



Central Hartlepool Group

One Family, Three Parishes,
Growing the Kingdom.

Notices and Readings for 29 March 2020, Lent 5: St Luke's and Stranton Churches

PLEASE NOTE – all times British Summer Time – clocks go forward overnight 29 March

If you can, you are welcome follow Services streaming LIVE from the homes of ministers and worship leaders, on Facebook or Stranton web pages at the times shown below, and afterwards as online videos

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

Mother Gemma at 9:00 a.m.

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

Rev Norman at 10:00 a.m.

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

Andy and Lucy at 3:00 p.m.

Readings for today: **Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11: 1-45** (*Full text at the end of the notices*)

Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Please Pray for:

- All who are unwell. All facing 12 weeks in their homes without going out.
- Our health services and all involved in the care of the vulnerable
- Those who have lost their Jobs.
- Asylum seekers, refugees and those displaced from home by travel restrictions
- Fair and Just distribution of Food
- The prime minister, national and local government
- Hartlepool Foodbank and the Poolie's exchange scheme
- The bereaved remembering the families and friends of Hilton Mallinson, Paul Hamilton, Lesley Elstobb, Susan Ann Dudley, Daisey Hooks and Dwain Thomas

This week we have had a letter from our Bishops and a separate one from the Archbishops. They are available on Facebook and the Stranton Church <http://stranton-church.org.uk/home.html> and Durham Diocesan websites. Please contact the Church Office if you need a copy.

Some new things are happening,

Weekday online worship is available online if you have Internet access by smartphone tablet or Computer

(Morning Mass or Eucharist, Afternoon reflection or music, Evening Compline)

On line live daily streaming –

- 9:00 a.m.
- 3: 00 p.m.
- 8:00 p.m. (or 8:15 P.M. on Thursday - applaud NHS at 8:00),

except for Friday Compline only 8:00 p.m.

via one or other of:

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

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

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

(Also available afterwards <http://stranton-church.org.uk/videos.html>)

A full rota with further details is to be posted on these Facebook pages.

Please Contact us if you have any need for prayer, or support for yourself or someone you know who may be lonely, ill or needing urgent practical things to be done - phone, email or text the Church office, or Rev Norman Shave 01429 233609 nshave1@btinternet.com.

HARTLEPOOL FOODBANK IS OPEN AND OPERATING.

We are adapting how we get emergency food relief out to the people who need it. We are working very closely with the Council to send large numbers of food parcels out directly through our principal referral agencies, especially the Children's Hub. However, we are also still open at 28 Church Street on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:30 to 1:30 (on Tuesday we processed approaching 20 vouchers there, including for a number of families)

Some of our other referral agencies that are no longer physically open are still using e-vouchers for vulnerable clients. We do still need donations, especially at the moment milk, fruit juice, tinned tomatoes and tinned rice pudding (use facilities at supermarkets or bring them to 28 Church Street when we're open). Financial donations are also welcome. We do not at the moment need more volunteers. There is a core group of volunteers who haven't had to self-isolate, all of whom are trained in our procedures including social distancing etc. Circumstances change almost daily. Please contact Foodbank directly (598404), look at our website (www.hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk) or, if all else fails, ask me if you have any questions. So many schemes having had to close under the current emergency, we are officially now a "frontline service". Your support and prayers are extremely necessary and valuable. Many thanks for this. Praise God.

Rev Andrew Craig Chair

Poolie Exchange Project

From the Hartlepool Mail:

'A Hartlepool voluntary project is providing hot meals and food parcels to over 100 people a day in isolation due to the coronavirus restrictions. More than 200 volunteers have signed up to the Poolie Time Exchange to help deliver essential supplies to the front doors of elderly and vulnerable people during the national emergency. Demand is increasing every day and organisers are appealing for supporters to donate to an online fund to be able to continue to meet it. Several fridges and freezers have been donated by supporters and the project is looking at possibly starting a second kitchen at another location.'

... The latest news is that the second site could well be St Matthew's Community Centre. Please pray as this gets sorted out.

The Readings in full.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

John 11: 1-45

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.