

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 **19th May 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

The Power of Prayer, Stillness and Presence

Trinity once said that 'our life was like one big God adventure.' It made me smile because she was right, we're all called to be part of it. I believe that partnership begins, ends and is sustained with prayer, in that place of stillness where God's presence sits easily.

As I look back over the past year, I do so with a grateful heart and a spirit full to bursting. I am reminded of my first trip to Hartlepool and the powerful sense of God's presence I felt. I began to cry during my trip here that day. They were tears of sheer joy, because I knew Trinity and I were being released back into God's hands, rooted into his family. I cannot even begin to tell you the depth of certainty that Trinity and I felt about our calling to this wonderful town and its beautiful people.

On a personal level it has been a challenging few months, but God's Grace and Peace have remained steadfast for me and my family. Prayer has been the blanket that has covered us, it has brought grace, peace, comfort, reconciliation and joy beyond any of our imagining. It is enabling us to own our sadness and grief and hand it gently, bit by bit to our ever-loving Abba Father. For this we, as a family, are so very grateful.

But even greater than this, I know that the prayers of the faithful have brought my beautiful mum and little brother back from the brink of death. I know this because I truly, truly believe in the power of prayer. I have seen and heard of too many answered prayers to have any doubt about that fact.

The phrase that is ruminating within me as I write this article is, 'all I can do is pray'; as if prayer is a last resort, as though it comes last after all of our attempts to find a solution, a way forward, have failed... I cannot tell you how often I fall into that trap! Let's pledge to watch out for one another, share God's story in our lives more often, look for the Risen Christ always and love and pray from that place of stillness and presence.

I know that God has great plans for us as we move forward into the next stage of our Kingdom Journey. So let's help each other remember the importance of prayer and the power of the resurrection in and on our lives. I look forward to this new season, as we come together into our newly anointed and licensed group ministry. I am excited about what God will do through and amongst us as we journey with each other. My prayer for all of us this Easter is that we remember the power of prayer, in that place of stillness where God's presence sits easily.

Michelle

Mothers Union

Looking back at Durham Diocese Newsround, our quarterly magazine, I was reminded of our theme for this year - MU listen, observe, act in step with God. We haven't taken part in this M.U.L.O.A. review yet and I will try to get this arranged soon.

Easter has passed with the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of the Resurrection. On Palm Sunday the donkeys came to our church and the lovely miniature one reminded us of the humility of Christ choosing such a despised beast to carry him into Jerusalem. I can remember seeing donkeys in Israel, still not really cared for. The donkey that came to church was immaculate and carried his pack of Palm Crosses with care and calm.

Many of you who receive the MU revamped 'Families First' hopefully enjoyed it's new format – much smaller in size. I read it from cover to cover after originally being concerned about the changes! Do read it. The item about the Board of Trustees – how they came into MU and what they feel about Supporting Community is both interesting and informative.

Thank you to Canon Norman Shave who led our Lady Day Service at St Aidan's Church. Norman spoke of changing roles as we age and how God still calls and is able to lead us to help and support and witness in our church and community. Thank you to Katherine, the church administrator, who opened up St Aidan's and helped with the catering afterwards.

MU is also working in collaboration with the Clewer Initiative to end modern slavery by 2030. This is a project driven by the Church of England to detect modern day slavery within the communities and to help provide victim support and care. I'll bring more information on this to our next meeting.

Dates for your diary:

Indoor Members Prayer Circle Service at Durham Cathedral

Wednesday 8th May at 2.00pm.

MU at St Matthew's CC

Monday 13th May at 1.30pm.

Festival Service at Durham Cathedral on Monday 3rd June at 2.00pm.

