Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

May 2023

What a journey!!

When we arrived in Hartlepool and moved into our Burbank home over 19 years ago we could have never imagined all we have seen God do in us and through us.

Looking back and going down memory lane, Stranton and Burbank quickly became our extended family, we knew no one, but instantly we were loved and were welcomed.

As we lived with the people of Burbank, God showed us and helped us to see people through His eyes and showed us how to reach out to those around us.

Loving your neighbour when they don't want anything to do with you can be a challenge.

As we loved those who lived on our street, friendships were formed and trust was built up, games were painted in the back alley. Bishop Tom came to visit and stood on the chess board, causing neighbours to come out the back to see what all the fuss was. A neighbour came out without his shirt on, took one look at the Bishop did a quick turn around and came back out fully clothed!

Stranton and Burbank working together at gardening and litter picking on the estate, open air services and carol singing at our neighbours doors were such powerful examples of love on the streets and Church family working together.

The verse which comes to mind as we look back and remember is

'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another' John ch 13:35.

Thank you for loving our family through illness, heartache, the ordination journey and so much more. We will miss you all so much. We are excited about what God is going to do next with us. Do please keep praying for us.

Jesus says "A new command I give you, Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another".

Love when it's easy, love when it's hard, love when you don't understand each other!

Love when you don't get anything back in return. Love well.

God bless. Clive and Angela

Mothers Union

I had a pleasant drive last Saturday to Durham to collect our Durham Dioceses Newsrounds for Spring/Summer 2023. I'll try to pop one through your letterboxes so you can keep up with what's happening. In the Newsrounds are dates for your diaries, please pray for these meetings which are services – we'll hear feedback later on in the year.

Meanwhile I'm getting more and more mixed up with Bank Holiday Mondays and will have to let you know when we will meet again.

Please pray too for those of our members who are not well. Doreen Lathan is in West View Lodge and others are unwell. Please pray for our Branch – I was surprised to find we aren't a big branch, but are many more in number than other branches!

Thank you God Bless

Ann Courtenay



From the Home Front



I am very much a visual person – I think and imagine in pictures, and I often feel that God uses what I see around me every day to talk to me. As I travelled around New Zealand I frequently saw visual metaphors for our Christian walk through life...

My sister and I were driving to a town about 30 miles away by a different route. We followed the signposts knowing they would get us there. As we drove along the road became narrower and we went up into a range of hills. We turned a corner and suddenly the tarred road disappeared! We were driving on a bumpy gritted road, miles from



anywhere, no houses to be seen, no other vehicles, no more road signs. We had to slow down, but we were certain this was the correct route, so we cautiously continued. We had to be careful – gritted hilly roads can be slippery and although we initially could see the road ahead, the sides of the road were steep edged with trees in places and had ditches alongside.

At points along our way there were deep water filled potholes to be avoided plus we had to take additional care as the road had sharp bends and we had no idea what was around them!



We met a huge tractor with a trailer of equipment and had to pull our large truck as far into the side as we could manage (avoiding ditch and trees), in order for it to pass us on the narrow track without a collision. This challenging drive lasted for about 15 miles before we rounded a corner and re-joined a tarred road, passed a farm, then for the last couple of miles we drove on a 'proper' two way marked road once more.



I felt as if this whole journey equated to life. I have the directions - my faith and the word of God and Jesus in the Bible. I journey along safely with support from church, friends and family. But unexpected events can change the look of the journey at any time. My life may need to slow down as all the usual parameters change, I may need to overcome dangers, challenges and even

potential disasters, trusting always that I know my direction is correct and I must stay with it... Even when I have no idea how long I will be on this difficult route I know that at some point everything will once again return to 'normal', the road will become easier and possible twists and turns will be more obvious and can be avoided.

Trusting in the promises of God, following His word is a map to navigate life's roads, knowing that you are being directed and led (even when it seems no one is there!), by a Father who loves and cares for you more than you do for yourself.

J.A.R.

