

**Stranton and Burbank Community**

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# **SIGNPOST**



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

October 2023

# Why are we here? (The musings of a priest)

Over the last few weeks, I have been challenged by the question “Why are we here?”

Why are you here? Why am I here? Why are we here?

It is probably something you’ll hear me talking about quite a bit over the coming months because it’s something I think is really important.

It’s a question that has many strands over many different areas.

We need to ask ourselves as individuals ‘Why am I here?’ Why am I in this church, in this community, serving in this particular way? What is it that draws me here? It might be that we feel deeply called to a particular church and a particular ministry, which is great. It might be that we feel called to serve but don’t know how and this was an obvious way to get involved. Maybe there was a gap and no one else to fill it. Maybe it’s something we’ve just been doing for years (maybe decades!) and haven’t really thought much about it. These are questions to ask of yourselves as you explore whether there is a better way for you to serve.

Then there is the bigger question: “Why are WE here?”

What is the purpose of our church in this community? What are we here to do? How are we supposed to serve? I use ‘church’ in the loosest sense – you could think of this as our individual parishes, our group, our Community of Hope, or any one of the individual activities or services that we regularly hold. You might also think of the wider multi-denominational Churches Together when asking why we are here – many strands, many areas.

Church is the Body of Christ – “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them”. Church can mean all Christians right across the town, or it could simply be two or three of us coming together to pray.

As the Body of Christ we are called to serve our community and to serve the kingdom. There are so many different ways in which we can serve our community as we seek to bring each and every person on a journey closer to Christ, but what, specifically, are we meant to be doing? Why are we here?

Why are you here? Why am I here? Why are we here?

This is what gives us a sense of purpose, a sense of direction, and a sense of belonging and commitment. This is something I’m going to be thinking on and praying into over the coming months, as I seek to understand God’s vision for the church. What does He have in store for us? Why are we here? How can we serve our community/communities in the best way possible? How can we engage with our neighbours, in a loving and meaningful way?

I encourage you all to explore these questions for yourselves as well. God speaks through all of us and he might show us the way through something He says to you. If He does, then I want to hear from you. We’re all in this together, seeking the answer.

So I ask you to think, reflect and pray on one simple question: Why are we here?

Grace and Peace,

**John**

# From the Home Front

Listening to Lectio 365 earlier this month I was really struck by Pete Greig's thoughts about this passage of Isaiah:

"....these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
"I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

**Isaiah 56:7-8 (ESVUK)**

One of the most surprising things in this passage is that the community envisaged by Isaiah is to be marked out by joy (v.7). Not heaviness, but happiness. Not solemnity, but smiles. 'Houses of prayer are meant to erupt frequently with laughter, celebration, singing, and exclamations of delight. Why? Because, as Seraphim of Sarov said, "The Holy Spirit turns to joy whatever he touches"... In other words, any person or community truly filled with the Spirit will overflow with the very joy that effervesces at the heart of the Trinity.'\*\*\*



I listened twice and read these pieces three times. What kept striking me was the emphasis on happiness, smiles, laughter, celebration, singing, delight, effervescent joy- NOT heaviness or solemnity. Where the Holy Spirit is allowed in, everything touched by Him is turned to joy, and that joy is the very heart of God, Jesus and the Spirit. Too often in my life I have attended churches, which are shrouded in solemnity, devoid of joy. The Holy Spirit is not allowed in or welcome – no happiness or laughter is found there. Needless to say these are churches with dwindling congregations and no children, as who wants to join a religion that is neither welcoming or with no hope of happiness. I am filled with happiness in church when I sing praises and worship and hear words sent by God through members of the congregation, where the children are accepted for their energy and enthusiasm, high fives and artistic creativity. It is a place where my Father, Saviour and the Advocate dwell, it is where love is and joy can bubble up – a heavenly home on earth.

**J.A.R.**

St Matthew's  
Community Centre  
Elwick Road



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Saturday 7th October 2023

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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## All Saints Stranton Church



Live Music by

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Saturday 21st October 6.30-10pm at  
**St Matthew's Community Centre**

**Tickets £2 for Adults, £1 for Child & £5 for Family Tickets**

It will be a Faith Supper, please bring any drinks you wish. Tea, Coffee and Juice will be provided. Please call the office for tickets or more information 01429 894006 or see Trish Playfor, John Bell, Maureen Anderson Church Wardens and Jacqui Rogers.

