

Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

October 2022

History in the Making

Everyone is minding their own business and getting on with life, then we have a news flash and suddenly everything changes. What was going to be a normal day, is now a very different day. The news we hear is so big that it is marked down as history in the making.

On the 31st August 1997 I was helping to bring patients down to a church service in the Hospital Chapel, when a volunteer arrived and said "The news just said Princess Diana has died". The amount of flowers given, the emotional crowds, seeing the two young princes walking behind their Mum's coffin. Just some memories which you can't forget.

On the 6th February 2022 history was made when Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service. We then had a long weekend of celebrations and celebrating in June, when the weather was warmer, with street parties, afternoon teas and services plus tributes on TV. Not all history making things are negative. The fall of the Berlin Wall was another momentous and positive event.

Today we have a country, if not a world, in mourning at the death of our Queen, while also getting used to the fact that we now have a King on the throne. So many mixed emotions happening at the same time. There was a 9+ hours queue to file past the Queen's coffin to pay respects to our late monarch, plus 24/7 channels of the latest news and updates.

Life is not always easy, the emotions which we all carry and feel often overwhelm us, especially at times when we would rather they didn't! Emotions are very powerful feelings of which, as people, we need to be more aware.

Ecclesiastes 3 v4 'a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing'

That last line could have been written for these years of Covid. The Bible tells us there are many emotions, but that we are to express them in healthy ways. An example is when feeling anger, don't hit out at the person who caused it! Instead use words so that your thoughts and emotions are communicated. Let your feelings out.

I purposely said 'out', because we all know about holding emotions in, by putting them in an internal box only contains them for a while as the lid is spring loaded and it will explosively open on its own eventually...

We must remember by letting our emotions out, we can do away with the box!!

Doubting, Embarrassed, Indecisive, Lost, Shy, Upset, Sad, Depressed, Frustrated, Mournful, Weepy, Strong, Confident, Sure, Happy, Grateful, Loving, Optimistic, Angry, Annoyed, etc...

The Bible is full of stories where emotions are involved. It tells us how God is feeling or describes how Jesus felt - the shortest verse in the bible is "Jesus wept". So we must learn to show and express our emotions in a healthy way. Some emotions are natural like nervousness or fear, but sometimes there are emotions we need to work through, so that we keep moving on and learning - unlike the rabbit in the headlights whose instinct is to freeze.

It's good to talk, so find a friend and start to express your feelings.

Rev Clive

Mothers Union

Our next meeting is on October 10th at St Matthew's Community Centre at 1.30pm. We can catch up with each other and the MU Worldwide President, Sheran Harpers' statement upon the death of Elizabeth II. "It is with deep sadness that I received the news of the passing of our beloved patron, Her Majesty the Queen. On behalf of the Mothers Union members around the world, I join with the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in offering our love and condolences to those dear to her." There is much more to read and add to our prayers. Please bring a favourite Bible verse or prayer to this meeting if you wish. I received MU Christmas cards, calendars and diaries so I will have them with me on the 10th October.

I will finish with the personal prayer of our founder Mary Sumner.

"All this day, O Lord, let me touch as
Many lives as possible for thee, and
Every life I touch, do thou by
Thy spirit quicken whether through the
Word I speak, the prayer I breath, or the life I live.
Amen

God Bless
Ann Courtenay

St Matthew's
Community Centre



Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 1st October 2022
Saturday 5th November 2022
Saturday 3rd December 2022

A time to spend together,
meet new people, make new friends

**All Saints Stranton Church
Harvest Ceilidh**

Saturday 15th October 2022
6.30 pm to 10:00 pm

**St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick
Road**

Tickets: £2 Adult, £1 Children, £5 Family

There will be a faith supper
Tea, coffee & juice will be provided.
Please bring any other drink with you.

From the Home Front



At the beginning of the summer I visited my sister in her beautiful valley in the Borders of Scotland. As we walked her dogs each day through The Forestry I enjoyed the dense woods and views through the trees. Everywhere was lush, green and bursting with life – birds, bats, deer, foxes and badgers to name but a few.



(BBC image)

However in places these were the views – trees that had been broken and uprooted by storm Arwen last November. Damaged and destroyed trees had fallen to the ground or were leaning on other trees as they withered and died, roots sticking up out of the ground. So much wildlife had lost their habitats.

During my visit in early September there was a very different view during our walks!