Coronation Quiz

- **C** Which **C** is the Greek word for Peter?
- **O** Which **O** was Ruth's sister in law?
- **R** Which **R** was Jacob's eldest son?
- **O** Which **O** was a friend of Job and has a book in the Bible?
- **N** Which **N** was healed by Elisha?
- **A** In which **A** place was the term 'Christian' first used?
- T Which T doubted Jesus?
- I Which I was the second son of Abraham?
- **O** Which **O**, a saint, was a King of Northumberland?
- **N** Which **N** was a prophet to David?



It is Finished

It's good Friday, I had been at a reflection of the cross in our church. After the service had ended I knelt at the foot of the crude wooden cross, I looked up to see long nails sticking out exactly where Jesus hands and feet would have been. I imagined Jesus hanging there and his blood dripping on to my head. The words going over and over in my mind were.

"It is finished". The very words that Jesus our Saviour cried out after hanging in agony on the cross. John Ch 19: 30 'When he had received the drink, Jesus said "It is finished". With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.'

What did He mean when He said those words? Jesus died so that we could have life, life in all its fullness.

John 10:10 'The thief comes only to steal kill and destroy. I have come that they have life and have it to the full.'

Jesus died so that we could be cleansed and forgiven. 1 John Ch 1:9 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'

Jesus died so that we could be healed. Isaiah Ch 53: 5 'But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.'

The punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Jesus died so we would no longer be condemned. Romans Ch 8:1 'Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.' How often do you and I live under this cloak of condemnation? Constantly second guessing if Jesus does forgive us, if He really did take the guilt of our sin.

Our lives would look so different if we lived from Jesus words "It is finished"

Instead of walking towards the cross constantly wondering if we could do anything to rid ourselves of guilt and shame. Wondering if we could make ourselves worthy of his love. What if we walk from the cross knowing that He paid the ultimate price and took it all on Himself.

This Easter let's worship our risen saviour and live in the freedom that Jesus died for. Galatians Ch 5:1 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' **Ang Hall**

PCC Burbank Report March 2023

Ward Jackson CE Primary – I took a Baptism service on the 5th March, for one of the teachers who had returned to school after maternity leave. Vinnie was very active on the day, but was peaceful and quiet in all the important parts of the service, so all went well. I took my last Worship in school on 22nd March. This was quite an emotional day. We sang my favourite songs. 'We are the children of Ward Jackson School' and 'Conkers we all love Conkers'. I did three magic tricks and then the Year 6 class sent out a girl who did a magic card trick for me, and thanked me for showing school lots of magic tricks. I was given chocolates, flowers and cards. All the children gave me a 'High 5' as they were leaving!

YF - I am delighted that Rachel has become a leader and Mark is in the process of becoming a new leader. I put an advert in Signpost magazine for another female leader, to help with the gender balance of the team. We all went to The Pulse, which is a youth event held in Durham Cathedral, on the 26th March. The guest was the magician John Archer who was on Britain's Got Talent show.

Stranton Church – I am sorry to say the communion class for two families did not start, due to lots of different reasons. A new course will be set up after Easter.

I have attended the uniformed organisations evenings for the last time. I have always enjoyed attending these evenings; a boy came to me at the end and said "I won't forget how you gave me lots of popcorn from your magic bag!". You can see the enjoyment and even the respect which the children are shown and copy. The leaders do an amazing job.

Community – The coffee and cake drop in which has moved on to the toasties and sometime breakfast bun drop in, is still well attended. There are lots of good conversation and the request for prayer is almost a normal part of the time together. On Friday as soon as I sat down a lady said "My mum's not well, can you say a prayer for her?". I have been along to Sid's Café on a Monday at St Matthew's CC, but my Mondays have been very busy of late and I was not able to attend as much as I would have liked.

Homegroups - Alpha Homegroup continues fortnightly, it is great to see new Christians growing in faith. We have handed the teaching book over to Adam who became a Christian on the Alpha Course. A lady who did not finish the Alpha Course does keep in touch with us and she is now attending St Luke's church on a more regular basis. I have been running the Burbank Home group and recently one man was able to have his flat refurbished and we all went along to celebrate the new look flat and said a prayer of blessing on it.