Donations needed for raffle prizes, items to make a luxury hamper, a sweet hamper and any unwanted gifts.

Please let Trish know at the office 07305 550009, or speak to:  
Maureen Anderson or the Church Wardens.

## **It's obvious isn't it?** **(The musings of a priest for September)**

This morning I was speaking on one of Jesus' parables – the parable of the vineyard owner in Matthew 20. This is one of the parables I have always found easier to understand because let's face it, many of the parables aren't as obvious and straightforward to understand as we might hope.

Indeed, the disciples often thought the same as well – we know this because they were forever asking Jesus to explain them.

Jesus' response – 'It's obvious isn't it?'

Well actually it's not. A conversation over coffee ensued where one church member said they'd never quite fully understood that parable. The one where all the different workers turning up at different times get paid the same at the end of the day. To me this says that it's never too late for anyone to seek God's generosity. It means that there will be those in heaven who have never given God any consideration until their final moments, yet at the last, they have found God and been welcomed into the Kingdom.

The lesson for me (and for all of us) – don't assume that everything is obvious to everyone. It isn't. Do I speak in metaphors and riddles, or am I clear in what I say? Something for me to think about and ponder on. What about you? Do we speak clearly or do we use jargon, metaphors, and insider knowledge in how we speak, in what we say?

In the engineering world before I was ordained, we were forever using TLAs (Three Letter Abbreviations) for all sorts of things – often they had different meanings for different people. Sometimes (rarely, but it did happen) no-one actually knew what the letters stood for.

Jesus' parables are sometimes the same. They mean different things to different people, and sometimes, just like the disciples, we don't really understand what Jesus was getting at. We need to read his explanation, and endure his frustration, as he says to his disciples, and to us, 'Isn't it obvious?'

And so it is when we talk to others about our faith. We use words that only as mature Christians, with that insider knowledge, do we understand what they mean.

So think about not just what we say, but how we say it. Is it understandable and accessible to others, or do they go away confused by what we say? Do we hit the mark or miss the target completely (to use a metaphor)?

Grace and Peace,  
**John**

## Summer Holiday Club Fun at St Luke's 2023

For the first two weeks in August it was my pleasure to run a holiday club for 5-11 year olds in St Luke's Church Rooms from 10am-2pm Tuesday to Friday, with a great team of leaders to help. On average 20 children attended each day and for those with particular special needs, parents or grandparents stayed with them. At about 12 o'clock we'd sit down and have a hot meal together. For the rest of the time the focus was on crafts and games. When one dad was asked how he found the club his reply was simply 'It was brilliant.' The adults particularly enjoyed having a hot meal. As for the children it was not uncommon for some to come back for seconds or even thirds. Overall there was a lovely atmosphere of children having fun whilst learning a bit more about caring for the environment. The team worked extremely hard to make this happen and I am so grateful to everyone for all their enthusiasm and dedication to the job. So a huge vote of thanks to all the people who made this possible, without which it couldn't have happened.

Blessings

**Hayley Liversidge**

Community Children & Families Worker, Communities of Hope



## Calling all Carol Singers.

Yes, it's getting round to that time of year again. However, this year we're hoping to celebrate Christmas with a Group-wide joint "Carols by Candlelight", in Stranton on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

So, anyone and everyone who enjoys singing or playing an instrument would be very welcome to join the ensemble. We hope to have a couple of rehearsals in the weeks before the service. If you've any suggestions of new songs or carols to try, let's hear them.

If you've any previous experience or just fancy singing or playing with others and you'd like to participate in what will be a joyous event, then please let me know.

**Andrew Rogers**  
07831 314375  
energy.education@btconnect.com



## "Bereavement Support Group

We are starting a monthly Bereavement Support Group at St Matthew's in November.

A space for anyone who has been bereaved by the death of a loved one at any point, and would like to meet and draw alongside others who have experienced a similar loss. Everyone's story is different, everyone's experience is their own. There is no expectation for anybody to share anything they don't want to share.

This isn't counselling. It's not a course.

People can come once, twice, or as often or as little as they want to. It's simply a space to come and be with others.

The group will meet on  
**Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 10:30 to 11:30am, in the Small Hall in St Matthew's Community Centre on Elwick Road."**

# God is holding your hand

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10 N

When we say "yes" to Jesus and follow Him we become his children. As a parent you want to keep your children safe. So one way to do that is to hold their hands. Little ones don't always like that as they want to be independent and will try and wriggle out of your hand, when they do that as a parent you squeeze a little tighter!

