

SIGNPOST



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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday

8.30am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am. Service (with children's groups for 3-14s)

1st Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month will be Morning Worship

3rd Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month will be Lighthouse Service

11.00am. Morning Worship at Burbank Community Church,
at Ward Jackson School.

7.30pm Youth Fellowship (14 years +)

On the Third Sunday of each month, **Messy Church** takes place at St Matthew's Community Centre at 4.00pm. This is a time for parents/carers and children to have fun together, doing crafts and various activities, based on a bible theme.

Occasionally, (2 or 3 times a year) the congregations at Stranton and Burbank all come together for the 10.30am service, and this is followed by a bring and share meal.

Wednesday Morning

10.00am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
at St Matthew's Community Centre.

Please note that the next **Messy Church** will be on **17th March 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Keeping the Sun at the Centre

I recently read a short but provocative book about ministry. One of the images that the author described was the image of the earth orbiting the sun. He then went on to argue that ministers with responsibility for running parishes need to realise they are like the earth and not the sun. Sometimes it is tempting for all of us, particularly those with responsibility, to think that everything revolves around us and to try and organise church life round ourselves. This is not helpful. If anyone is to be the sun it is the Lord Jesus Christ and our personal lives and our church lives should be ordered around him.

I find this image helpful as we move into a new phase of working together in our new Group ministry. Certainly when I came to Hartlepool six years ago I did not anticipate the arrangement as it has emerged between our three parishes. But we are where we are and God calls us to press on together in worship, collaboration and mission. As we do this it's important for all of us to take a step back from time to time and ask ourselves about our priorities and what God is calling us to do.

Over the next six months and probably longer we will be entering a period of transition and change. Elsewhere I have written an article about the need to review our service times. We are really grateful to Rev'd Andrew Craig for all he has done at St Luke's over the last 18 months, but he plans to retire in August and this means some of the changes will come quite quickly. In the midst of this process let's make time to listen to one another and remember that we are all brothers and sisters together in Christ. What's more let's resolve to live our lives with the light of God in the centre.

Love and prayers

Norman

Mothers Union

Spring is on its way and the bulbs are pushing through and flowering - white, yellow and rainbow hues coming forth through my somewhat neglected garden. Sometimes life is like that. We stumble along through winter days clinging on to our Christian faith perhaps through illness or family problems when a fresh thought or a verse of scripture brightens and encourages us.

At our last meeting I had asked beforehand if MU members could bring something and say how it helped or what it meant to them. Some brought photographs of events long passed and we looked at younger versions of ourselves. Some found handouts from times when people would have conversations about Jesus and lamented how much more difficult it seems today. In the photographs we were amazed to see how much hair some men had compared to later in life and at how the fashions of our clothes had changed. I took along some framed cross stitches and tapestries I had worked on during sad and difficult times in my life. They helped me to refocus and made me aware of the prayers and support of my family, church family and my many, many friends.

We missed a few members at our last meeting due to illness, arrangements with family and other commitments. Please remember to pray for each other and our wider MU members throughout the world and our church here in Hartlepool.

Lady Day this year is celebrated here in Hartlepool on **1st April** at St Aidan's Church at 2pm. The day before is Mothering Sunday so it fits in well.

Our own March meeting is on the usual second **Monday, 11th March**, in the Asda Room at St Matthew's CC at 1:30pm.

On **Wednesday 15th May** the Indoor Members Service will be held in Durham Cathedral at 2pm. The Festival Service will also be in the Cathedral on **Monday 3rd June** at 2pm.

Please see me if you would like a MU catalogue to view the Easter cards for this year.

Whilst attempting to tidy up my home, I found a battered old King James Bible, my Nana had given to me when I was seven. It's an Active Service edition from World War 2 – Air Force issue – my father had given her his copy. It fell open at Hebrews 11 and I started to read and was once again struck by verses 23-25. Do read this.