Safeguarding – Coming up to the APCM we will have a Safeguarding check list sent to us by the diocese. We will see what new things alongside the usual check list that needs to be completed before the APCM. We may be chasing you for various information!

Personal – I hope you all know by now that I am leaving. I look forward to having my last service in Stranton Church on 23rd April. I will then have a week to pack the house and on the 2nd May we will pack the furniture into the removal lorry and on the 3rd May move into our new Vicarage in Withernsea. I totally love my job here, and have enjoyed being at Stranton for just short of 20 years. I did think I would be here till I retired, but God had a different plan. I am excited about becoming a Vicar in my own church. My licensing is on 22nd May which may be difficult for people to attend and I fully accept that people may be unable to make that long journey. There have been a few people saying they would like to come along. As it is a little church, please can people let me know if they are attending. I do have a list of hotels, Bed and Breakfast and self-catering accommodation venues in and near Withernsea.

Regards Rev Clive Hall



All Saints, Stranton Church St Matthew's Community Centre Burn Valley Residents Association Invite you to join them to celebrate the

Coronation of King Charles Coffee or Tea, and Cake will be served

> Saturday 6th May 2023 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adults £1 Children Free Contact St Matthew's Hall 01429 894006/07305 550009 Or Carol Laud 01429 290290

Venue St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick Road

James Lawson 28th March 1961- 28th March 2023



James was born on 28th March 1961. He was the 4th and youngest child. James lived in Hartlepool all his life but his birth certificate does state he was born in a Newcastle Hospital.

He went to Grange Primary school and after passing his 11 plus he attended the Grammar school. He did like sports and played rugby. After school he went into Mental Health Training. His first job was in Winterton Hospital, a psychiatric hospital north of Sedgefield. He then worked in different hospitals, St Luke's in Middlesbrough and also James Cook.

James did attend Stranton Church, he meet his wife Lisa at the church Youth Group.

It was at a Hartlepool football game, over the noise of the crowd that James proposed to Lisa. She said 'Yes', and even though her mum has a bit unsure because Lisa was only 19, they were married on 9th May 1987, in Stranton Church.

That event was also recorded in the Hartlepool Mail, because it was a wedding that had been taken by a lady Deacon called Christine Streeter. Quite unusual in those days.

James got a new job in James Cook Hospital and he had completed his

first day well. The second day he couldn't go to work because Kate was born in James Cook Hospital and James was in the office asking for permission to have a few days holiday.

Their holidays didn't stop, they just took Kate with them. There was another trip to Africa but while there Kate became poorly and they had to take her to hospital. This hospital had poor facilities and someone advised them to move Kate to a military private hospital, which they did, and Kate recovered.

Lisa would suggest going on holiday to places like Alaska or India and she did ask James where do you want to go on holiday. James said 'how about Cornwall!'. That became a running joke whenever they discussed holidays.

James loved having pets and especially a dog. He would go for really long walks with the dog.

Another thing James loved was watching cricket, He even took me to Chester le Street cricket ground to watch an England game. Kate worked out that James became so engrossed with the game she could ask him to agree to things that he may have usually said no to.

The Lawson household was known for its social parties. They had a Doctor Who party and Lisa was dressed as Tom Baker. They had Eurovision parties, again people dressed up. All except James. He would keep himself busy with the BBQ or being the drinks man.

James was a family man devoted to Lisa and Kate. He was very protective of them. He was a quiet man who didn't like a fuss and he had a dry sense of humour. He liked to just spring information on people, an example of that would be when King Charles was on TV, he announced 'I have met him, he came to open up a hospital wing or something'. He meet him years ago but it was just a few weeks the family got to hear about it?

He loved Stranton church he was a regular attender. One thing he liked to do was time the preacher and tell them how long they had been. Kate attended church on Easter Sunday. This was because James had bought all the children in church an Easter egg, and Kate wanted to give them out. That sums up both James and his family very well.

James and Lisa have now been re-united in Heaven with their God who loves them and calls them his own.