God has been talking to me lately a lot about His right hand, so when I read a verse saying He holds me with His righteous right hand, I see Him so big and my hands are so small. I see Him leading and guiding me, gently squeezing my hand for reassurance and a gentle tug if He sees me going down the wrong path.

"Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."  
Psalms 139:10 NIV

Of late I have been asking God to show me His purposes and His plan for my life and I have had this written on my blackboard in my kitchen to constantly remind me that He will lead and guide me.

'You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' Psalm 16:11

The verse says that in God's presence is the only real place we will experience full joy, the joy that doesn't run out or grow old or boring. Jesus has all the pleasures and treasures in His right hand. So why would I go anywhere else looking for pleasures or joy?

Holding hands with someone is quite intimate, you wouldn't walk around town and grab someone's hand and walk with them! You would normally hold hands with people that you already have a relationship with.

Jesus longs for us to be intimate with Him, to let Him come close, to let Him love us and be close to us. Even when we are feeling at our worst He wants us to cuddle up to Him and stay with Him till He speaks into our situation and allow Him to reset our feelings.

Have you ever just sat and asked Jesus to show himself to you?

If Jesus is holding our hand it means He is right next to us.

So I invite you to use your God given imagination and imagine that Jesus is next to you. Now turn to Jesus and look at Him.

What emotion is His face showing? What does it feel like to be so close to Him? What is He wearing? Sit for a while in His company, notice how it feels to be close to Him.

I would encourage you to make that something you do often, be alone in His presence holding His hand. Talking and listening to Him and his instructions for your life.

God promises us that He will never leave us or forsake us.  
God never lets go of your hand.

**Ang Hall**

### All Hallows Eve Quiz

- A** In what **A** was the term Christian first used?  
**L** Name an Old testament book beginning with **L**?  
**L** Name another Old testament book beginning with **L**?
- H** What **H** wrote 'mene mene tekel'?  
**A** Which **A** was Moses brother?  
**L** Name a New testament book beginning with **L**?  
**L** Which **L** was a nephew of Abraham?  
**O** Which **O** was a runaway slave?  
**W** On what **W** was 'mene mene tekel' written?  
**S** Name **S** who was the first Christian martyr?
- E** Which **E** became a queen  
**V** Which **V** is the patron saint of Bee Keepers, he is remembered on 14<sup>th</sup> February?  
**E** Which **E** was the father of Sammuell?

### Communities of Hope

- Play and Praise toddler sessions (FREE) Monday 10:00am-11:15am at St Matthew's CC
- Sid's Kitchen Monday 10:00am-12:00pm at St Matthew's CC
- Mine and Yours at the Well, Women's group Monday 1:00pm-3:00pm at St Matthew's CC.
- Stranton Toddlers Tuesday 9:00am-11:00am at St Matthew's CC
- A Bit of God Time Tuesday 1:00pm to 2:30 pm at St Aidan's
- Friday Drop In Friday 10;00am – 12:00pm at St Aidan's

# Central Group Quiz September 16<sup>th</sup>

Teams from Stranton, St Luke's and St Aidan's met up in St Luke's Rooms and gave their brains and memories a workout answering questions set by Jordan. A fun evening was enhanced by a delicious faith buffet. A keenly fought contest resulted in 'Team Fish and Chips' winning. All proceeds from the evening were to support the work of St Aidan's Kitchen,



# Kilimatinde and The Bear Ladies

Thank you all for a warm welcome to Stranton Church.

I am not new to Stranton Church, having worshipped there while my children were growing up. It was lovely to be back and invited to say a little about my upcoming journey to Kilimatinde in October.

## Background

In 1995 Bishop Alpha Mohamed from the diocese of the Rift Valley in Tanzania visited Hartlepool and was welcomed by Stranton church congregation and clergy. The vicar back then was Stephen Taylor. That first connection inspired and enabled various activities and projects, and a deep connection with people and place. Some of the projects were a link with Manor School and St John's Secondary School, Tanzania, a visit from apprentices at Hartlepool FE College to Tanzania to help build a new classroom. A huge fundraising effort from the whole town of Hartlepool to enable a dam to be built. Many visits and much support from Hartlepool hospital for the hospital there and other exchange visits of students, doctors, nurses, local government councillors and officers, ministers, choirs etc. In 1997 a charity was formed to enable these projects and visits to happen. The latest Hartlepool initiative has been to establish the Bear Ladies who have used their skills to create a pattern to sew together pieces of African fabric to create colourful teddy bears for sale. The sales so far have raised £3000 and this was given to Rt Rev John Lupaa when he visited in 2022 and will be used to support the victims of burns in the newly opened Burns Unit at the Kilimatinde Hospital.