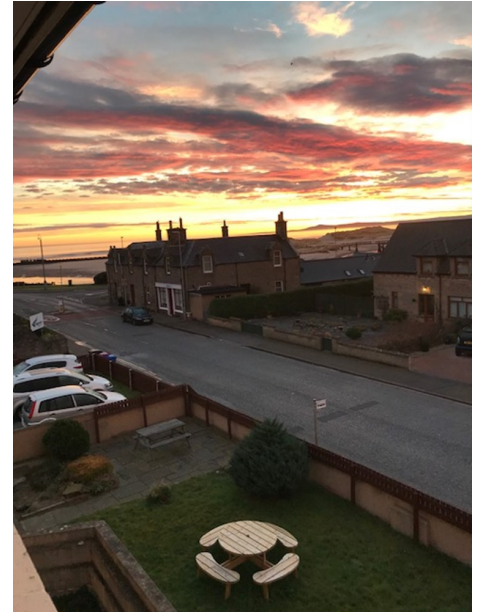
Looking forward to meeting with you next month.

God Bless, Love

Ann Courtenay

From The Home Front

I write this from a third storey armed forces welfare flat in the seaside town of Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth, where we are visiting our daughter, her RAF husband and our two grandsons. Our elder four year old grandson is having sleepovers every night so we are awake early each morning! From the lofty viewpoint we can watch the amazing sun rises over the sea, then turn in the other direction to see the snow on the distant Cairngorms which still seem to tower over the nearby forest!



We, like our daughter and husband, have quickly grown to love this diverse area and the eclectic mix of people. The mainly rural landscape merges seamlessly with military airfields and bases, the sea, the forests, farms and mountains yet the towns and houses don't overshadow each other. Those who live here hail from all over the United Kingdom and abroad. People seem to live together harmoniously, drawing on their miscellaneous skills and talents, cultural backgrounds and traditions, to the mutual benefit of all. It is amazing how many people move here reluctantly – but then don't want to leave....

Our daughter and family have also been won over by this tranquil place with so much to offer families. They are now buying a home nearby and even when our son in law has another posting, this will be the family's home base. They know it is many hours drive from family and friends and major hospitals are an hour and a half's drive away. But they are prepared to put up with the inconveniences and difficulties and adapt to the environment in order to benefit from the peace and beauty of the area, the friendliness of those who live here and the way everyone supports and encourages each other; to leave the rat race behind and enjoy family life in all its fullness. We too are pleased that our grandchildren will be able to benefit from water activities, winter sports, all aspects of nature, plus a more laid back approach to education - even though the distance makes visits a real expedition!

The recent joining of the Three Parishes is a coming together of diverse folk with varied traditions and approaches. But we all come with a love for the same God and the teachings of Jesus, albeit bringing different talents and skills to the melting pot. We bring the best of love, compassion and mutual respect, we know how to support each other and the stranger in our midst, giving security and hope to those in need. Together we will become stronger and how we work through our difficulties and differences will send clear messages to those around us. So let's be positive and determined, but open and tolerant, so that we become a point people are drawn to (maybe reluctantly), yet find they want to stay, despite the obvious negatives - because of the quality of joy and love they discover dwelling here.

J.A.R.

**The Group Celebration with the licensing of clergy for
the Central Hartlepool Group of Churches
led by Bishop Paul
to bless the joining together of the Three Parishes of
All Saints Stranton and Burbank Community Church,
St Aidan's and St Columba's and St Luke's on
Sunday 17th February at St Aidan's Church**



Money Matters:

Thank you, Faith Gap and The Parish Giving Scheme:

I would like to start this article to saying **thank you** to each and every person who has continued to contribute financially to our parish. The great news is that as we look back over the last year God has provided for all our needs and your contributions have enabled us to pay all the bills both large and small. In addition to this we have received two grants and a gift that mean we can build the extension at St Matthew's Community Centre. **Thank you.**

At the end of last year the PCC faced some difficult decisions about our budget. We want to continue to invest in God's work in the parish and beyond. But the reality was that we needed to reduce our budget. A number of folk have experienced changed circumstances either retiring or moving to new places in the country and our income reduced significantly as a result. We therefore reduced a number of items of expenditure in the budget, the main one of which is our parish share, which this year is £30,000. We have also committed to our employees Clive and Trish, paying all our regular bills and to continue supporting mission through CMS link missionaries and the work with asylum seekers. We did however set a budget with '**a faith gap**' of £5000. In other words if everything stays the same we will end up £5000 worse off by the end of the year. Do please prayerfully consider how we together can find a way forward in this.