Clive Hall

Ward Jackson Easter Service 29th March





Welcome to our Easter Service Ward Jackson Church of England Primary School Wednesday 29th March 2023

Order of Service

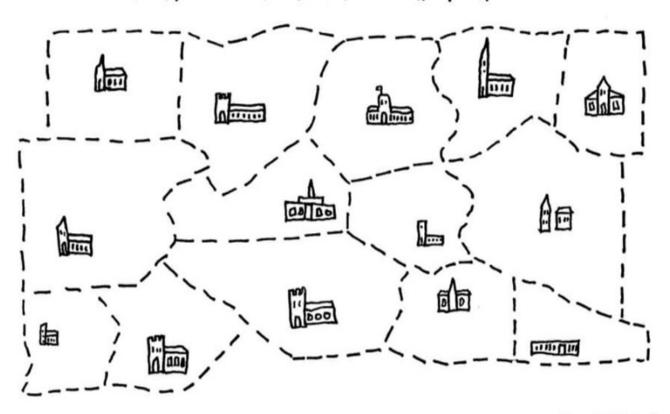
Song: Sing out an Easter Song Prayer Reading 1 – John 13 Hosanna & Melodicas – Tugboats Early Years Reading 2 – John 19 Jesus is alive – Norlina Class Easter Jubilation – Aurora Class This is Amazing Grace – Wingfield Class Reading 3 – Matthew 28 Alive – Blanchland Class Song: Greatest Day in History Closing words







THE PARISH SYSTEM THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO PARISHES. EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN CHURCH. EVERYBODY GOES TO THEIR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH*



*UNLESS IT IS TOO HIGH, TOO LOW, TOO LIBERAL, TOO EVANGELICAL, TOO CATHOLIC, TOO MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, TOO UNBIBLICAL, HAS TOO MANY BELLS AND SMELLS, HAS TOO MANY SMELLS, HAS SERMONS THAT ARE TOO LONG, HAS TOO MANY CHILDREN, HAS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN, HAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO OLD FASHIONED, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO HAPPY CLAPPY, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A WOMAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A MAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A BIT ODD, HAS SERVICES THAT START TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS REALLY BAD COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICES, HAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE PEWS, HAS SERVICES THAT CLASH WITH SUNDAY LUNCH PREPARATION TIME, HAS SERVICES THAT DON'T USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT TOO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT TO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER OR ISN'T THE CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY HAD IN MIND

CartoonChurch.com

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





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



249 – 251 YORK ROAD HARTLEPOOL TS26 9AD

TEL: (01429) 272298



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

Bereavement Support Update

Those who are interested in being involved in the proposed Bereavement Support Group attended a meeting in St Matthew's Community Centre on 1st April. Eleven people from Stranton and St Luke's attended and two others from St Aidan's have also expressed interest in the group, but were not able to attend the meeting. This was an amazing turnout and was very encouraging, showing that there is a belief amongst members of all our churches that there is (or at least may be) a need for bereavement support. Revd John was there to give support and guidance and it proved to be a very productive time in which to share ideas and gain a general sense of the purpose and feel of the venture.

It was envisaged that the group's meetings would initially be on a monthly basis and would be very informal, giving people, of all faiths or none, suffering from any sort of bereavement, whether recent or in the past, a safe space to talk and listen to each other. We decided that the small hall at St Matthew's Community Centre would be an appropriate venue, as it would afford an informal setting with small tables arranged for people to sit in small groups, with access to tea/coffee making facilities.

Going forward, we agreed the following steps:

- To make contact with the Hospice for advice
- To investigate whether or not other churches in the diocese offer this sort of service
- To look into the issue of safeguarding
- To decide on a recruitment/application policy for those wishing to be involved.

We are planning another meeting at 2pm on Saturday 22nd April in the ASDA room at St Matthew's Community Centre and would welcome any comments, questions, suggestions or ideas about the group. Revd John, myself (Stranton) and Maggie Hammond (St Luke's) are happy to discuss it. We would like to thank all those who have expressed an interest in this ministry and those who have already approached us with their own experiences, views and ideas.