The Bear ladies aim to raise £3000 per year to enable all the patients in the little eight bedded unit to receive the first 10 days of treatment free. This means that there is a greater survival rate for these life-threatening injuries.

## Update

Kilimatinde village and the diocese, has seen much development over the years, due to the generosity curiosity and dedication of the people who have visited, the friendships made and the prayerful caring from those who have never even seen the place, or the people. I was struck by the line in the hymn, 'I the lord of sea and sky', sung by the music group while I was with you in Stranton. The hymn references holding people in your heart, and that's just what you've done in continuing to remember the Diocese of the Rift Valley, one of the poorest regions.

The school, St John's, is seeing excellent results, and young people are gaining qualifications to enter into work and or go on to higher education. The Theological College is thriving and training people in serving God - teaching, preaching and serving each other in community. The churches are growing .

The dam has transformed the local environment and is known in the area as Taylor's Dam, it is exceptionally beautiful and a haven for wildlife and birds. Water is still needed though, wells still need to be sunk and pipes laid etc. All the hospital wards now have running water along with the hospital accommodation.

There will always be things to do and work to be done, but God is in the midst of it, and we trust and rest with this.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Trust or how you can help please visit the website [www.kilimatindetrust.org.uk](http://www.kilimatindetrust.org.uk)

If you would like to buy a bear, or make a bear, we meet in the Duke of Cleveland pub on the third Wednesday of each month, and we also do workshops, and visits to organisations schools and care homes on request. You can find us on Facebook under Bear Ladies. You can download the bear pattern from [www.kilimatindetrust.org.uk](http://www.kilimatindetrust.org.uk).

**Jill Barrett**

## All Hallows Eve Quiz Answers

A In what A was the term Christian first used?	Antioch
L Name an Old testament book beginning with L?	Leviticus
L Name another Old testament book beginning with L?	Lamentations
H What H wrote 'mene mene tekem'?	Hand
A Which A was Moses brother?	Aaron
L Name a New testament book beginning with L?	Luke
L Which L was a nephew of Abraham?	Lot
O Which O was a runaway slave?	Onesimus
W On what W was 'mene mene tekem' written?	Wall
S Name S who was the first Christian martyr?	Stephen
E Which E became a queen	Esther
V Which V is the patron saint of Bee Keepers, he is remembered on 14 <sup>th</sup> February?	St Valentine
E Which E was the father of Sammel?	Elkanah

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## What is the Foodbank?



Hartlepool Foodbank is owned by Hartlepool's churches:- it has been very effective at extending God's love in Christ to some of the most vulnerable people in our town with support from Christians and Church communities in Hartlepool. As a founding member of Hartlepool's Food Council, we have strong links with

Hartlepool Borough Council and other organisations working for the relief of poverty, many of which refer people to the foodbank for help according to need.

What is it seeking to do?

We aim to reduce the need for foodbanks and hope to do away with them altogether, by helping people to take control of their home situations and finances, through working with initiatives such as West View Advice & Resources providing people with holistic support, and by employing an influencer/organizer to raise awareness of the causes and remedies of food poverty. We are also greatly looking forward to Oxford Road Baptist Church establishing a community shop (early next year), adding this to the other partner organizations that share our aims and work with us to address food poverty.

What are its immediate needs?

The last 12 months have however been very challenging, with immediate problems still needing to be addressed. Changes in welfare support after *Covid* lockdowns and the "cost of living crisis" have increased considerably the demand for emergency food relief, and have also increased the cost of providing the food itself. We have already spent more than three times the amount of money we had budgeted to buy food this year. In the short term this shows no signs of abating. We have responded by increasing our opening hours and reorganizing our warehouse operation.

Volunteers!

These and our new strategic direction have generated new opportunities for volunteers - as well as helpers making food parcels and listening to clients, we need at least another van driver and another trustee to help direct the organization.

Churches' continuing support

We would love to strengthen our links with our churches. Although increased donations, of both food and funding, are very welcome (please do!), would you also like an employee or trustee to come and speak to a meeting or group that you belong to or support? .