These are sustainable commercial forests which have been growing for over 50 years – if I dredge in my memory I can remember the thousands of saplings being planted across the hills. The loggers had arrived to harvest the mature trees and were cutting swathes across the hillsides, stacking the stripped logs and then transporting them

on huge lorries to mills for processing and transformation into something completely different. The disruption to the wildlife – birds, animals and

insects as well as co-existing fauna, has been catastrophic. The food chain has been disrupted and then broken. It may take years to fully recover from this devastation – but recover it will. For deep in the earth seeds and spores lay, pine cones have tumbled down during felling and been trampled through into the soil. Insects will help to compost the surface debris and within a year flowers, ferns and tiny saplings will start to grow and emerge through the soil into the light.

I just felt this entire process was a metaphor for life. We are born, nurtured and grow. Along our way we develop relationships - some lifelong, empowering and altering. Some amongst us are damaged by the hard knocks of life, others totally broken; however as Christians we are able to prop up, support and love others back to health and a new life. Eventually though we will all die, and as our Saviour promised us, our bodies will be renewed and transformed. Those left behind will feel our loss, but they too can have the promise of eternal life through the way, the truth, the light - our Lord Jesus Christ.

J.A.R.

Harvest Festival Quiz

- H** Which **H** is a book in the new testament?
- A** Which **A** is the brother of Moses?
- R** Which **R** was Joseph's oldest brother?
- V** Which **V** is patron saint of Beekeepers? (Clue he's more famous for another patronage)
- E** Which **E**, an English King, is a saint?
- S** Which **S** was the first martyr?
- T** What **T** was destroyed by Samson?

- F** Which **F** was procurator of Judea?
- E** Which **E** healed a boy at Zarepeth?
- S** Which **S** was the last Judge of Israel?
- T** Dan was a **T** of Israel?
- I** Which **I** country is mentioned in Esther Chapter 1 v1
- V** What **V** contained lots of bones ?
- A** Which **A** is the patron saint of lost things?
- L** Which **L** was killed by Samson?



Statement by the Archbishop of York on the death of Her Majesty The Queen 08/09/2022

I join with many throughout our country and beyond as we mourn the death of Her Majesty The Queen. Throughout her long reign, and in all the confusions and challenges of a changing world, Her Majesty has been a constant, faithful presence.

In 2014, Her Majesty remarked, “Christ’s example has taught me to seek, to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.”¹ The Queen’s gift to engage with everyone whom she met and the ability to make them feel at ease was a remarkable skill and one which showed a deep connection to the people she served and a desire to live out Jesus’ teaching. On the occasions I had the pleasure of meeting Her Majesty, I can testify to the warmth and joy she brought to every occasion. But most of all, it was the resolute reality of her faith that struck me powerfully.

In Her Majesty’s first Christmas broadcast, ahead of her Coronation she asked the nation, whatever their religion, to pray that God would give her wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promise she would be making and to faithfully serve God and us all the days of her life.

That is most definitely a prayer that has been answered. Her service to our nation and Commonwealth has been exemplified by her devotion to her duty, which has always been offered with joy. Underpinning this has been her deep faith in God and in her we have witnessed God’s faithfulness at work.

Her Majesty leaves a remarkable legacy which not only lives on in this country, but stretches across the Commonwealth and the rest of the world. Her desire to bring people together and use her role to build up communities and wider society has been a cornerstone of her reign.

Do join me in praying for members of the Royal Family over the coming weeks as the God who sustained Her Majesty throughout her life, guides them and brings them comfort. Above all, we pray also for our new King in the responsibilities that now rest upon him.

The Queen was not shy in speaking of her faith and the hope and strength she found in Jesus Christ. At the heart of the good news of God is that through the death and resurrection of his son Jesus, the promise of new and eternal life is offered to us all. This belief, this hope, sustained our Queen and as she rejoices in that promise fulfilled so we too can draw comfort and hope from it.

Many of us will struggle to imagine the life of our nation without the Queen. Her constancy and faithfulness has been deeply reassuring in a world that has changed so much. We give thanks for the Queen’s example, devotion and huge achievements. She found stability, perseverance and confidence in Jesus Christ who was the source of her hope and peace. May that also be true for each of us and for our nation; and may our dearly departed Queen rest in peace and rise in glory.