Pam Stockton

Images of Clive and Angela over the years in Burbank and Stranton





























In nearly 20 years in Hartlepool Clive and Ang you have had a huge impact on so many individual lives, Burbank Community and Residents, Texan Youth Workers, Foodbank, Ward Jackson School, Uniformed Organisations, YF - the list seems endless. Your love, care, insight and support has been appreciated and you have blessed so many. We will not forget you.

May God continue to bless you and your family in this new walk. Thank you for your faithfulness and your faith....

Coronation Quiz Answers

N A T I O	 Which C is the Greek word for Peter? Which O was Ruth's sister in law? Which R was Jacob's eldest son? Which O was a friend of Job and has a book in the Bible? Which N was healed by Elisha? In which A place was the term 'Christian' first used? Which T doubted Jesus? Which I was the second son of Abraham? Which O a saint was a king of Northumberland? Which N was a prophet to David? 	Cephas Orpah Reuben Obadiah Naman Antioch Thomas Isaac Oswald Nathan
-----------------------	--	---

Burn 24/7

On Saturday May 13th, All Saints Stranton is hosting Hartlepool's veryfirst Burn 24/7 event. Running from 3pm until 9pm, the event features sets from Teesside worshippers in a relaxed atmosphere. The idea is to come and go as you are able, and to take the time to join with the Church in worshipping our God.

The Burn movement start in 2006 in Oklahoma, and it's spread throughout the world to create "furnaces" for believers to worship in. In recent years, these furnaces have been set up in Durham, Newcastle, and across Teesside, and this event will be the first in Hartlepool.

We hope to see you there!



BUT THANKS BE TO GOD! GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS RIST. THEREFORE, MY DE BROTHERS AND SISTERS STAND FIRM. LET NOT MOVE YOU. ALWAYS YOURSELVES FULLY TO WORK OF THE LORD, BEC. YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57-58



Boys Brigade



Our Summer program of activities starts next week and we're looking for new members, particularly for our 8-11 age section. If you know someone who might be interested, why not come give it a try.



Easter Activities

On the Parade Sunday we held a bacon butty breakfast prior to the 11.00am Service, this also started the week of Easter Eggheads in which both Anchor Boys and Juniors had the chance to learn the story of Easter and what it means in 2023. Several Company lads assisted in both the games and craft activities.

We also put a display in Stranton Church using First day covers to tell the story of Easter.

Coronation Activities

All our Sections are taking part in crafts celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Anchors and the Juniors are making crowns and a Union Jack out of stickers and the Company Lads are creating Coronation decorations. They will all receive the Boys Brigade Coronation Badge at our Open Night on Friday May 19th. All our Sections enjoyed a night of Lego building taken by our old boy Mr Joe Robinson

Summer Programme

After Open Night all Sections will be taking part in activities including trips to Crimdon Dene, Stranton Church, the Blue Lagoon and McDonalds plus others yet to confirmed.

Open Night

We are holding our Open Night on Friday May 19th starting at 7.15pm at St Matthew's Community Centre where all the Boys will display their skills at various activities and receive the awards they have earned during this Boys Brigade Session.

Camp

Our Company Lads are looking forward to our camp at Fanwood Scout Centre in South Yorkshire. Presently the young Company Leaders are busy finalising the programme - more news soon.

The camp runs from the 24th July to 29th July and so far 14 Lads will be attending.

Summer Fayre

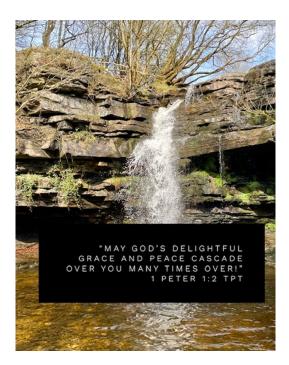
We are holding our Summer Fayre on Saturday June 17th - well known for bargains galore!!!

We will be collecting Bric a Brac after the Coronation celebrations.

New Starters

We still have room for new starters in all Sections, if you know any boys who are aged 6 plus send them along - they'll love it!

George Bainbridge



Hartlepool Holiday Fun Communities of Hope Eggs-sperience



The Easter Eggs-sperience which Communities of Hope ran at St Luke's over four days before and after Easter, was led by Hayley assisted by Maureen and Peter Anderson, David and Angela Craig plus Rachel Hearn along with the help of various volunteers from St Luke's. It was 4 days of fun, games and crafts.