Above all, pray for our work and our clients - and engage with us...

For more information (and to donate): [www.hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk).

For enquiries about becoming more involved

volunteering: [info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk), Telephone 01429 598404.

# Greetings church family from Warm Withernsea

Thank you for all your prayers for us.

We have all settled into a new rhythm of life here.

Things we have learnt so far..

- Withernsea seagulls are louder!
- Withernsea has its own weather system - you can be cold here, but drive ten minutes down the road and it's boiling hot!
- Everyone is friendly and wants to chat! So no just popping to the shops, you may be out a while!
- As it's a small town you can't always get what you need so it's a trip to the city or rely on Amazon.

Church is going well. God has been challenging us to pray and gather others in the town to pray.

He has led us to two lovely ladies who open up their home every Wednesday night to pray. They have been praying for the town for 20 years. We have joined them and their meeting has now grown as others are coming to worship together and seek God.

Angela has made good friends with another two ladies and they meet to pray around the town and for their families.

Clive met with two men (one a Christian biker, the other a popular café owner) to pray around the town-this led to God incidents and God conversations.

This week we started our own prayer meeting in the church.

Withernsea town is surrounded by fields and the farmers have now harvested and have started to plough the fields. We believed that God has said that is the same in the spiritual realm.

Prayer is ploughing the ground as without ploughing there is no produce.

Without prayer there is no purpose.

God bless you all

**Rev Clive and Angela Hall**



## Woodturning workshop, Hartlepool

22 Aug · 🌐



Woodturning are you inquisitive to not only find out what it is, or would like to have a go. Well here is your chance of FREE TUITION if you live in the tees valley and aged 19+ then get in touch. See flyer for more details.

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# INTRODUCTION TO WOOD TURNING

Individuals aged 19+ are welcomed along to try out one free wood turning session

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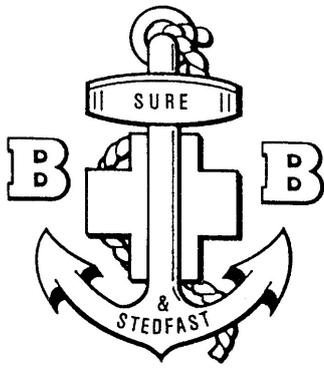


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# Boys Brigade



## Camp - Lowest Temperature Evah!!!!

A temperature of  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  - it was at the Snow centre in Manchester which we visited whilst at our camp at Fan Wood Scout Centre, South Yorkshire.

Other activities the Lads took part in were kayaking, rope climbing, games, camp fires plus visits to a Military Museum, Old Trafford, The National Mining Museum and paintballing.

A good time was had by all.....

### Social Diary



#### 4th Hartlepool Boys' Brigade

1 h · 🌐

Hey everyone! We've had an amazing first day at our annual summer camp in West Yorkshire! 😊



After settling in, we wasted no time in kicking off the fun with some team games on the field.

After enjoying our burgers, we set off for the highlight of the day - conquering the thrilling Ninja Warrior course in Leeds!

We're currently playing board games (can anyone beat Mr B at draughts?!) drinking hot chocolate and enjoying some of Jack's homemade Golden Syrup cake 😊

Can't wait to see what tomorrow brings! Stay tuned for more updates as we make the most of this unforgettable BB week 🌟🏕️

### Media





🌟 Day 2 at 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade Summer Camp: Exploring Manchester and Snowy Adventures! ❄️ ⚽️ 🚀

After a good breakfast, we set off early to Manchester, and what a day it was! Our first stop was the Imperial War Museum, where many of our lads got their hands on wartime-style whistles – a decision that may have tested the sanity of our leaders! 😅

Next up, we took a walk to Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, and you could see the pure joy on some faces, though some of us might not have understood the attraction as much! ⚽️ 😊

But the real highlight of the day was our adventurous trip to Chill Factor! 🏂 ❄️ The snow sports activities were a blast, and even the freezing temperatures couldn't dampen our spirits as we enjoyed every second on the slopes! 🌨️ ❄️

After a delicious evening meal, we headed down to the field for more fun activities! Frisbee, Smite, and even crafting our own rockets kept the excitement going! 🚀 🎈

And the night's not over yet! We're gearing up for supper and more games.

We're having a blast, making unforgettable memories, and can't wait to share more updates with you! Stay tuned for Day 3 of our summer camp adventure! 🌟



🌿🏃🏊 Day 3 at 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade Summer Camp: Conquering Heights and Waters!