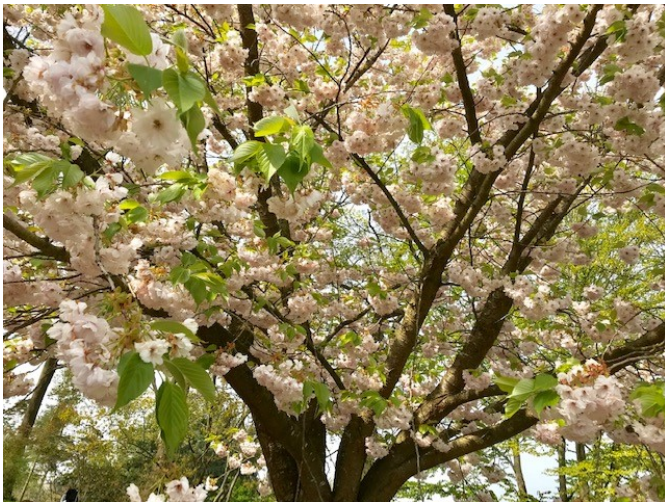
Please continue to pray for our members who through illness have been unable to join us recently and for our church community in this time of change. Please pray for our town too.

God Bless

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

I have just spent Holy Week visiting in the South of England. It was lovely to spend time with our son and his wife in their new home as they prepare for the arrival of their first baby. We enjoyed a day in the georgian city of Bath, where my other half and I thoroughly enjoyed the architecture and our first foray into a city we had never visited before. We continued over to Surrey to visit friends near where we used to live. We spent time in the sunshine visiting the stunning RHS Wisley Gardens, where the blossom trees looked beautiful. Then onto Bluebell Woods at Hatchlands – magical. A visit to the Muslim War Memorial Peace Garden was a quiet tranquil retreat from the bustle of the world around us. The countryside was bursting with new growth, the area was affluent and amenities were plentiful.



On our return to Hartlepool we popped into Sainsbury's in Murray Street and had a rude awakening to the reality of other people's lives here in the area where 'Skint Britain – friends without benefits' was filmed. As we were leaving an unkempt, gaunt man walked purposefully towards the store exit with a bulging carrier bag, but he was challenged by an assistant at the door. On being asked to show what was in his bag he shouted, 'I've paid for it..' and in the ensuing argument and the tussle that took place, the bag ripped and 6 or more packs of bacon fell to the floor and the man rushed out leaving the assistant shaken but unharmed. He was trying to shop lift – bacon is a typical easy steal, which can be sold quickly for cash to feed addictions.

The realities of this side of life are often unknown to many people in the affluent home counties – but we see it almost every day here in the North. We saw only 2 homeless people during our week away – but 3 or 4 in one trip around the shops in the town centre here!

These sharp contrasts brought me up short. It came to me again that Jesus reminded us that the poor would always be with us - yet he told us to treat others as we would wish to be treated; to love our neighbours; feed the hungry and visit the sick and imprisoned and to entertain angels unaware...

J.A.R.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

FINANCE REPORT

The overall financial out-turn for Stranton Church in the year to 31st December 2018 was a small deficit of £36, (2017 deficit – £3,157), but with a continuing underlying deficit in the Church General fund, as shown below.

Financial	Church	St Matthews	Overall
Year	General fund	Community hall	Per accounts
	Deficits	Supluses	net deficit
2017	-8957	5800	-3157
2018	-3451	3415	-36

It should be noted that St Matthew's Community Centre surpluses are agreed as available for the upkeep and development of the Centre, not as a source of funding for general Church activities.

The main reason for the deficit was a fall of 11% in overall income, mainly in total giving by regular members: analysis of the reasons for this were discussed at the PCC in October, at which we identified the underlying reason as significant change in the make-up of our congregations: we have become too dependent over the last ten years or so on a small number of generous donors, who have contributed a disproportionate share of general income: of those members, a significant number have recently died, moved away, or experienced significant change in circumstances leading to a large, permanent reduction in our annual Church income of about £27,000: over £500 per week.

Unfortunately despite some regular and generous individual revisions, for which we are most grateful, individual giving by members of the congregation has not uniformly kept pace with inflation – a common problem for Churches where bank standing orders are a main method of giving but not subject to regular uplift and review by their originators. Accordingly the PCC agreed to join a new national "Parish Giving Scheme" based on Direct Debit mandates which can allow and prompt for annual inflationary uplifts, and the Church is encouraging personal recommitment to resourcing our ministry in Stranton through that scheme, or by members revising their existing arrangements. The new scheme will speed up cash flow especially of Gift Aid tax recovery, and reduce the local administration, whilst also keeping the records completely confidential.