**The Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York**

Visit by Archdeacon Rick Simpson on Sunday 11th September



Members of St Aidan's congregation joined Stranton congregation for a Family Communion. Archdeacon Rick had planned his visit some time ago and had prepared accordingly, however the whole service and his sermon were changed following the sudden death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Rick preached on the role of leaders, how the first should be last and serve those who serve them. He recalled the 70 years Her Majesty served her God and her subjects, her integrity, honesty and kindness plus her unwavering devotion to our God in good times and bad.

J.A.R.

Answers for Harvest Festival Quiz

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| H | Which H is a book in the new testament? | Hebrews |
| A | Which A is the brother of Moses? | Aaron |
| R | Which R was Joseph's oldest brother? | Reuben |
| V | Which V is patron saint of Beekeepers? (Clue he's more famous for another patronage) | Valentine |
| E | Which E an English king is a saint? | Edward the Confessor |
| S | Which S was the first martyr? | Stephen |
| T | What T was destroyed by Samson? | Temple |
| F | Which F was procurator of Judea? | Felix |
| E | Which E healed a boy at Zarepeth? | Elijah |
| S | Which S was the last Judge of Israel? | Samuel |
| T | Dan was a T of Israel? | Tribe |
| I | Which I country is mentioned in Esther Chapter 1 v1 | India |
| V | What V contained lots of bones ? | valley (Ezekiel Ch 37) |
| A | Which A is the patron saint of lost things? | Saint Anthony |
| L | Which L was killed by Samson? | Lion |

Interviews to find a new incumbent

On September 8th, two candidates were interviewed to replace Norman after his retirement, as minister of our three parishes.

In the morning, the candidates separately visited the three parishes. They were warmly welcomed by volunteers who showed them around the churches and all their properties such as the two vicarages and St Matthew's Community Centre, and answered their questions.

They were both able to see St Aidan's Kitchen and St Luke's Toddler group in action and one of the candidates also visited Ward Jackson School.

They were then chauffeured to the next church which gave them an opportunity to see something of the town. Despite torrential rain and new roadworks having popped up overnight, this phase was accomplished efficiently and punctually.

The rest of the day was spent at St Luke's where lunch and the interviews were held.

A good spread was enjoyed, so much so that at times the parable of the loaves and fishes was brought to mind.

The interviews were held in St Luke's Choir Vestry and were conducted by two representatives from each parish, with the Area Dean, Janet Burbury; Archdeacon Rick Simpson, and Bishop Sarah who chaired proceedings.

The process of presentations, interviews and discussions took over four hours and was detailed, thorough and astute.

So, a very long and busy day.

As usual, our band of volunteers, whether driving, providing refreshments throughout the day or guiding the candidates round were amazing. They carried out their parts with calm efficiency and welcoming warmth. The three parishes working together to make the day a real success.

Joan Nixon

The Bear Ladies meet with Bishop John Lupaa



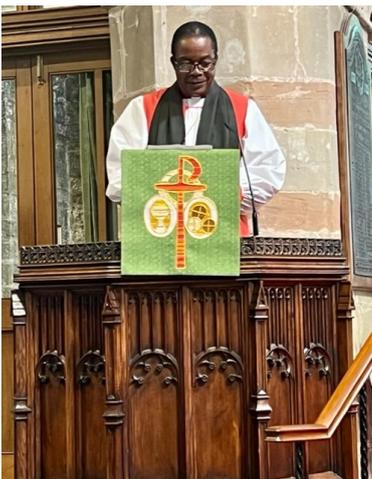
On Saturday 20th August it was lovely to welcome Bishop John and his wife from the Diocese of The Rift Valley who oversees the work of the school and church in Kilimatinde. He was the recipient of a generous donation of £3,000 from The Bear Ladies' organiser Jill Barrett. Bishop John gave a short address outlining the work in Kilimatinde and thanked everyone for the continued support. He particularly thanked Stephen Taylor for his

unstinting support over many decades.

Kits for making bears



A cheque for £3000 presented by the Bear Ladies to Bishop John to support the work of the hospital in Kilimatinde.



The Bishop of the Rift Valley the Rt Revd John Daudi Lupaa at Stranton 21st August

Bishop John visited Stranton on Sunday 21st and preached the sermon, he afterwards met with members of the congregation.

It was also a delight to welcome Stephen and Julie Taylor (former vicar of Stranton Church) as they were passing through, catching up on their family news. While Stephen is no longer the Archdeacon of Maidstone in the Diocese of Canterbury, he's taken on the role of Diocesan Secretary (in effect the M.D.) in Canterbury. So he's not coasting into a gentle retirement.