The children became engrossed in the crafts such as making edible faces and butterflies, cards and crosses.

Games were enjoyed by all ages and helped the children to play cooperatively and burn off energy.









A huge thank you to everyone involved. St Luke's were excellent and supportive hosts, Hayley organised and resourced the days brilliantly, the leaders enjoyed themselves and worked tremendously hard. A successful cooperation between the churches and Communities of Hope.

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost

Love without measure



I've been pondering this statement this last couple of weeks!

How do I love people without measure? The measuring jug in the picture has amounts on it. Do I minimise the love I give according to what the person gives back??

Some people are so easy to love! Others not so much!

Jesus sets the perfect example in loving people well.

He loved the smelly lepers. (Rotten flesh smells real bad)

He loved the arrogant know it all Pharisees.

He loved the thieving tax collectors.

He loved the sick and the heartbroken.

He loved the disappointing disciples.

He loved the faithful disciples

He loves us at our worst and at our best.

He loves even when people don't love him back!

"This is how we have discovered love's reality: Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Because of this great love, we should be willing to lay down our lives for one another."

1 John 3:16 TPT

"Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds." 1 John 3:18 TPT

"Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!"

2 Corinthians 9:7 TPT

"But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!" Romans 5:8 TPT

Oh Jesus help me to love well!

Ang Hall

In life, you will fall out with people that you never thought you would.

Get betrayed by people you trusted with all of your heart.

And get used by people you would do anything for.

But life also has a beautiful side to it.

You will get loved by someone you never thought you would have. Form new friendships with people that will establish more meaningful and stronger relationships. And overcome things you never thought you would get over.

We all have chapters that end with people at some point in life.

But take pride in knowing that the very best part of your book is still being written.

- UNKNOWN | | TheMindsJournal

MIND OURNAL

CELEBRATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

May

Barbara Busby Sarah Cartwright Elspeth Craig Kath Harkness Eve Coils Andrew Rogers Michael Thompson Kath Weimer Janice Young







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 May

Sat 6 th May	Coffee & Cake in St Matthew's Community Centre
	2.00-4.00pm
Sat 13 th May	Burn 24/7 Worship Event taking place in Church 3:00 - 9:00pm
Mon 22 nd May	Rev Clive's installation in Withernsea

Birds of a Feather

I had a pleasant surprise a few days ago, I was in the side garden feeding the birds on quite a sunny day, when I saw a tiny blue butterfly. One of my bushes had started to send out its very small blossoms and the little butterfly was making the most of what was on offer. Later in the afternoon I looked for it again, but it had gone – a male – hopefully it will return. Gardening is like that – the best plants aren't the ones you have planted but the ones who have found their own spot!

My family had been here for Easter - the three grandchildren are taller than me now – we looked for plants they had helped me with when they were younger and were happy to find some of them. We did find the daffodils and tulips - the ones planted after Christmas are now flowering well but much later than usual. Gardening in the side garden is very untidy lately, very muddy too! Lots of weeding which will have to go to the tip! Life's like that. We need a good clear out to see where we can help something to grow well and find a beauty naturally.

God gives life in our gardens to encourage our small efforts and as summer comes again we are pleased to find even the smallest flower, bird or tiny butterfly which we can praise our God for.

Ann Courtenay

Who's Who

Church Office Administrator To contact clergy by E-mail	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF 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 E-Mail: clergy@stranton-church.org.uk			
Priest in Charge Email:	Revd. John Bell 34A Westbourne Road revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk	07512 481115		
Reader Mary Tones	40a Blakelock Road	07972 342890		
Churches Together in HartlepoolSecretarySusan Atkinson, St Mary's RC				
	Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive Rohan Wanduragala 62 Clifton Avenue Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road David Craig 57 Claremont Drive Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road The Office (Notices by the preceding Wedne Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road m Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road g Trish Playfor Church Office	234279 871266 234279 871266 268007 esday) 265527 871266 871266 894006		

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