We are also facing inflationary increases in our parish lay staffing costs which now constitute about one third of our budget: Our budget for 2019 has therefore been set by reducing our parish share contribution to Diocesan costs (which is used to meet clergy housing and stipend costs) from £57,000 to £30,000, which would still leave a "faith gap" deficit of around £5,000, of which we seek at least £3,000 to be met by new and updated commitments.

I am immensely grateful, as ever, to those members of the Church who give so generously of their time to help with the day to financial administration, and make my job as treasurer possible, especially to Maureen Anderson (Assistant Treasurer), Barbara Butcher (St Matthew's Treasurer) and Ken Shepherd and his volunteers who organise and supervise cash counting and banking.

A copy of our budget for 2019 is set out below: this shows that to meet the projected deficit we will need increase regular giving by 9% from new or existing members, or from other sources

	Revised budget	
	Church only excl hall	
Regular giving	56,000	63.8%
Tax Claims	12,000	13.7%
Other collections and net fees	14,750	16.8%
Legacy/donations	5,000	5.7%
Hall revenues	0	
total income	£87,750	
Parish Share	30,000	32.3%
Mission: home/o'seas	5,500	5.9%
Ministry costs (families youth & Burban	7,000	7.5%
Church running costs	9,500	10.2%
Church maintenance	750	0.8%
Hall costs	0	
Staff salaries and oncosts	33,000	35.6%
Staff housing	2,000	2.2%
Staff expenses	5,000	5.4%
total expenditure	£92,750	
Surplus/(Deficit)	-£5,000	

Our financial plans for 2019 include some important investments for improvements in amenities and accessibility in our premises: St Matthew's Community Centre has been very successful in attracting grant funding for a new kitchen and accessible toilets, £90,000 of which is shown as received and carried forward in 2018 accounts and these building works should be completed around Easter 2019. The PCC has also approved accessibility alterations in the main Church building, and has started the faculty legal process to carry out various internal works, including door and handrail changes at the front of Church and an accessible toilet and hot drinks facility in what is now the Vicar's vestry, which along with any significant expenditure to be met following our Electrical Safety Review we expect to fund from a combination of Trust Fund monies held on our behalf by the Diocese and grant applications.

David Craig MA ACA Hon Treasurer

STRANTON TODDLER GROUP

The Toddler group continues to thrive in St Matthew's Hall. I run the group on Tuesdays and Clare and Lynn run it on Fridays, both from 9-11 am. It's been great to have Michelle with us too when time allows. Over recent months we have had an influx of new families, many with young babies. It's wonderful to see the children grow and develop week by week through their early lives.

The children enjoy toys, puzzles and crafts in the small hall and we have a baby area for mums with tiny ones. The children love the space in the large hall where they have fun on bikes, scooters, slides and see-saws etc.

The group is a good place for those caring for small children to meet one another, play with their children and encourage them to share and to learn new skills. There is also

plenty of opportunity for Christian adults to share God's love and care.

A big "thank you" goes to Ann who has prepared snacks week by week over the last 15 years and has decided to step down from this role. Pam is now "in charge" and has been working alongside Sarah, Sajad and Maria. Also, Peter and Norman's help in setting up week by week (with Rohan covering when needed) makes the task manageable. It would be an overwhelming job without this amazing support.

Julie Shave

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues meets monthly on the third Sunday from 4-5.30 pm in St Matthew's Community Centre. Baptism families are always invited and others are drawn in through other contacts: Toddlers etc. We have had a lot of new families coming in recent months

Mary and I meet together each month to plan our activities. Our sessions begin with table top games and colouring, and once everyone has arrived, we have a bible story, song and prayer. This is followed by a time for crafts and games linked to the story.

Then we enjoy tea together, where there is more time to chat with each other. It's great to see whole families learning, worshipping, playing and eating together. Several of our families have been coming for a few years now and it is great to see some of them coming to the Lighthouse Service and others to Christmas / Easter services.

We are thankful for everyone in the team and their commitment to this important work. We would welcome extra folks to help at a craft table or with washing up / clearing away. It only involves a couple of hours once a month. Do have a word with Julie or Mary if you would be happy to be involved. It is a privilege to share the love of God and our prayer is that many, both adults and children, will come to faith.