Thank you to Stranton Church

A continued thank you to Stranton Church for its long-standing commitment and support of the village of Kilimatinde in the Diocese of the Rift Valley. The Kilimatinde Trust was created by the Reverend Stephen Taylor in 1997 when he was Vicar of Stranton Church and he continues to be the chair of the charity today. It was so good to be in Stranton Church with Stephen and the Rt Rev John Lupaa, Bishop of the Rift Valley, who preached the sermon.

Since the creation of The Kilimatinde Trust there have been many and various activities and projects including a link with Manor School and St John's Secondary School in Kilimatinde, plus a visit from apprentices at Hartlepool FE College to Tanzania to help build a new classroom. Also a huge fundraising effort by the town of Hartlepool to enable a fresh water dam to be built. There have been many exchange visits of Hartlepool hospital students, doctors and nurses, plus local government councillors and officers, ministers, choirs etc.

The latest Hartlepool initiative has been to establish The Bear Ladies Group which has created an easy to follow pattern to use pieces of African fabric to produce colourful teddy bears for sale. The sales so far have raised £3000 to support the victims of burns in the Burns Unit at the Kilimatinde Hospital.

The Bear Ladies project has been supported by individual crafts people and group in the town. Donations from other groups of beautifully hand-crafted items including other knitted and crocheted pieces help to raise funds. The Bear Ladies are extremely thankful for the encouragement and sharing of skills. Complete bear making packs and completed bears are available at the Simple Weigh Shop in Hartlepool. The pattern can be download from the Kilimatinde Trust website, please visit www.kilimatindetrust.org.uk. You can find out more about the Trust or how you can help, by visiting the website.

The Bear Ladies are hosting a Community Craft Café in the Duke of Cleveland Pub, TS24 0QY, every Wednesday between 10am and 1pm, all are welcome to share drinks and cakes. Bears and bear packs will be available for sale - come and enjoy the company and hear more about the Kilimatinde Trust.

Love and prayers
Jill Barrett

Baptisms of Adam, Robyn (Luna), Autumn and Alexis Farrow on 31st July at Seaton Carew



After testimonies from Adam and Robyn, the initial part of the baptism service was in church.



Although it was a grey and cloudy day the whole family braved the sea for their baptisms.

Warm drinks and cake for all who attended from Stranton to support the family was much appreciated.

May God's blessings fall on Adam, Robyn, Alexis and Autumn.

Baptisms Sunday 18th September



Paul, Ray, Stella, Coby and Amber all renewed their baptism vows plus Shila was baptised in a rough sea near Newburn Bridge. A group of supporters from Stranton and family were there to witness the proceedings. Everyone returned to church for the final words, giving of a candle, worship and blessing before cake and a hot drink.

Stella is immersed.





Baptism declarations and promises were made by Shila with her sponsors Angela, Stella and Steph.

Joy and tears for Shila after her baptism



Shila presented with a candle to represent 'the light of the world'.



The entire group had an anointing of oil to seal this special occasion.

J.A.R.

Congratulations to Stella on her amazing A level results and blessings for her studies at Oxford.



**Are you planning a special celebration or party
and looking for a venue?**

**Have you thought about
St Matthew's Community Centre?**

**We have 2 large halls which can accommodate up to 140 persons
as well as 1 large and 2 small kitchens for your catering needs.**

**One hall is even big enough to house a bouncy castle –
ideal for children's parties.**

**We also have our own private car park and some outdoor space if you fancy
al fresco fun for your guests.**

**If you would like further information please call:
Trish Playfor (01429 894006) during office hours,
or Carol Laud (01429 290290)
and we will be happy to help.**

**Steven McConnell
Roofing Contractor**

37 Greta Avenue
Hartlepool
TS25 5LE

Tel: 01429 221784

Fax: 01429 281609

Mobile 07850 925183

*Member of the National
Federation of Roofing
Contractors*



THE CARPET DOCTOR
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

www.thecarpetdoctor.co.uk



TELEPHONE
01642 566551
Mobile 07770 451111



Victoria House
FUNERAL SERVICE

Under the personal guidance of



Carl Mean
Dip FD, MBIE



Apolena Wilson
Dip FD, MBIFD



Andrew Evans
MBIE



Andrew Gardner
Dip FD

TELEPHONE: (01429) 234777 • 26 VICTORIA ROAD, HARTLEPOOL TS26 8DD
WWW.VICTORIAHOUSEFUNERALSERVICE.CO.UK

Hartlepool & District Hospice

Provides free palliative care for patients.
Offers of voluntary help are always welcome ,
as are donations.

