



CROSSWAYS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST PAUL'S AND WHITWORTH

Major stonemasonry works at St Paul's church

IN its 70th anniversary year after being re-dedicated following a fire, St Paul's Church has undergone a major programme of works to help safeguard the Grade II listed building for the future.

For the past few months, works have included replacing stone across various parts of the exterior fabric, a restoration of the clock, repairs to the gutters and downpipes, replacing damaged glazing and providing ramped access at the main door.

The works were highlighted in the church's quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection which identified areas most in need of repair and following a fundraising initiative, work began in early June.

A tender process in

2025 saw DI Stonemasonry Ltd from Kirk Merrington appointed as lead contractor to complete the works and the project was overseen by Hugh Massey Architects of Chester-le-Street.

Director Dan Inglis, who trained in stonemasonry at Durham Cathedral said: "I was personally elated to win such an important restoration contract so close to home. Restoring churches, monuments and listed buildings is all I have known since my cathedral apprenticeship. I am extremely proud of the job and the trust St Paul's church put in me to complete these works."

This year marks the church's 70th anniversary since it was re-dedicated on the 1st November, 1956 following a devastating fire three



Dan Inglis (centre) with some of the team who worked on the building

years earlier. The stonemasonry works carried out this year to the fabric help ensure the building remains in good condition as a place of worship in the heart of Spennymoor.

The Revd Canon Matt Tarling, vicar of St Paul's said: "As we mark the building's 70th anniversary these works not only provided necessary maintenance, but build on the legacy of those who have gone before us to ensure the

building is central to the life and community of our town. Our vision and priority as a church remains enabling people to believe the good news, to worship Jesus, and share his love."

Architect Hugh Massey added: "It is particularly satisfying to be involved with an energetic and forward-looking church group who respond to the need for regular, carefully conceived maintenance of

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PARISH

CHURCH

SERVICES

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sundays: 10.30am Holy Communion ('All Together' non-communion on first Sunday)
(live-streamed at www.facebook.com/stpaulsspennymoor)

Wednesdays: 9.30am Holy Communion

Fridays: 10am Play Church (term-time only)

WHITWORTH CHURCH

Sundays: 9am Holy Communion

CLERGY**VICAR**

Revd Canon Matthew Tarling
01388 327603
vicar@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

CURATE

Revd Lee Earl
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CHURCHWARDENS**St Paul's Church**

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Major stonemasonry works at St Paul's church

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historic church fabric. We have been pleased to play our part in identifying and overseeing such important work to safeguard the future of St Paul's church. Dan Inglis has completed the stonework repairs to a very high standard, along with the generational clock face overhaul by specialists from The Cumbria Clock Company, and we

expect these works will secure the fabric of this important part of Spennymoor's architectural heritage for generations to come."

The works were part-funded with grants totaling £20,000 from The Northumbrian Historic Churches Trust, the Sir John Priestman Charity Trust, and the Diocese of Durham. The Parochial



New carved tracery stones around the windows replaced weathered stone. Glazing was also repaired.

Church Council thanks the funders for their generous support to help en-

able the project to take place. *(Above photo courtesy of Dan Inglis)*

LADIES AT ST PAUL'S

ALL WELCOME
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7.30 - 9.30 PM

October 14th Wreath Making

Please come along to do wreath making but with a difference.

We will be having a go at doing a wreath using pom-poms that we make or with baubles.

Location:
St Paul's Centre, Cafe Area

Contact: ladies@stpaulsspennymoor.co.uk

Brancepeth Archive & History Group
Present

**The Story of the Teesdale
Railway line from
Darlington to Middleton
in Teesdale**

An exhibition in Brancepeth Castle

Saturday 17th October 10am – 4pm

Sunday 18th October 12 noon – 4pm.

**The exhibition is on loan from the
FitzHugh Library and The North East
Railway Association**

Admission £2.00

children 14yrs and under free

For further information ring 0191 378 0974



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

St Catherine's Church, Crook

Choral Evensong with
Durham Cathedral Choir



Sunday 11 October 2026
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in the Auckland Deanery



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New role for former vicar at Whitworth and St Paul's

WE recently discovered that our former vicar, the Revd Canon Stuart Bain, was confirmed as priest-in-charge at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Challoch earlier this year. This article was published online and we share it along with a photograph taken by Julian Demetriadi, All Saints' press officer.

