

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

40p

October 2019

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday

9.00 am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11.00 am. 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 **20th October 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Dear Friends,

As a boy growing up in the late 60's I sang in our local church choir. One of the highlights of the year was Harvest Festival. One Thursday in October the whole choir went to a small neighbouring village and there we sang traditional harvest hymns and the anthem for that year. But that was just the start. Mitford was an agricultural village which meant the service was followed by a really good supper. Then we would go outside and look for conkers in the grounds of the village hall. This community had a clear understanding of where their food came from, the cycles of the seasons and that it was good and right to celebrate and give thanks to God for His rich provision.

Five decades on, in a more urban context, we have perhaps lost some of that basic connection with our world. Our food comes from supermarkets and the shelves are full all year round. Yet we continue to hold Harvest Festivals, why? For me it begins by recognising that God is both creator and provider, ultimately all that we have including our food comes from God. So once a year it is good to gather together to worship God, celebrate all He has given us and come to worship in a Spirit of thanksgiving and praise. This year at both Stranton and St Luke's we will do this on Sunday 6th October. The previous night on Saturday 5th October there is a Ceilidh (traditional country dance) starting at 6.30pm in St Matthew's Community Centre when we can gather more informally for fun and fellowship. Do please join us if you can.

Harvest is also a time when we remember those who have less than we do. Part of giving thanks is an opportunity to be generous to others. At Stranton Church we will again be collecting non-perishable goods for Hartlepool Food Bank. Do please bring your gifts to worship.

Every blessing

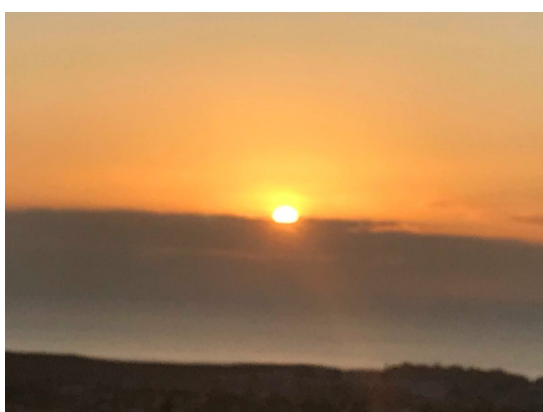
Norman

From the Home Front

After a hectic couple of months I finally retired in July and haven't stopped moving since!! The long awaited arrival of two special grandsons was joyous, but a time of anxiety and stress, followed by some hard work and broken nights helping new parents and babies adjusting to life in the world. This had left me exhausted and emotionally wrung out! A holiday was greatly needed so on the day I would normally have returned to work – we jetted off to The Canary Islands in the sun.

In Mark 6:31 Jesus said 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'

Waking up to watch the sunrise was a wonderful way to start each day – as the sun came up, lights went out in the town and the sky was a golden glow of promise....



The landscape was dry and barren and quite inhospitable in the heat, yet as clouds moved across the sky the colours of the mountains changed from reds and browns to greys and blues and sometimes a greenish hue. These light and colour variations were mesmerising.



Where the Atlantic Ocean met the volcanic coastline the forces were dramatic and powerful. It took our breath away as we stood looking down into the sea realising that the next landfall would be Florida – the breadth of the ocean was awesome! And to think God's love for us is wider and deeper than any ocean!

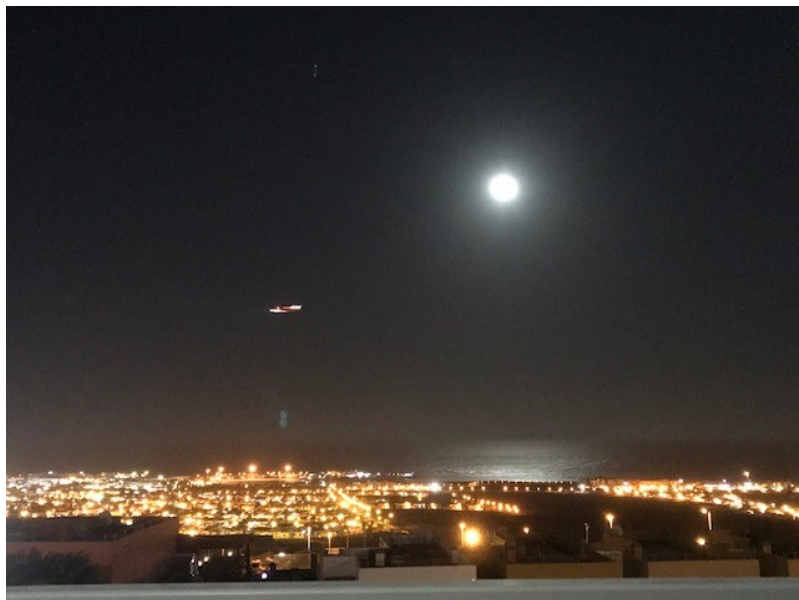


As we drove home from a mountain expedition we saw a dust twister develop – it grew and moved across the open valley floor, growing in width and height. Ten seconds after this photo the twister engulfed us – exciting, frightening, and an unexpected force of nature – we have never experienced such a thing before, it was like being consumed by the spirit!