Please contact us at:

**Alice House Wells Avenue
Hartlepool. TS24 9DA
Tel: 01429 855555**



Stranton Business Centre

Accountancy, Taxation and Payroll

49 Stockton Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1TX

Telephone: 01429 280444
Email: office.admin@strantonbusiness.co.uk
www.strantonbusiness.co.uk

Joanna's Poochies Paradise

147 Elwick Road
Hartlepool
TS26 9BW

**Pet Shop
&
Dog Grooming**

01429 270056

K. W. Monkman Building Services

Joinery, Glazing, Property
Repairs & Building Work

Reg. Office:
104 Elizabeth Way
Seaton Carew
Hartlepool



Telephone:
01429 277385

**BRABINER
CARPETS**

**249 – 251 YORK ROAD
HARTLEPOOL
TS26 9AD**

TEL: (01429) 272298

Established for over 75 years



Proud to support Stranton Church News

Please get in touch with your Print requirements

- DISC TO PRESS - PC & MAC • COMPUTER TO PLATE • FULL COLOUR PRINTING
- LAMINATING • PRINT MANAGEMENT • DIGITAL COPYING & PRINTING
- FULL FINISHING SERVICE • PUBLISHING & RETAIL

10/11 LOWER CHURCH STREET HARTLEPOOL TS24 7DJ

Tel: (01429) 267849

www.atkinsonprint.co.uk • enquiries@atkinsonprint.co.uk

LET US HELP YOU GET THROUGH YOUR LOSS

We'll guide and assist you through all the funeral arrangements.

Call us 24 hours a day.

**MASON'S
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
01429 862021**

**129 Park Road, Hartlepool.
TS26 9HT**



**Do you need a
Helping Hand?**

Our Stranton care team has been providing award winning quality home care since 1989.

We offer you a one to one live in care service which enables you or your loved one to remain at home with compassion and dignity.

**To find out more, call:
0808 180 1033 or visit:
www.helpinghands.co.uk**

**Keith Walker
Ophthalmic Opticians**

**28 Victoria Road, Hartlepool
Tel: 01429 275551**

Boys Brigade Summer Camp Fun

Motor Racing!



 4th Hartlepool Boys' Brigade 6 h · 🌐 Games in the sun 😎

 4th Hartlepool Boys' Brigade 35 m · 🌐

Camp fire, bushcraft, toasted marshmallows and sing songs 🚢



We're now safely back from camp after a brilliant week away. Everyone had a really great time, and I imagine there'll be a lot of sleeping getting done today! See you all in September 🚢



Sunday Club News!

The Sunday Club has been very busy these last few months. Here are some of the fun things we've been learning about:



Rebekah, Lorelai, Daniel and Tyler really enjoyed making crowns as they learned about the brave Queen Esther.



Daniel, Rebekah and Melissa really enjoyed making some slime as we learned about Jonah and thought about what it would be like inside of a big fish! We created a lot of mess though!



Callum, Jayden and Tyler all enjoyed making puppets as they learned about Saul changing his ways and becoming Paul.



Rebekah, Daniel, Callum, Jayden and Tyler went on a taste journey as we sampled some food from different countries that Paul journeyed to on his missions.



We had Italian Pasta, Greek Honey Cakes and Turkish Fruit Tea!



Kate
Stranton Sunday Club Leader

Magnify

I am at that stage in my life were I can no longer read the small print! I have to use reading glasses.

Wow, what a life changer, everything is now bigger and clearer!



God gave me a word this week - 'Magnify', I immediately thought of a magnifying glass, then my readers!



When we let worry and anxiety or even fear become our focus we are magnifying the wrong thing. When we magnify God when we worship, that puts Him in His rightful place. We begin to realise He is so much bigger than the very thing we are worried about!

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

Jeremiah 32:17 NIV

<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/jer.32.17.niv>

Nothing is too difficult for God - whatever your struggle, whatever the giant you are facing, I challenge you to magnify God, make Him your focus, offer the very thing that is causing you so much discomfort and leave it at His feet, then see it make a difference in your life. God will become closer, more real.

