



## Central Hartlepool Group

One Family, Three Parishes,  
Growing the Kingdom.

### Notices and Readings 20 March 2022: All Saints, Stranton Church

#### God's Blessing as we gather for worship in Church and online

***Rooted in God's love, Growing together with Jesus, Branching out in the Power of the Holy Spirit***

Some services are streamed LIVE on Facebook and YouTube pages, or via Stranton web pages at the times shown below, and afterwards on YouTube or Facebook.

#### **Sunday 20 March: Third Sunday of Lent**

#### **Streamed to Facebook/Youtube:**

9:00 am	Holy Communion 1, Stranton	Revd Clive & Rachel	<i>Stranton</i>
9:15 am	Holy Communion, St Luke's	Revd Norman & Anita	
10:45 am	Mass, St Aidan's	Revd Sheila Bamber	<i>St Aidan's</i>
11:00 am	Holy Communion	Revd Clive & Norman	<i>Stranton</i>

**Readings** Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18, Isaiah 55:1-9 & Luke 13:1-9

<i>Wednesday 10.00 am</i>	Communion (St Matthews)	Revd Norman	
<i>Wednesday 9.30 am</i>	Holy Communion (St Luke's)	Revd Clive	<i>St Lukes</i>
<i>Thursday 9:15 am</i>	Mass (St Columba)	Revd Michelle	<i>St Aidan's</i>

#### **Collects:**

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **Post Communion:**

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only  
God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **Mothering Sunday –**

We have a special family service on Sunday 27 March at 11am when we will welcome the Uniformed organisations at our 'Lighthouse' style service.

#### **Boys Brigade Tasty Treat at St Matthew's**

- why not treat yourself to a tasty Bacon Butty from 10.00am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Ideal for those coming from the 9.00am service and for those anticipating the 11.00 am family service

**Easter Eggheads** which is for Boys and Girls aged 5 - 11yrs from April 11- 15<sup>th</sup> at St.Matthews starting at 6.00- 7.15pm (Monday to Thursday) with Good Friday Activity, 'Messy Easter' from 10 -11.30 at St Matthews. Eggheads involves games videos, quizzes , talks and most importantly LOTS OF FUN as the youngster learn about the First Easter and what that means in 2022.

#### **Sunday Club News!**

Join us this week as we continue our theme of children in the bible. We will be looking at the story of David and Goliath. Our fun activities will include making and decorating some delicious cakes. Our Sunday club is suitable for 5-14 year olds! If you have any questions please let me know.

**Kate Stranton Sunday Club Leader**

## **Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 The LORD's covenant with Abram (9.00am)**

**15** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,<sup>[a]</sup> your very great reward.'<sup>[b]</sup> **2** But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit<sup>[c]</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' **3** And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.' **4** Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' **5** He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring<sup>[d]</sup> be.'<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. **7** He also said to him, 'I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.'<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I shall gain possession of it?' **9** So the LORD said to him, 'Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.'<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. **11** Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. **18** On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi<sup>[a]</sup> of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates –

## **Isaiah 55: 1-9 Invitation to the thirsty (11.00am)**

**55** 'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. **2** Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. **3** Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. **4** See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.' **6** Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. **7** Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. **8** 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. **9** 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

## **Luke 13: 1-9 Repent or perish**

**13** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** Jesus answered, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? **3** I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. **4** Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? **5** I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.'<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. **7** So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, "For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?"<sup>8</sup> "'Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilise it. **9** If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

## **Intercessions**

- We pray for Andy, Kati and Eva Walsh now in Brazil commencing their ministry with CMS. Pray also for them following the sudden and unexpected death of Andy's sister Bernadette.
- We pray for peace where there is conflict, relief for refugees and the dispossessed, freedom for the oppressed: We pray for relief for the people of Ukraine, and all conflict zones
- We pray for unity between Christians. We pray for all Churches in Hartlepool and for Churches Together Hartlepool. We pray for our joint outreach including the Foodbank and Town Pastors.
- We pray for appointment of a new Group incumbent to be inspired led and guided by the Holy Spirit
- We pray for our national and local leaders, give wisdom in decisions about the Covid pandemic.
- We pray that we may be a Community of Hope that we may reach out with love and hope to the vulnerable and marginalised. Pray for Aneta, Emma and Jo, our Communities of Hope team as their work continues amongst the needy in our community.
- We pray for peace and healing for all who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, for those awaiting medical treatment, or are in hospital or recovering at home. We pray for those in isolation. We pray for those in care homes. We pray for Audrey, Hans, Marty, Karen and Henry.
- We pray for all those who mourn, especially the family and friends of Pamela Thompson, Brenda Loynes and Brian Telfer.

**Group LENT COURSE: continues to be led by Revd Michelle on Thursdays at St Luke's.** Arrive 6.30pm for 7.00pm in St Luke's Parish Rooms from **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March for 5 weeks.**

**"DAYS TO LAMENT" Lent Course** continues at the Church of the Nazarene Lowthian Road, 2pm  
Wednesdays: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> (**not** 6<sup>th</sup>).  
Cath and Dave Thompson ([hartlepoolnaz@gmail.com](mailto:hartlepoolnaz@gmail.com)).