Greetings everyone! What an action-packed day we've had! It was all about facing challenges and having a splash-tastic time! Let's dive into the highlights! 🌿🏊

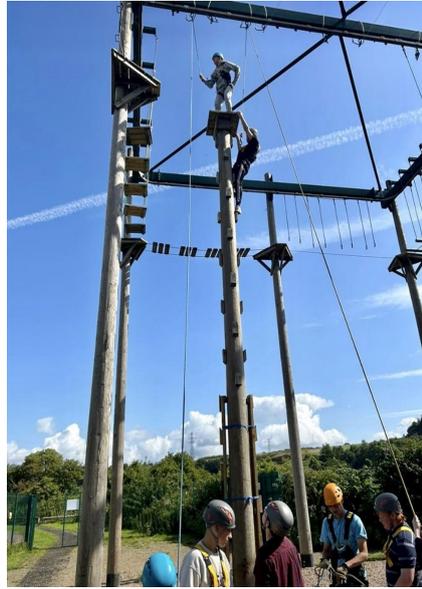
We kicked off the day with an adrenaline rush as we tackled various high ropes challenges! Abseiling down, rock climbing up, and conquering a high-level assault course – we really pushed our limits 😊💪

After dinner, we headed to the lake for even more adventures! First up, raft building – teamwork at its finest! Our innovative creations floated on the water, and we laughed and cheered as we took part in some games and challenges 🏊🏊

Then came kayaking, where we paddled our way through the serene waters, enjoying the scenic beauty around us! 🏊🌿

Back at camp, not even the rain could dampen our spirits! We embraced the weather and engaged in our annual Potted Sports competition! 💧🏆

Stay tuned for more updates as our summer camp adventure continues!



Hello everyone! We're back with updates from the last two action-packed days of our annual summer camp!

Day 4 began with an incredible journey into history as we visited the National Coal Mining Museum! We ventured hundreds of meters underground, exploring the former colliery and learning about the courageous miners of the past. It was an eye-opening experience we won't forget! 🧑‍🎓💡



The afternoon took us to Calypso Cove Waterpark, where we unleashed our inner thrill-seekers and enjoyed splashing fun on the exciting rides!

As the sun set, we faced exciting team challenges, fostering teamwork and camaraderie amongst us all!

Day 5 brought more excitement as we ventured to the local zoo! 🐒🦉 The lemur walk was an absolute favorite, as these playful creatures left us in awe! 🐾🌿

In the afternoon, we tested our tactical skills in a thrilling paintball session! Strategies were devised, friendships were strengthened, and laughter filled the air! 😄😄

Now, gathered around the campfire, we're savoring the warmth and joy of toasted marshmallows and s'mores! 🍡🔥 The perfect way to end another unforgettable day! ✨🌙



## Harvest Festival

All sections made friezes to display at the Harvest Festival.

A Bacon Butty Breakfast was held at St Matthew's CC for both morning Services congregations on 24<sup>th</sup> September before Church Parade.

🏕️ Camp 2023 🏕️

That's all for this year! Thanks to everyone involved for another amazing camp. All lads now home safely, if not a little tired! Well done everyone!

We look forward to seeing you all back in September for the start of the new session 🚢



## Promotions

We have promoted Adam Sparks and Lewis Downing to Lance Corporal, they will be given roles of responsibility as they grow into this rank.

### New Boys Brigade Session

We are busy recruiting at the moment, our details are below:

Anchor Boys every Friday from 6.00 - 7.00pm at St Matthew's CC

Juniors every Monday from 6.30 - 8.00pm at St Matthew's CC

Company every Friday night 7.15 - 9.00pm at St Matthew's CC

Subs are £2.00 per night.

If you would like to know more why not visit our Facebook page...