ON Thursday, 7 May, The Reverend Canon Stuart Bain was officially licensed by The Right Reverend Dr Nicholas Bundock (Bishop Nick), Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway (UDGG), as the new Priest-in-Charge at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Challoch.

At a packed Diocesan Licensing Service at All Saints', Stuart was officially appointed successor to The Reverend Canon Dawn Matthew, who left All Saints' in February to become Canon Missioner for the UDGG.

Commenting on Stuart's appointment, Bishop Nick said: "Stuart brings a huge depth of experience, wisdom and pastoral care, and we are enormously grateful for his commitment to All Saints'.

"This feels like a wonderful match between priest and congre-

gation. All Saints' is a loving and dynamic church community in an extraordinarily beautiful setting, and I'm excited about the next chapter of its life and ministry together. If you've never visited All Saints', Challoch, I'd encourage you to give it a go!"

For his part, Stuart explained: "On retirement in 2021, my wife and I moved permanently to our home in Glentroll. I'd served for 41 years in the Church of England in the Diocese of Durham, latterly as Archdeacon of Sunderland and then Provost of Sunderland Minster. We threw our lot in with All Saints', Challoch, and discovered a deeply caring and friendly community where we felt very much at home.

"My wife became the church's organist and I supported the ministry there as a retired priest. In February this year, we



The Revd Canon Stuart Bain, pictured right

moved into a vacancy when our priest, The Reverend Dawn Matthew, moved on. So, what did the future hold? In my experience, God always has plans. The nudge came. I had conversations with the Bishop and the local church, and here I am: Priest-in-Charge of All Saints',

Challoch.

"It is a great honour to be able to serve the All Saints' community. I think the role over the next few years is clear: to support our church, to continue to grow and develop together, and be a church for everyone. So, in life - never say never!"

Mothers' Union thanks

THE St Paul's branch of the Mothers' Union would like to thank everyone who supported the recent coffee morning in church. The event raised a fantastic £275 which will go towards the charity's work overseas. Thank you to all those who made the event possible and baked cakes. The October meeting will take place on Monday 12th October, 2pm in St Paul's Church.

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FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For those who volunteer in our churches and those exploring new ways to serve.

For the work of the foodbank and those who volunteer supporting those in need.

For peace across the world in areas of conflict.

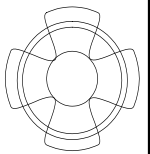
PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

Lord, help us to trust that you are with us even in the midst of our troubles. As your power protects us and your love restores us, give us discerning eyes, grateful hearts and voices willing to sing your praises. Amen

Sunday Link by Redemptorist Productions



Parish Registers



HOLY BAPTISM

St Paul's

27th September

Tina Pearson

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

St Paul's

17th September

Albert Chester

24th September

Irene Elliott



A recent photograph of Whitworth Church, courtesy of Julie Hazel

Harvest celebrations

IT'S that time of year again! Our 'Harvest Sunday' will be on Sunday 11th October at Whitworth and St Paul's churches. During the services at 9am and 10:30am respectively, we will be giving thanks to God for his provision of food through the year, and serving those who lack with a collection for the Foodbank. If you're able, please either bring foodbank donations on the day, or you can take direct to the St Paul's Centre on weekday mornings. The foodbank welcomes dried, packet and tinned goods which can be stored ready for distribution.

Spring bulb planting

ON Saturday 10th October from 11am-12 noon we will be planting some new bulbs in St Paul's churchyard, ready for the spring. Everyone is welcome to help out!

Archdeacon installation

THE Venerable Stephen Edmonds will be installed as the new Archdeacon of Auckland at Durham Cathedral on Tuesday 27th October during Evensong at 5.30pm and all are invited.

WHITWORTH Church will be holding a harvest open afternoon with teas and evening prayer on Sunday 4th October from 2-5pm.

The event is a perfect and informal opportunity to visit the church if you're considering a baptism, wedding, blessing, or renewal of vows at Whitworth Church. The church has much to offer – a welcoming, comfortable building with a long history, in a beautiful setting, a historic pipe organ for music and close proximity to Whitworth Hall for a reception.

Follow our churches online

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