During March we will be hearing more about this and possible ways forward. As part of the solution we are encouraging everyone who gives to the Church regularly to consider moving to the '**Parish Giving Scheme**' (PGS). I personally have found this really easy to use. PGS collects money via direct debit, claims gift aid efficiently and pays all the money direct to the church within a few days. All the money comes straight to the PCC.

Norman

Baptism 10th February

Sunday 10th of February saw Norman baptise Amir within the Morning Service. It was wonderful for Amir to have the repentance and promises translated as the baptism proceeded.



The Sunday Club children made doves to represent the Holy Spirit which descended at the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.



Newly baptised Amir



Amir receives his Baptism Certificate and Candle from Norman.

Ward Jackson CE School News

Crucial Crew Winners

Huge congratulations go to Slava and Jenny on their winning entries to the 2018 Crucial Crew postcard competition.

'I was really shocked to win!' said Jenny.

'I was very happy to win a voucher' said Slava.



Anglo Saxon Invaders!



On Tuesday 8th January, Sepia and Wingfield classes went to Seaton Carew. We imagined what it would be like to be an Anglo-Saxon invading England and described what we could see and how we felt. We then used this to help us with our writing back in class. All of the children had a fantastic time and they behaved impeccably. Well done Years 3 & 4!

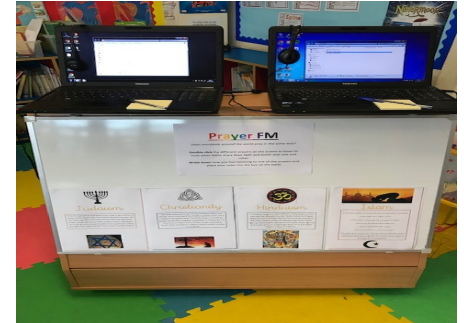
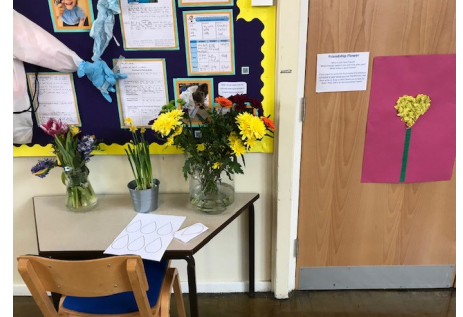
Dukeshouse Wood

The children had an amazing time at Dukeshouse Wood recently. They wanted to share their adventures with you! Families were invited to the Dukeshouse Wood Worship on Thursday in school.



Prayer Spaces Day – 12th February

The whole school attended worship where the sharp eyed youngsters told Mr Akers about the unusual things they could see in and around the Hall. These were prayer spaces where throughout the day the whole school, staff and Governors could take time to find peace and connect with God – to be sorry, thankful, in awe of, to remember, to hear worship, to be kind to others and oneself. See for yourself the variety of prayer spaces.....



An honour for Norman

Rev Dr Norman Shave is to be appointed as a Non-Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral. His installation service is at Choral Evensong on Sunday 10th March at 3.30 p.m.

As well as personal guests, members of the churches where Norman is serving and any other parishes who wish to attend would be most welcome. We will reserve the seats but we do not issue tickets. Please let Church Wardens or Norman know if you wish to attend so that seats will be reserved under the name of the parish

Thoughts for March

Man is like a postage stamp – he gets licked, depressed, stuck in a corner, sent from pillar to post..... but he gets there in the end if he sticks to it.



If you can't sleep, don't count sheep – talk to the Shepherd!

*The Lord
My Shepherd*
Psalm 23

Stop and Think as you read

This is a thought provoking piece – no matter which side of the Brexit vote one stands on, as Christians we are one family who should do unto others as we would wish to be done to us....