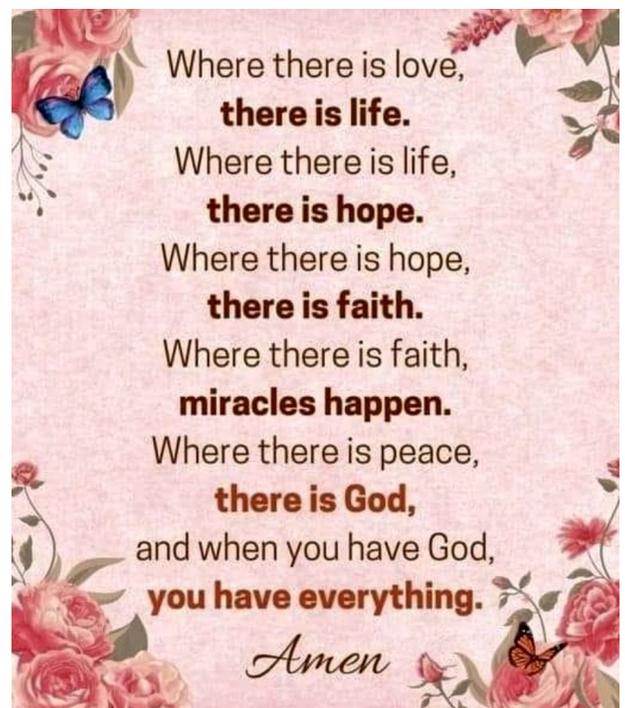
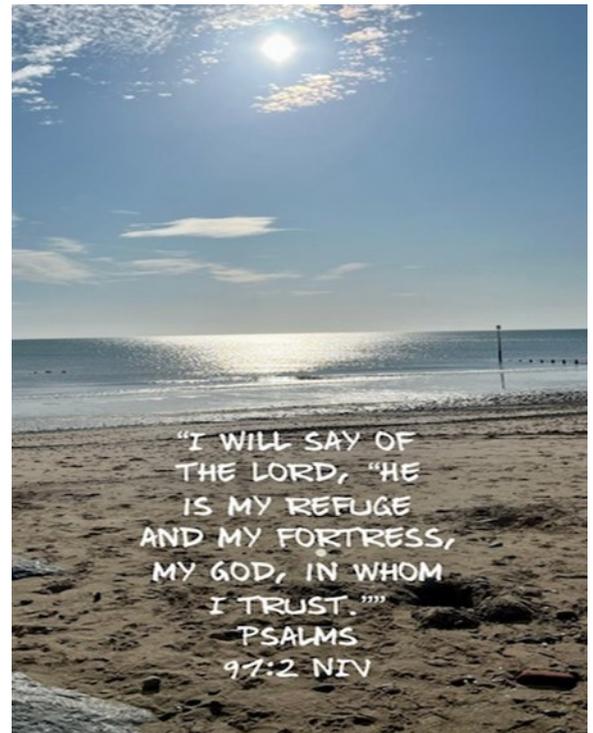
**George Bainbridge**  
mobile:07816445829



## THERE IS NO GOODBYE

There are moments on this planet  
Periods of special time  
That connects us with our loved ones  
By revealing certain signs  
For when the vibrations of the earth  
Disturb the balance in the air  
A message will reveal itself  
For you to act upon with care  
Then the forces will surround you  
To help you if you ask  
And smooth a path for you to walk  
Unhindered in your task  
For your loved ones will be watching  
Each day when you awake  
To assist you in your struggles  
And the errors you might make  
Pay attention to their presence  
And listen with both ears  
For the whisper that will call to you  
And the advice that you will hear  
Have courage in your footsteps  
And use their wisdom without fear  
To settle all your worries  
From life's troubles that are near  
For you travel not alone in time  
On the journey that you take  
As their spirits stand-by to guide you  
On the choices you now make  
So, do not say the word 'goodbye'  
To loved ones when you part  
As they will tap you on the shoulder  
To cause a tremor in your heart  
And when that movement stirs your soul  
Get up and march ahead  
As they are looking down on you  
To see where you might tread  
For through your senses a light will shine  
To show you where to turn  
As the departed gently teach you  
On the lessons you must learn

**Maura Kelly**



# CELEBRATE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**to**

**October**

Daniel Bell  
Rev John Bell  
Seeley Bruce  
Mia Bruce  
Kat Bruce  
Rob Butler  
Lydia Boyd  
Ewan Craig  
Rebekah Grosvenor  
Georgina Parvin Guerreiro  
Joan Hill  
Ken Shepherd  
Will Spoons  
Pam Stockton  
Gehan Wanduragala  
Jean Waller



## **Wedding anniversaries**

Peter & Maureen Anderson  
Duncan & Trish Playfor



If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email  
[admin@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk)  
or phone 894006.