Julie Shave

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club takes place during the Sunday morning 10.30am service every Sunday, except the fourth Sunday of the month, which is The Lighthouse Service. Numbers of children vary from 4 or 5 to 14 or 15 plus, with an age range from 1 to 10 or 11 years!

The Sunday Club leaders and helpers (all DBS checked) are on a rota and are usually involved once a month. Kate Lawson has improved our organisation by e-mailing the rota to us all to complete, well in advance.

The leaders have decided to follow the lectionary readings as the basis for each week's session and have used their own imagination and resources to create appropriate activities for the children. Judging by the stampede for the Fulthorpe Chapel when it's time for Sunday Club, the children appear to enjoy their time there.

Many thanks to Kate, Pam, Gill, Cat, Michelle, Steph, and all our fantastic young people for making Sunday Club such a happy, fun time!

Mary Tones

YF is a space for fellowship, prayer, Bible study, fun, and silly games. Each term we have had a main theme or focus interspersed with other one-off themes. The group has changed with BeFree members moving up. We have a good core group who attend weekly and are enthusiastic.

The Christmas term was focused on God and science and celebrating the birth of Jesus and a baby shower for Chloe and Jordan and a study on 1 Peter. This term we have asked the youth what they were interested in studying, so we featured a lot of different

things from the bible such as Jonah and what does the bible say about Harry Potter plus an overview of the gospels - it has been great to get a "God's-eye view" on these topics through the Bible.

It has been good that the members from BeFree and elsewhere, are settled. We are grateful for the support of the wider church community in prayer, and other ways. It has been good to have an enthusiastic team and we are thankful for the leaders who have been helping. We give thanks for those who decided it was time to teach in other area Chloe, Jordan and Luke. We are happy to have a great team on a rota basis and be able to continue the leadership of YF.



Please continue to pray for wisdom and good fellowship that builds up our youth into the people God is calling them to be!

The YF Leadership Team

BELLRINGING REPORT

2018 saw continued ringing at Stranton including quarter peals. We also had visiting teams of ringers including one team that rang a full peal.

We continued to ring as a part of the D&N Association "Ringing to Remember" activity whereby towers ring their bells on the 100th anniversary of the death of a ringer from their tower who was killed during World War One. It was also pleasing that all ringable bells in Hartlepool were rung on 11th November as part of the Armistice celebrations.

It was the turn of Stranton to host the D&N 8 bell striking competition in March. We entered a team and beat the other two entrants to win both the cup and the plate. Practice nights at Stranton have been very busy at times and this may have hampered progress.

During the year we were asked to ring for a number of funeral services and we did this by tolling a single bell before each service and then ringing open rounds and call changes following the service. We also rang for a number of weddings and for other special services in addition to our Sunday service ringing.

Progress has been made in terms of method ringing both on practice night and on Sundays. The support and patience of experienced ringers during this process has been truly appreciated. Particular thanks go to Barbara and Stephen Busby who have organised and run a number of training sessions for learners and improvers and which have been very popular.

I am looking forward to maintaining good standards of striking, adding to the range of methods rung during the year and to seeing our newest learners develop further.

Andrew Kaye

Tower Captain

SARAH FORMALLY WELCOMED AS BISHOP OF JARROW



Durham Diocese's first female Bishop, The Rt Revd Sarah Clark has been formally welcomed to the Diocese as Bishop of Jarrow at a service in Durham Cathedral on Sunday 7th April.

During the service, which was attended by 100's of people from across the diocese and wider, The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham licensed Bishop Sarah for her work as Bishop of Jarrow and welcomed her on behalf of the Diocese.

Bishop Paul said: "I am delighted to formally welcome Bishop Sarah to the Diocese. Sarah, together we have been called to serve and care for the people of Christ in this Diocese. I entrust to you the functions and responsibilities of the Suffragan See of Jarrow, as we share in proclaiming the Gospel from the Tyne to the Tees and from the Dales to the Sea'."

"I know Sarah will bring rich gifts in helping people discover and discern their God-given calling, including to ordination. She will also bring a deep commitment to our priorities of children and young people, tackling poverty together and growing the church in depth, engagement with communities and number."

Bishop Sarah said: "I am immensely proud to be here in Durham, a place that has special meaning to me through the parallels it draws to my upbringing in the coal fields of South Wales. The welcome I have received today has been almost overwhelming and I am really looking to getting out and meeting people across the Diocese."