In Black and White (A poem composed of British tabloid headlines)

Migrant meltdown,
Migrant madness,
New migrant flood is on its way.

The swarm in our streets,
This tidal wave of migrants,
They are not REAL refugees!

500,000 migrants get social housing,
1 million more migrants are on their way.
Britain's 40% surge in ethnic numbers,
How many more can we take?

EU are kidding,
EU dirty rats,
Think the EU's bad now? Wait til Albania joins.

Bin the Burkini!
Ramadan a Ding-Dong!
Muslims Tell British: Go to Hell!

Rescue boats? I'd use gunships to stop the migrants,
Calais crisis? Send in the dogs.
The Empire strikes back,
YOUR country, YOUR vote,
If you believe in Britain, vote Leave!

So when they ask how we turned
Our faces from the world,
How we turned our backs
On other humans in need,

Tell them it's written
In black and white,
And branded on our empty hearts.

Anna Mazzola

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St Matthew's Community Centre North Side Project

The construction work has now started in earnest.

The images below show the original areas which in future years will be remembered as how things used to be...



The BB Store Hut
& surrounds



The North Side Windows



The Kitchen

The next images show the progress made up to the time of publication of this magazine.

The Work Site - February 6th and February 11th



One interesting point of note during the excavation an old trough was found and it was identified as part of the old showers / bath from the old wooden hut knocked down in the 1960's



**CHURCH ISN'T A
MUSEUM**

FOR GOOD PEOPLE

IT'S A  HOSPITAL

**FOR
THE BROKEN**

Mary Baines' recipes

Moving Cake

- 1 ½ cups All Bran
- 1 ½ cups sultanas or raisins
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 ½ cups SR flour



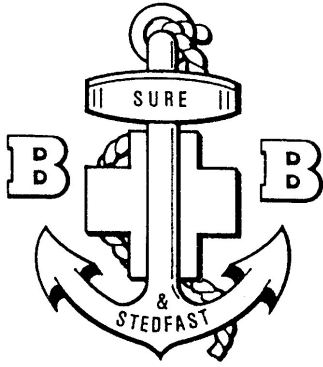
Stir All Bran, fruit, sugar & milk together
Leave to stand overnight
Next day, add 1 ½ cups of SR flour & mix well
Put in a greased & lined loaf tin
Bake in medium oven for 1 hour
Turn out onto a wire tray to cool
Slice & serve buttered

Noodle Au Flauf (from Switzerland)

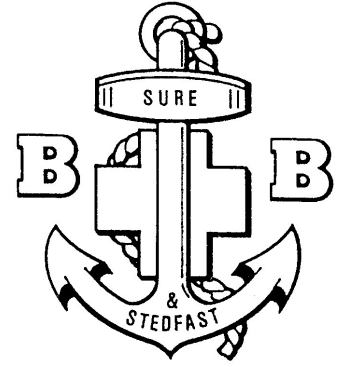
- 9oz plain or spinach tagliatelle
- Salt
- 3-4 eggs
- 40 fl oz (2 pints) milk
- 6 oz cooked ham cut into strips
- Pinch salt & pepper
- 3-4 oz grated Cheddar cheese



Heat oven to Gas 5 or 190C
Cook pasta in boiling salted water till tender – 6-8 minutes
Drain & put with ham strips in a greased oven proof dish (2 ½ pint size, 2" deep)
Mix eggs & milk, season and pour over tagliatelle – if pasta not quite covered add extra milk
Sprinkle with grated cheese
Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown
Serve with crisp green salad



Boys Brigade



Battalion Night

This was held at St Matthew's CC on 16th February.

The Anchors - 21 boys took part in team games involving running, balance, agility and most important off all - FUN!!

Company - over 20 Lads took part in games varying from football, hockey, table tennis to table top games.

March Activities

These will include visits by the Police to the Juniors and Anchors, Junior Hockey competition, Mother's Day preparation with Trish and a Bacon Butty Sunday, followed by the Parade service at Stranton Church, plus we are visiting the Melton Scout Centre in preparation for our Summer Camp.