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

## Dates for the Diary

### October

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct Coffee & Cake at St Matthew's CC  
MacMillan Fund Raiser 2:00-4:00pm

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct Joint Service at St Luke's **9:15am**  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Oct Ceilidh at St Matthew's CC 6:30-10:00pm

### November

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Nov All Souls bereavement service 4.00pm  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Bereavement Support Group  
Small Hall in St Matthew's CC 10:30-11:30am

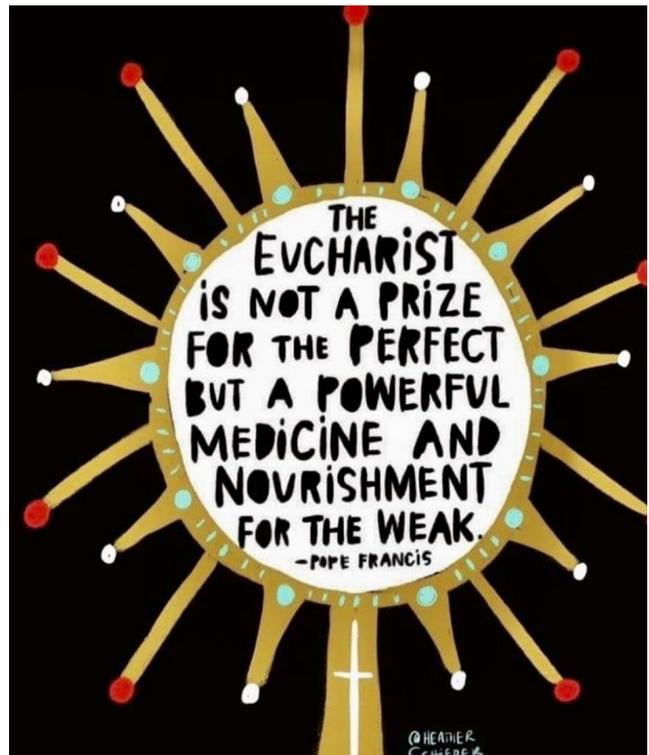
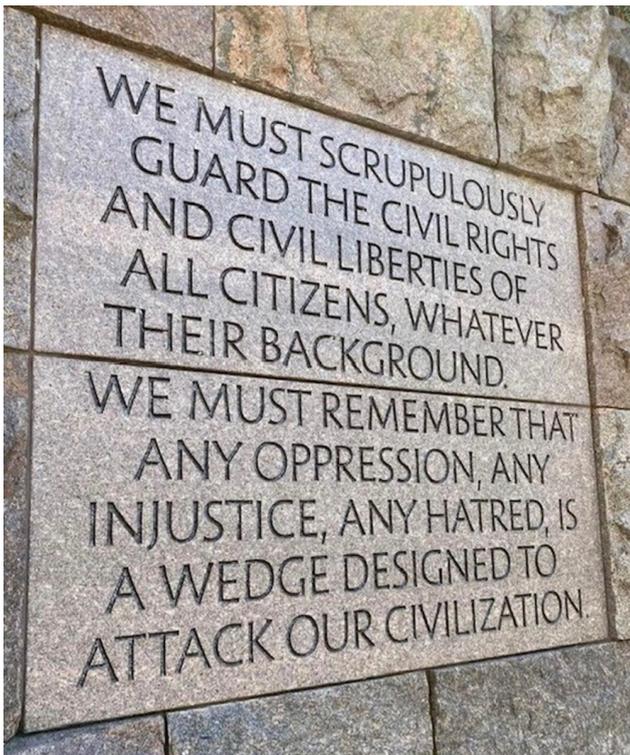
### St Luke's

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 'St Luketide Coffee Morning and Gift Day' from 10.00 till 12.00  
in the Parish Centre. We shall have the usual stalls, this event will  
welcome everyone for a cuppa, a chat and a delicious cake!

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct Patronal Service at St Luke's. It's a Group Service starting at  
**9.15am.**  
Please come and join us for refreshments afterwards.

## El Camino Pilgrimage

Steph Boyd is currently walking the last leg of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain, in aid of the charity The Headlight Project. Pam Stockton, will collect any sponsorship money for Steph on 1<sup>st</sup> October.



# Who's Who

<b>Church Office</b>	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
<b>Administrator</b>	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 or 07305 550009 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk">admin@stranton-church.org.uk</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.stranton-church.org.uk">www.stranton-church.org.uk</a>
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 Revd. John Bell  
**Email:** [revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk)

**Reader**  
 Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 07972 342890

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 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

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**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.*