Ward Jackson CE Primary Easter Celebration in Stranton Church on Friday 5th April

The whole school walked up to Stranton Church where parents had come to hear and see the children sing and read to celebrate Easter.

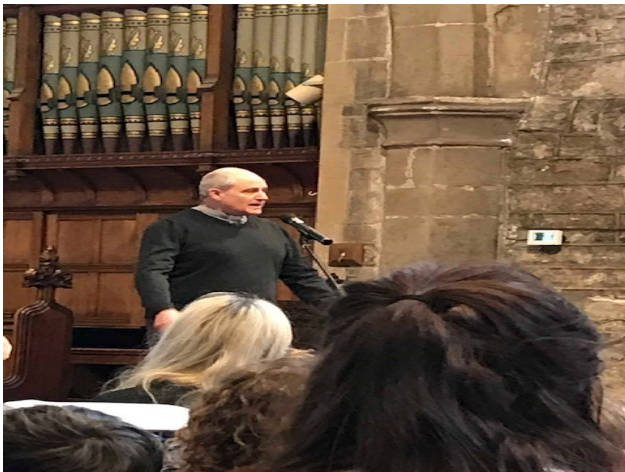




Halleluiah



The school choir



Clive finished with prayers that incorporated the names of the songs and the words of the poems that the children had performed for us.

After the service the children all had juice and biscuits and the parents had tea or coffee.

It was a lovely celebration service at the end of a week when Ofsted had revisited the school. The children behaved well and left with their

teacher's to enjoy a well deserved holiday.

A View from the Pew - A Discussion Starter!!!

Occasionally at Stranton we have a joint service at 10.30am, (for example APCM) or from September probably 11.00am - which evolves into a typical 10.30am communion service and finishes around noon.

My thoughts on this are that especially if the service is going to start in the future at 11.00am, we stick to the existing morning service time, but still have an 8.30am (in future 9.00am?) as this service is generally about 45minutes long.

The advantage of this is, if you are having an AGM after the service it could still start before 12noon and also is more of a compromise with both services.

Any thoughts?

George Bainbridge

Adam Barton
Joiner & Carpenter

*Time served joiner,
Maintenance work carried out,
Internal replacement doors a speciality*

07877 316030
adam.barton@live.co.uk

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
0800 0371809
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

**Colin B Griffiths, FBII
49 Stockton Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1TX**

Telephone: 01429 280444

Mobile: 07932333779

Email: strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.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

Atkinson Print

& Printability Publishing

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



John Harrington

BRICKWORK AND BUILDING

**New Builds, Alterations
& Extensions**

Tel: 01429 420019
Mobile: 07960381258

Free Estimates



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

Katherine and Tony Paton

Link Letter no. 26 | April 2019

The call in action

Dear friends,

After a mere four years in our house (compared to nine in our first house here) with the almost constant noise of construction work during the day and loud music from a restaurant boat, moored permanently on the river and less than 100 metres from our wooden first storey bedroom, we had had enough. Unlike our previous house – which we had left due to the arrival of the open-air karaoke bar, but with heavy hearts after much soul-searching because of the good relations we'd built up with our neighbours – we felt very few misgivings this time. It was a measure of how much the city is changing, that the neighbourhood we left this time around was far less cohesive. This was due to the construction of apartment blocks and a higher proportion of shorter-term tenancies, in place of the local family homes, which largely formed our previous neighbourhood. Now, 14 years on from when we first moved in, that neighbourhood is also almost unrecognisable, as “development” takes hold. So we have moved! Welcome to the “burbs”... still only about five km from the city centre, at least our new place is in a relatively tranquil location (for now!). The only qualification is that we have a Buddhist temple with a small community of monks as neighbours. The downside is the fact that the monks are early risers, and we mean really early. On certain mornings at 4.30am (well, we are not entirely sure of the time because we try not to take notice), they bang their absolutely massive drums to remind the locals to wake up and cook food for them. Just after 6am, the monks walk around the village with large baskets to collect the sticky rice etc that the villagers offer them as alms. The monks remind the people of their arrival by again banging on their big drum, with some gongs bashing and cymbals clashing along for good measure. The village dogs just love this and summon up the most amazing chorus of howls and yowls to join in greeting the new day! All of which is – believe it or not – far preferable to the invasive din of construction and unremarkable live music that we endured prior to this move. We praise God for his goodness in providing us with what is otherwise an oasis of calm, to find rest for our bodies, minds and souls, away from the intensifying changes affecting so much of the city. Encouragingly, it also retains some of the neighbourly feel we encountered when we first moved to this country. Please pray that we will be able to make good connections with local people and others around us. It is a busy time with church as Easter approaches.

