

Benwell

through the years

In Maps and Pictures

Have you seen our new book which uses maps and photographs to trace the development of Benwell from 1864 to 1993? It shows how this area was transformed from a distinct rural area of green fields and big houses in landscaped grounds to become a densely populated and industrialised suburb of the city of Newcastle.

This book was produced by St James' Heritage & Environment Group and West Newcastle Picture History Collection. Copies are available free of charge direct from us and from local libraries, or you can see it on our website.

Your family : Our friends

We have had many satisfied customers since we began to offer family history advice sessions. People have visited us at St James' or contacted us by email to ask for advice about researching their family history, with questions about burials at St James' or about the local area generally, or to share information and photos. If you think we might be able to help you, visit us any Tuesday afternoon between 1-4pm or contact us by email or letter.

Contact us: c/o Search, 74 Adelaide Terrace, NE4 9JN
Visit us at St James' Church, Benwell Lane, Tuesdays 12-4pm
Email: stjamesbenwell@gmail.com Tel 0191 2528675
Website: <http://stjameschurchnewcastle.wordpress.com>

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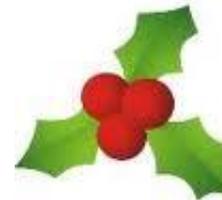
St James' Heritage & Environment Group

Winter Celebration Event

A WINTER'S TALE

Tuesday 8th December 1.30- 4pm
St James' Church, Benwell

Seasonal stories, crafts and refreshments



Christmas wreath making

Sparkly Christmas decorations

Glass painting - candle jars and tea light holders

A Winter's Tale – storytelling performance

Improvements to the graveyard

“Altogether it is a beautiful little churchyard, lying as it does on a gentle slope facing south, and commanding a most extensive view of the Tyne and Derwent Valley.”

This is how one writer described St James’ graveyard in 1901. No-one would have said that six years ago when we started our work there. But if you haven’t visited recently you will be amazed by the transformation. No longer a rubbish-strewn, overgrown wilderness, the graveyard is once again a beautiful place, tidied up and newly planted with flowers and hedging. Now that it has been cleared of the invading ivy and brambles, you can see the monuments and gravestones properly for the first time for years.

Many of these monuments and gravestones have suffered damage from vandals, tree roots or simply wear and tear over the years. One of our current priorities is to have these restored to a better condition. To do this properly we need expert help. We have brought in a specialist conservation stonemason to help plan the restoration work and have already made a small start on this. We have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to carry out specific improvements and also to train our volunteers to do repair work in the right way to protect these historic graves. Watch this space!

All help welcome

There is so much that people can do to help us. We welcome regular or occasional volunteers to help with tidying and gardening tasks in the graveyard. Financial donations are also welcome. But as much as anything, we appreciate people visiting on a Tuesday to explore and admire the graveyard and give views on our work.

Warm yourself at our Winter Event

New heating boilers in the church hall will ensure that this Winter Event on 8th December will be warm and cosy. This is the latest step in the huge task of restoring and improving St James’ Church to make it a comfortable and attractive place for people to meet and take part in different activities that celebrate the history and culture of this area and its community.

Light up your life

This event will launch a new campaign to raise money for a much-needed replacement of the church lighting. Join us at the Winter Event and paint a glass candle jar or tea light holder or make some sparkly tree decorations to take home.

Wor Life in the West End

Come and visit our exhibition about the impact of the First World War on the west end of Newcastle. We have created this exhibition in partnership with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums service.

This is a chance to see and handle photographs, postcards and other material from the collections at the Discovery Museum – some of which have never been seen before by the public. There are also stories and photographs which we have collected about people and places in the west end affected by the War.

Thank you to everyone who gave us information and photos. Do you have any old family photos or documents from the 1914-18 years? We would love to add your contribution to the exhibition.