“O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt his name together.”

Psalms 34:3 KJV

<https://www.bible.com/bible/1/psa.34.3.kjv>

“I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify him with thanksgiving.”

Psalms 69:30 KJV

<https://www.bible.com/bible/1/psa.69.30.kjv>

Ang Hall



4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

HM The Queen



Our late Queen Elizabeth II was the patron of the Boys Brigade and in 1977 when I was a young warrant officer she visited Hartlepool as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, I was on parade near the railway station and saluted her as she drove by. Whilst doubting that Her Majesty would have remembered me, I still recall those few seconds with pride and joy.

On the evening that she passed away an expert on the television suggested that like Alfred the Great or Richard the Lionheart she should be remembered with the title of Elizabeth the Steadfast – which is part of the Boys Brigade Motto – ‘Sure and Steadfast’ from Hebrews Ch. 6 v19.

As Patron of the Boys Brigade she set a great example as she was sure (confident) in Jesus and steadfast in her faith, my hope is that all our members will be likewise.

As part of Boys Brigade tradition black ribbons were attached to our Company Colours until the official mourning period is over.

God Save The King.

We have room for new starters in all our sections if you know any Lads who would like to join please send them along to St Matthew's Community Centre on a Monday or Friday evening.

George Bainbridge

Community of Hope

“Around the World” Summer Holiday club 2022

How can you go “Around the World”, but stay in the same place? It was easy for the Communities of Hope Summer Club at St Matthew’s Community Centre which provided themed games, stories, music, crafts and activities for children of primary and early secondary school ages over the summer holidays.

The Club was run in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council, staffed by CoH team members, sessional workers and volunteers. It offered up to 20 child places a day, four days a week, for the first four weeks of the Summer holidays. The Team served lunches and provided materials for visiting children from across the town, and each week a different country theme was used. At the end of each week’s sessions the children took away with them a recipe card and the ingredients for a simple meal to make with parents/carers at home. Preference was given to children normally in receipt of free school meals.

We looked at Egypt and the story of Moses in the basket and the ten plagues, while also making models of pyramids.

Another of the themes involved Ancient Rome and a particularly enjoyable activity was dressing up as rich Romans attending a feast.

Here is a picture of Rebekah acting in the style in which she wishes to become accustomed



Brownies

Would you like to find out what we do at Brownies?

There is an opportunity

on the 10th October 2022 6.00pm

**at St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick Road
for girls, aged between 7 - 10 years**

**An adult must come with you at the start to register
you
for the evening**

Birds of a Feather

The sea has been very rough and the waves mountainous. Glancing across to the Heugh Breakwater you can see the height of the waves crashing across from the unsheltered side. The seabirds have been driven inland by the weather and heavy rain. It is too dangerous to go onto the beach as my dog always goes into the water and she would be taken out to sea.

So we go to the park instead, there we find the gulls:- herring gulls with some of their chicks, which become very vocal at the sight of a big black Labrador. Herring gulls don't look like gulls until their fourth year but do live quite a long life - one is known to have lived for 32 years.

Although the weather has been so harsh the house martins are still here but in lesser numbers. The swifts flew back to Africa in mid-August, quite a lot of them this year, and it is much quieter now. I have had a sparrow hawk taking some of the young fledglings this summer, many more than usual, it must have a nest nearby.

The gardens are still thick with foliage and the insect life (bird food!) is still buzzing around – lots of bees too. I have upped the food I put into the bird feeders, but will fill up the hoppers as the months get colder. This year I have seen a lot more butterflies visiting my plants and bushes. I suppose as we get warmer summers we'll find different species coming into our gardens. I have had a lot of nettles this year which attract a wider variety of butterflies – peacocks, tortoiseshells, red admirals and smaller blues with their brown females. Please don't cement over your gardens for carports or parking!

Soon the hedgehogs will be getting sleepy and I'll sort out some hides for them for a few months. The dog doesn't bother them, she learnt her lesson as a pup, she got covered in fleas!

Even in winter there is life in your garden however big or small – just be quiet and still - you'll be amazed at what goes on. You will also find renewal of faith sitting peacefully with your Bible notes and prayer book, as God's wonderful work carries on around you.