This year is complicated by the fact that many people will be away because Holy Week coincides with the main holiday of the year here: Lunar New Year (the Buddhist rather than the Chinese version). The city stops to enjoy several days of partying, visits to temples and water fights, which can amount to a lot of fun. We have lived here long enough to have experienced the discordant culture clash of the sombre remembering of Good Friday, while all around us the rest of the city indulges in a huge rowdy party with inescapable, accompanying music blaring from all directions. Thankfully, rather than being slap-bang in the middle of the festivities, the Easter weekend comes after the bulk of the serious partying is over but many people won't have returned from their escapes. Please pray for us, that the joy of Easter and that the Good Friday and Easter Day services may be a source of real encouragement and hope to whoever is around to worship with us.

Last but not least, some family news...

- Anna has started her GCSE exams; please pray that the remaining exams go well.
- Pray for good friendships for the children and their sense of identity. Anna made an interesting comment the other day – she said that she was half Asian on the inside
- Pray for Innes as he is dissatisfied with school. He has teachers who are teaching subjects that are not their subject and, in some cases, are openly unenthusiastic about the subjects they are teaching.
- Euan won third place in a recent school spelling bee and his group, “Euan’s group”, won three trophies at the school science fair. It was good to see Euan taking on a leadership role as usually he just follows on and joins in rather than taking a lead.
- Eilidh has had a short haircut after a communication mishap while her dad took her for a trim. Eilidh took the mistake surprisingly well!

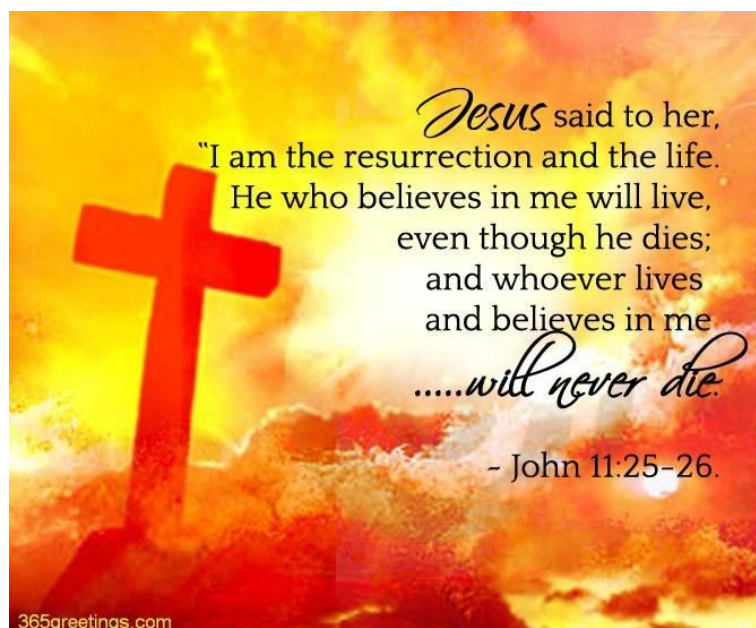
Love and blessings, **Katherine, Tony, Anna, Innes, Euan and Eilidh**

Palm Sunday Lighthouse service

The arrival of Bandit and Sox for donkey rides outside – the children really enjoyed themselves!



Thought for May



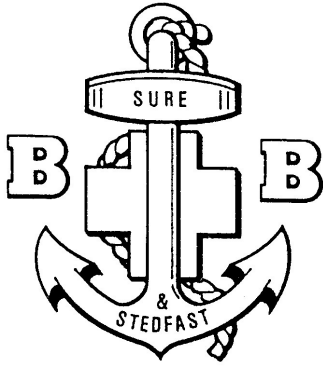
Easter Celebrations at Stranton Church

Thanks to all who cleaned then decorated the church so beautifully for our Easter Day Celebrations.

