was remarkable, and I cannot wait to see what the gardener, with the help of the good Lord, will produce this year.

As well as a greater appreciation of nature and God's creation, I think that most of us have realised the importance of contact with our fellow human beings. It has been particularly painful for so many people to be denied physical contact with others, even immediate family members. Hopefully, we will soon be able to get back to what we considered in the past to be normal.

However, I hope and pray that I will not lose the sense of wonderment and gratitude that I have discovered during the pandemic, to enjoy and treasure every

good thing that I am given. I have also learned that tomorrow cannot be taken for granted and that maybe we do not appreciate what we have until it is taken away from us. We must count our blessings every day.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY.....

David Littlefield writes: I was very interested last month to read Sheila Park's recollections of raising money for Red Cross food parcels to be sent to British and Allied Prisoners of War.

My father never spoke of his years as a POW in Germany but, in later life, my mother told me how grateful he was to have received such parcels which were evidently dropped on his camp by the RAF. However, later in the war, some were pilfered by the German guards who, by that stage, were themselves going hungry.

Sheila remembered taking her raised funds to Mrs Douglas at St. Augustin's Vicarage and this revived a particular memory for me. As a young Scout I was determined to acquire as many Proficiency Badges as possible and Rev Douglas was the local examiner for the Book Reader Badge. I remember visiting that same Vicarage as Sheila had done in earlier years and sitting in the book-lined study while the kindly Rev Douglas selected a book for me to review. He suggested '*Appointment with Venus*' by Jerrard Tickell.....a wartime novel about the rescue of a valuable and prized Guernsey cow named Venus from a fictional Channel Island. I really enjoyed it and still have the essay with which I earned my badge. Curiously I came across the film of the book which popped up on the television recently. It starred Kenneth More and Glynis Johns {remember them?} but I enjoyed the book much more, and still do. So many thanks to the lovely Rev Douglas and, of course, to Sheila for reminding me of how I obtained a much-coveted badge

All subscribers and readers are reminded that this edition of the Parish News is a double issue covering the months of July and August. The next edition will be published in September, and will be sold at the cover-price of £1.50. Current subscribers will not be charged extra, but renewal in April 2022 will be charged at the new annual rate of £15.00. Copy for the September edition should be posted either to the Parish News Mailbox or to JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk by Thursday August 26th. The magazine will be published on Saturday September 4th.

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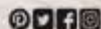
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Sunday worship has resumed with celebrations of Parish Holy Communion at 1000 and 1130. The 1000 service is live-streamed on YouTube. As we progress through the relaxation of lockdown, arrangements for resumption of other services and church activities will be published in Steve Dixon's weekly Parish Update emails and elsewhere.

Vicar Revd. Steve Dixon
Email vicar@holysaviours.org.uk
Telephone 07729 393 580
 0191 697 4562
Curate Revd. Malcolm Railton
Email curate@holysaviours.org.uk
Telephone 0191 262 3028

Parish Administrator Stuart Crozier
Church Office Tel. 0191 257 6250
Email office@holysaviours.org.uk
Church website: www.holysaviours.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Janice Torpy
 Tel: 07920 049 341

David Bilton,
 19 Ashleigh Grove
 Tel. 2580270

PCC Vice Chairman:
 Chris Benneworth

PCC Treasurer:
 Karen Bilton, 19 Ashleigh Grove
 Tel. 2580270

Church Flowers:

Sheila Park, 15 Ashleigh Grove,
 Tel. 257 5481
 Barbara Walker, 2 Monkstone Crescent,
 Tel. 257 4159



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 unsplash.com

ACTIVITIES

Mothers' Union

1st Monday 2.00pm Parish Centre
 3rd Thursday 2.00pm Parish Centre
 Cathy Duff Tel 0191 257 4811

W3 – Women's Group

1st Wednesday 7.30pm Parish Centre
 Debbie Baird Tel. 296 1663

Rainbows

Lucy Skillen Tel. 07891101262

Brownies

Pat Corbett Tel. 0191 2800510

Guides

Grace Paul Tel. 07803371929

Rangers

Grace Paul Tel. 07803 371929

Beavers

Gillian Smith Tel. 296 1426
tynemouthbeavers@gmail.com

Cub Scouts

Fiona Lydall Tel 257 3047

Scouts

David Littlefield Tel. 257 8740

Explorer Scouts

Lucy Mace Tel. 258 5948

Group Scout Leader

Michael Dyer Tel. 2596236

Asst. Group Leader

David Littlefield Tel. 257 8740

Scout Hut bookings:

Helen Preston Tel: 257 0574

Tynemouth Village Day Centre – Parish Hall

Tel. 259 5569

Mother & Toddler Group – Parish Hall

Friday 9.30am

ARTICLES FOR THE PARISH NEWS

These should be submitted to the editor, **John Pearce**, at JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk – the deadline will be published each month. Post written contributions in the Parish News Mailbox outside the Parish Office or to 9 Selwyn Avenue, Monkseaton, NE25 9DH.

All queries to

0191 291 2742 or 07903 227 192.