God Bless
Ann Courtenay

Andy and Kati Walsh: July 2022 **churchmissionsociety.org/walsh**

Dear friends,

We're pleased to report that we're on track as we approach the five-month milestone in Florianopolis! As a family we feel that we're connecting well with people from different parts of the community. Eva is doing very well at school, making friends and coming home from school speaking more Portuguese each day. Our focus in this opening period has been to initiate relationships with appropriate Christian leaders across the city to enable us to better engage in outreach and evangelism into the hard-to-reach communities. The headway made in this regard over the last three months has inevitably helped us to settle quickly, make friends and of course integrate into the culture. Consequently, this has helped us to understand the local challenges and the main areas of need.

As we became more closely acquainted with our church leaders at Vineyard Floripa, and they more closely understood who we are and the scope of our work with CMS, the elders approached us to become "Leaders of Mission". We are delighted to take this appointment to reinforce our missional focus in the church and form part of the leadership team. The settings where we will be active will be diverse. However, our objectives in terms of outreach, evangelism and discipleship will broadly be the same. As a couple we feel very much affirmed for the work we will be involved with here in the long term. Therefore it's with great satisfaction and anticipation that over the next 12 months+, we see our work unfolding across the following five areas: Street Evangelism – We have been asked to co-lead this activity, which is already underway through the Vineyard. The plan here is to develop the upcoming leaders who are involved and for the ministry as a whole to have a greater impact in reaching the lost in the suburb where the church is located. While people we meet hold a broad concept of God and Jesus, very limited numbers of people have recognised their need to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. It's exciting to be part of this ministry because people are so receptive to the gospel and receiving prayer. It's therefore a dynamic environment for encouraging and practising spiritual gifts. With members of our Vineyard mission team we're visiting a local favela called Siri.

It was through forging a relationship with Pastor Guimarães, who leads an Assembly of God church in Siri, that we were able to securely access this favela. Without making this essential contact, going into this favela really would be a bad idea given the links to serious crime and gang involvement. On one occasion with the pastor we were invited into a family's home. We shared time getting to know each other, more closely understanding the local issues and praying together. It's clear that there's been violence, deprivation and hopelessness here. With a high proportion of children here, the pastor has identified that work with them as a priority in this favela. At this stage, given the complexities and risks, we move forward slowly on this area, while we get to know the pastor better and pray about if/how we should move things further forward. We have been teaming up with a local missionary called Gilson Batista, the leader of Projecto Siloé with a 30 year track record of evangelism into drug rehabilitation centres. These are rural and dispersed venues which adopt a Christian ethos. Typically groups of 25 to 40 men

and women gather to receive Christian input under their timetable of activities. Depending on the venue, there is opportunity to share testimony, preach the gospel and participate in informal church service. It's so lovely to see certain residents take up instruments and lead worship. This is another dynamic situation where many people are broken and in despair. Given the cultural orientation here in contrast to our experience in the UK, we find people really come with a fervency in their attitude when seeking Christ.

On one occasion when inviting people to respond to the offer of prayer and in making a commitment to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, most if not all the residents took paces forward as they sensed the Lord's presence. Outreach and evangelism at regional hospital Sao Jose is now a regular activity where we join Pastor Paulo Prado and a team who pray in pairs for the lost and the sick.

Andy is inclined to be present at the A&E ward, which often opens up opportunities to pray and share God's love. It can be quite difficult here of course given the difficult situations people arrive in. Therefore, occasionally we sense it's best just to hand out a Christian tract, be present and "on-hand" here.

Our final area is prison ministry attached to Associação Delta led by Pastor Antonio Alvenir, who is very well regarded given his 40-year track record of prison ministry. Having completed introductory (chaplaincy) training, we're awaiting prison clearance to access the establishments operating new COVID-19 regulations for visitors. Pastor Antonio confirmed that generally prison ministry is where there's the greatest need, yet the fewest Christian people willing to help. This while prison ministry is the most fruitful and rewarding. Clearly this is an area we hope will gather pace in the next few months while Kati continues to pray whether she is inclined by the Lord to go into the women's prison. In summary there's already plenty of opportunity here for us to continue learning and developing. Thank you all for your support and we'll keep you posted. Here's a short video to share more details and provide some prayer pointers: <https://youtu.be/VCAzFZoMOao>

Andy and Kati

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400.

There are newsletters from CMS partners which cannot be published on display in the entrance porch to church.



Caring for seafarers
around the world

Mission to Seafarers Centre on Seal Sands Road needs your help

Mission to Seafarers are appealing for volunteers. PreCovid they had 22 volunteers, now they are down to 8.