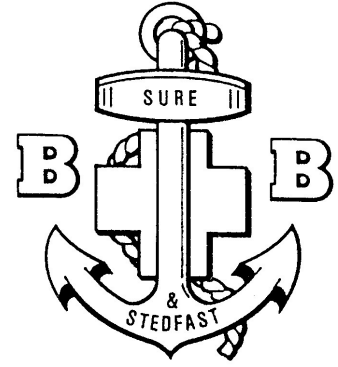
The entrance porch

Inside church





Boys Brigade News



Open Night - this year our Open Night is on 17th May starting at 7.15pm at St Matthew's CC.

Michelle has kindly agreed to be one of our special guests and will do the presentations to all our Lads.

Summer programme - this year the Anchors are looking forward to a Superheroes Night, a visit to Stranton, tea@hart and a crafts night with Trish.

The Juniors are visiting the swimming pool, Stranton & McDonalds, the Blue Lagoon, Crimdon Dene and Seaton beach.

The Company Lads are visiting various places of interests and are looking forward to our camp at Melton Scout Centre near Hull.

We have room for new starters in each section.

Fund Raising - we are holding our Summer Fayre on Saturday June 22nd in St Matthew's CC - Bargains galore are guaranteed!!!

St Matthew's CC - our new store hut is looking very good and during the summer we will be putting shelves in it, having a good tidy up and if we do well at the Fayre, buy some new games equipment.

See you at the Open Night

George Bainbridge

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

May

Sarah Cartwright
Violeta Demas
Kath Harkness
Mike Peacock
Eve Coils
Andrew Rogers
Kath Weimer
Janice Young



**Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary**
Andrew & Louise Robertson
Amy & Phil Warnes
David & Megan Robertson

**Elsbeth Craig
God Bless
on her
60th Birthday**



**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 and early June 2019

May

Wed 1 st	Group Council, Fulthorpe Chapel	7.00pm
Tues 7 th	Standing Committee, The Vicarage	7.30pm
Mon 13 th	Lighthouse Planning, Browning Ave	7.30pm
Sat 18 th	Concert, Hartlepool Ladies Choir, Church,	7.30pm
Sun 19 th	Messy Church, St Matthew's CC	4.00pm
Mon 20 th	PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel	7.30pm
Sun 26 th	Lighthouse Service with Welcomes	10.30am
Thurs 30 th	Ascension Day: Service to be arranged	

June

Tues 4 th	New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel	7.30pm
----------------------	----------------------------------	--------

Mary Baines' Recipe

Chocolate mint mousse

Place 220g chopped dark chocolate in a small heat proof dish & stand over a pan of simmering water until chocolate has melted & is smooth – cool slightly. Use an electric whisk & beat 1¼ cups double cream in a medium mixing bowl till it has peaks. Add melted chocolate to cream with 8 chopped after dinner chocolates – stir until combined. Spoon into 4 dishes & refrigerate for 1 hour till firm. Decorate with extra chocolate mints.



Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
5th May	P Porritt	S Shepherd K Shepherd
12th May	M Hutchinson	D Greenwood B Greenwood
19th May	P Thompson	J Lawson K Lawson
26th May	I Walker	N Proffit A Craig



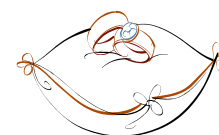
Funerals

28th March	Patricia Pollard
17th April	John Ray
23rd April	Norman Brookbanks



Weddings

21st April	Gareth Ruddock & Katie Parkinson
------------	----------------------------------



Baptisms

14th April	Isabella Williams Jonah Grey Oliver Etherington
------------	--



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 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk

Vicar

Revd Norman Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609
E-Mail: nshave1@btinternet.com

Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

Associate Minister

Revd Andrew Craig 25 Egerton Road 422461

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

Readers

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Chair Revd Richard Hetherington,
Oxford Road Baptist
Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

Church Wardens	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
	Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive	234279

Music Group	Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road	233609
--------------------	---------------------------------	--------

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	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
--------------------------	---------------------------------	--------

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.