**COMMUNITIES OF HOPE UPDATE:** We have advertised two roles within the Communities of Hope Team: for a full time, Community worker/Evangelist (closing date 23.3.22), and a 25 – 30 hr Family and Children's worker. Both appointments are for two years, may be extended subject to Funding. We are interviewing for the Family role this week. Jo, our current community worker, will be leaving for a new role in the near future. For full details please ask the Church Office, or visit the church Website <http://www.stranton-church.org.uk>

**Hartlepool foodbank - We have strong links with the Hartlepool foodbank, and have now RE-INSTATED THE COLLECTION POINT AT THE BACK OF CHURCH**

The Foodbank has recently issued a request for specific donations of:

***Tinned foods (Rice pudding, custard, tomatoes, soup, meat) Snacks (sweet and savoury)***

**St Lukes Sewing Party Coffee Morning** Saturday 2nd April 10-12noon. Handmade goods, cakes, raffle and tombola. Admission £1 which includes refreshments.

**Parish Giving – how to support the mission and ministry of Stranton Church.** The Parish Giving Scheme has been updated and it is now possible to join this direct debit scheme through the scheme's website. The link for Stranton church is <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stranton-all-saints-ts24-7qt/>. We do still welcome and give thanks to those who give by standing order and / or envelopes but there are additional costs involved in these older methods. It is also still possible to join the scheme by obtaining a form if you prefer a paper application. If anyone has any questions about the scheme, please let me know.  
*David Craig, Hon. Treasurer: email - [treasurer@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stranton-church.org.uk)*

#### **ATTENDING CHURCH FOR WORSHIP - COVID-19 is still with us -**

- It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face mask in Church but we are continuing to encourage all to use a mask and hand gel, and to keep "social distance". In order to protect everyone, please act with consideration towards others, especially the vulnerable.
- Please do not attend church if you have cold or flu-like symptoms/raised temperature, or "test positive"
- Please come early to avoid congestion and delays at the entrance
- Children under 11 and those medically exempted are not asked to wear a face mask,
- Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit, and as you are directed for receiving Communion. Please wear your mask whilst going to and from the communion table. Holy Communion is offered by intinction (wafer dipped in wine).
- The Sunday 11 am service will be displayed on the screens: booklets are now in use again at 9 am
- Singing is now allowed. If you join in singing, we politely ask you to wear a mask.
- As you meet after the service, please maintain distance and allow others room to leave.
- If you "test positive" or have COVID-19 symptoms within the week after attending a church service please let one of the clergy or a churchwarden know so that people from that service can be advised.

There will not be a collection taken but you may leave an offertory

**Live online Services for w/c 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022** (Facebook addresses are below).

#### **Streaming 11:00 am Sunday Services**

The 11:00am service is now being streamed to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMNoiSa2KGgGWkzli62VFcA>  
A link will be shared on Stranton Church Facebook Page.

9:00 am Holy Communion is streamed directly via our Facebook page (below)

**Facebook <http://stranton-church.org.uk> (youtube and facebook links)**

<https://www.facebook.com/strantonsundayclub/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hartlepoolcoh>

**Also:** <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeshartlepool>

<https://www.facebook.com/aidancolumba>

**Church Office and Parish Contacts: Church office - please telephone or email.**

For Stranton Church Tel 01429 894006 or 07305 550009 (Trish) Email: [admin@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk)

Norman or Julie Shave: Tel 01429 233609 Email: [nshave1@btinternet.com](mailto:nshave1@btinternet.com)

(More information on our web site <http://www.stranton-church.org.uk> and Facebook page)

## Ukraine - ways in which you can help



### **Giving**

You can support Christian Aid as part of the combined national relief appeal of the Disasters Emergency Committee (link: <https://www.caid.org.uk/now> or call 0800 004 004).

Money can also be donated to the Diocese of Europe which is working closely with the mission agency USPG. Funds raised will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries. A link to their donation page is here. <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

Rob and Margaret Bianchi, who have been based in our Diocese for many years and who run the charity ODM which supports the ARCA project in Moldova have reported a large influx of refugees fleeing Ukraine to Moldova. ARCA has a campsite and guesthouse which has opened to refugees and is also working with local villages to provide emergency accommodation. An emergency appeal has been launched to buy food, mattresses and other basics to help refugees in Moldova. If you can help, please send a cheque made payable to ODM Creative Communications. Their address is 8 Lindisfarne, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 7JR. Or by Bank transfer to: Account: "ODM Creative Communications" Sort Code: 77-20-14 Account No: 16275360 (Please put as the bank reference: "Holercani")

### **Other Support**

Stranton Church has registered as a potential provider of accommodation and support with the UK Government (Home Office), Durham Diocese, and with The Sanctuary Foundation (which has worked closely with refugee families from Afghanistan and Syria, and alongside the charity RESET, of which Bishop Paul is a trustee. For more information, visit The Sanctuary Foundation. <https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>.

Our local (parish) response is being co-ordinated by Angela Craig: please let her know via email address [refugeesupport@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@stranton-church.org.uk) if you have registered or intend to register with the Home Office as an accommodation provider, or can offer other support, or have any questions about the support we are proposing. **Please use this email address.**