Easter Eggheads - is on from 1st to 5th April at St Matthew's Community Centre from 6.00 - 7.15pm - we are hoping to use this opportunity to help recruit some new members.

Easter Eggheads - is for Boys and Girls in school years 1 to year 6.

George Bainbridge

Hero or Villain?

One of the issues in the news recently has been people's views on Winston Churchill.

In the bible we can find quite a few people who may be a hero or a villain:-

Moses, who killed a slave master and rescued a captive nation.

Samson, who did great heroic deeds, but as soon as Delilah flashed her eyelashes he wandered off the right track.

David, who slew Goliath, yet he sent a brave soldier to an undeserved death.

Solomon, who was very wise - yet he allowed others to worship false gods.

Matthew and Zacchaeus, who were both corrupt tax collectors and yet one wrote a gospel and the other repaid those he robbed.

Peter, who admitted he was a sinful man, denied Jesus and became the founder of the Church.

Thomas, who doubted Jesus and then took the gospel as far as India.

Paul, who hunted early believers to death and then spread the words of Jesus throughout the Roman world.

It is interesting that all these heroes had many flaws and made bad mistakes yet God and Jesus changed and used their lives with positive and far reaching results.

The question is are we living our lives as a villain or a hero? Makes you stop and think...



CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

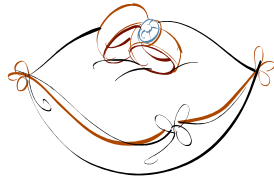
March

Andrew Busby
Erin Connell
Azam Chaichi
Arjeta Demas
James Lawson
Tim Padgett
Malory Wilson-Boyd



Congratulations on your Wedding

Kirsty Playfor & Matthew Waite
On the 2nd
March at Kirby
Hill Richmond.



Congratulations

to Rev Norman Shave
who is to be installed as a Non-
Residentiary Canon of Durham
Cathedral at Choral Evensong on
Sunday 10th March by the Bishop of
Durham.

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

February

Tuesday 26th

7.30pm Buildings and Finance, Claremont Drive

Wednesday 27th

7.00pm Group Council, St Aidan's

March

Tuesday 5th

7.00pm Evening Lent Group, St Columba's,

Wednesday 6th

Ash Wednesday:

10.00am Communion St Matthew's CC

7.15pm Communion St Luke's

Sunday 10th

3.30pm Installation of Rev Norman as a Canon at
Durham Cathedral

Sunday 10th-Friday 15th

Mission Group Visit from Nassau Bay

Monday 11th

7.30pm Standing Committee, The Vicarage

Tuesday 12th

7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel

7.00pm Deanery Synod

Sunday 17th

4.00pm Messy Church, St Matthew's CC

Monday 18th

7.30pm Lighthouse Planning, Browning Ave

Monday 25th

7.30pm PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel

Sunday 31st

Mothering Sunday:

9.30am Bacon Butties

10.30am Lighthouse Service with Parade

April

Mon-Fri 1st-5th

6.00-7.15pm Eggheads After School Club,
St Matthew's Community Centre

Sunday 7th

10.30am Joint Service followed by APCM &
shared lunch



Sidespersons

8.30am

10.30am



3rd March	P Porritt	N Proffit A Craig
10th March	M Hutchinson	S Shepherd K Shepherd
17th March	P Thompson	Volunteers
24th March	I Walker	J Lawson K Lawson
31st March	B Butcher	N Proffitt A Craig

Funerals

10th January	Joan Field
17th January	Mavis Coxson
21st January	Peter Hall
25th January	Jill Kirby
6th February	Thomas Boynton
12th February	Isobel Williams
14th February	Dean Sharp
18th February	Stuart Stelling
18th February	Melanie Stelling



Baptisms

10th February	Amir Salimi
10th February	Olivia Christine Geech-Evans Spencer Charles Goodwin
16th February	Gracie Douglas



Who's Who

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St Matthew's Booking Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

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