As a volunteer: You need to be over 18. Don't need to drive but it could be helpful. You would get training on how to use the cash register. Your main task would be to make seafarers feel welcome. You would serve behind the bar/shop counter. You could be trained as a ship visitor. If you have a driver's license you could be asked to transport seafarers to and from their ships. After sufficient training you would be working with another volunteer unsupervised. You would be responsible for locking up after you have finished your shift. You would be trained in manual handling (of objects, not people). We would fit our opening hours around your availability.

We would however like to open the centre on weekends, and Monday and Thursday evenings from 5 pm.

If you can help please contact Aidan Webster on 01642 546424 or 07507 493749

e-mail: ntees@mtsmail.org web-site: <https://>

www.missiontoseafarers.org/the-tees-north-and-hartlepool Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/aidan.webster.397>

'Do not let Sunday be taken from you,' said Albert Schweitzer, the great missionary and Nobel Laureate. 'If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan.'

If you're wondering
where to find me,
I'll tell you
where I'll be,
I'm in that
inbetween bit,
that space where
sky meets sea,
in the whispers
of the trees
and the edges
of your dreams,
close enough
to almost touch
but slightly out of reach.
I'm in the moon
and in the stars
but never really far,
and always, always
I'm there
inside your heart.

Words by Catherine Proton

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Come, Holy Spirit, send forth the heavenly
radiance of your light...*

*Cleanse that which is unclean, water that which
is dry, heal that which is wounded.*

*Bend that which is inflexible, fire that which is
chilled, correct what goes astray...*

*Grant the reward of virtue, grant the
deliverance of salvation, grant eternal joy.*

Amen

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

October

Seeley Bruce
Mia Bruce
Kat Bruce
Rob Butler
Lydia Boyd
Ewan Craig
Autumn Farrow
Georgina Parvin Guerreiro
Joan Hill
Betty Hotham
Ken Shepherd
Will Spoons
Pam Stockton
Gehan Wanduragala
Jean Waller

Congratulations

to

Tim and Vicky Craig
on the birth of
Felicity Alice Mary

Craig

Born on 18th August

Wedding Anniversary

October

Peter & Maureen Anderson

Duncan & Trish Playfor

Clive & Angela Hall

Congratulations

For Baptisms for

Adam, Robyn (Luna), Autumn and Alexis
Farrow on 31st July

Shila on 18th Sept

Ray, Paul, Stella, Coby Clark & Amber on 18th
September

If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email

admin@stranton-church.org.uk

or phone 864006.

All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.

Dates for the Diary

Dates for October

October

1 st	2.00-4.00pm	Coffee, Cake & Company St Matthew's CC
2 nd	9.15am	St Luke's Harvest Festival
9 th	11.00am	Stranton Harvest Festival
10 th	6.00pm	Brownie's Open Night St Matthew's CC
13 th	7.15pm	Learning Course 'Meeting the Holy Spirit', with Revds Andrew and Michelle St Luke's
15 th	6.30-10.00pm	Harvest Ceilidh St Matthew's CC
22 nd	10.00am	Luketide Coffee Morning
23 rd	9.15am	Luketide with Bishop Paul
	10.45am	Joint Service at St Aidan's with Bishop Paul NO 11.00am service at Stranton

Notice

On **23rd October** there will be **NO 11.00 am** service in Stranton Church. We are invited to join the congregation at **St Aidan's** for the **10.45 am** service when Bishop Paul will be preaching. Bishop Paul will also be preaching at St Luke's 9.15 am service.

**JESUS DID NOT SAY
THAT THE WHOLE
WORLD SHOULD GO
TO CHURCH, BUT HE
DID SAY THAT THE
CHURCH SHOULD
GO TO THE WHOLE
WORLD.**

- GREG LAURIE

Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 or 07305 550009 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk
To contact clergy by E-mail	E-Mail: clergy@stranton-church.org.uk

Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 07564 029010

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

Reader

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 07972 342890

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

Church Wardens	Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279 Rohan Wanduragala 62 Clifton Avenue 223751
PCC Secretary	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Treasurer	David Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279
Asst. Treasurer	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Loyalty Treasurer	Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road 268007
Notice Sheet	The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)
Signpost Editorial	Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527
Signpost Advertising	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Signpost Subscription	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
St Matthew's Booking	Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.