The black sand and surfing waves breaking as we walked along the deserted shoreline reminded me of the Footprints poem – it felt very lonely and isolated – yet God was there with us....

This volcano totally dominated the landscape. It is over 20 million years old – how incredible is that! God fashioned this as the island was formed. It was one volcano among so many – explosive, fiery, destructive – yet from such beginnings the amazing landscape was formed and fashioned. The water cannot be seen but it lies in underground caverns and although the ground is stony and parched, through use of windmills to bring water to the surface and irrigation, crops can grow. However the Palm trees produce honey, cactus have prickly pear fruit and Aloe Vera has amazing medicinal properties. Our awesome God was so inventive with every plant.



Our last night – we sat on our mountain side terrace – aware that man and nature meet headlong – the full moon was reflected in a tranquil sea, as a jet airplane flew over the illuminated town!

The sights we saw took our breath away at times. As we looked down from mountain tops, drove across arid plains, stood where the land abutted the oceans we were amazed by and appreciated the work of the hand of God and His

generosity to mankind. And we came back rested

J.A.R.

Mothers Union

Next meeting is on Monday 14th October at 1.30pm in The Asda Room in St Matthew's Community Centre.

The guest speaker will talk on 'Making a will to ensure that your final wishes are carried out'.

No article from Ann Courtenay as she was unwell at the time of going to press.

Please continue in your prayers for all MU members here in Hartlepool and Worldwide.

Jo and Ralph's Kitchen

Each Thursday throughout the summer holidays a group of us gathered to eat and have fun together initially at St Joseph's School and then at Ward Jackson School. These events were funded by a grant from the Council and one from the diocese plus we were also supported by donations from the Joseph Rowntree Trust and donations from Tesco. Each week up to twenty volunteers gathered to cook and make the guests welcome. These volunteers came from the Holy Family Parish, St Luke's Parish, Stranton Parish and contacts in the wider community. As many as 70 folk - adults and children - shared a meal and time together. At times running this event was really hard work and we certainly learnt a number of lessons.

Thank you to all who enabled the kitchen to happen.

Prayer for Ordinary Time

God of Eternity,

As I walk the path of Ordinary Time, help me to count the many ways you are present –

In the coming and goings of family, friends, co-workers and acquaintances:

In the sounds of summer and the beauty of your magnificent creations;

In the daily routines and responsibilities that make up the rhythm of my days;

Make all time extra-ordinary as I seek to become more attuned to your presence.

Amen

New Wine: United 19

What an amazing week!

Well, as some of us know, it wasn't quite a full 7 days, due to severe weather warnings and New Wine making the decision to close down camp and ensure everyone's safety. Some of us travelled home on the Thursday night followed by the rest on Friday but everyone got home safe and dry. Leaving camp early was a little sad as we realized just how much we had enjoyed our time together.

It was my first time at New Wine and I was amazed at how much they had going on. From kids groups, youth and family events to testimonies, teaching and worship - there was something for everyone and if you didn't want any of that, you could kick back and relax at your camp chatting with the neighbours and soaking up the sunshine... and yes we did have some glorious sunny days!

The Marketplace was a great place to grab a coffee with a friend, shop for gifts and learn about some great Christian organisations and charities while The Shop provided us with a place to buy fresh fruit, veg, bread and other groceries.

I really enjoyed going to the Impact tent and hearing how God had transformed someone's life and joining in worship. Another of my favourites was the Presence tent where there was continuous music, sometimes relaxing and chilled and at other times making you want to dance, with chairs, beanbags and cushions scattered around for comfort. But by far the best part of being at New Wine, was being together. Living alongside each other, chatting over tea and Tiffin, swapping tips on showers and camp living, eating together, laughing together and just getting to know each other on a more personal level.

I witnessed genuine love and support within our group, each person offering help to another and working together to make sure we all had a great time and THIS is what I will remember most from United 2019.

Already, those of us who were there this year are excited to plan and book for next year and we would love for more folk to go.

Organising this early, means we can benefit from early bird discounts and get assistance with cost for those who need it; so if you are interested in joining us for United 20, Norman or Julie will be happy to hear from you so we can organise booking and make sure next year is even better.

Natalie Proffitt

Hartlepool Foodbank Churches Newsletter

Harvest donations and talks

The Harvest season is almost upon us and many churches are considering their giving at this time of year. We would be thrilled if you would consider giving a donation of food and/or toiletries to Hartlepool Foodbank. As we enter our busiest time of year (October to January) donations become even more important to us and allow us to provide food support to our town's most vulnerable people.

Over the last 12 months Hartlepool Foodbank has provided almost 5000 people with emergency food, supporting them through crises including job loss, illness, family bereavement, and changes to the benefit system. We have also supported many other local food providers over the summer with bulk donations of food. We would be so grateful for any of the following items (please note that we cannot accept out of date or fresh items)

- UHT milk
- Long life fruit juice/squash
- Soup (tinned or packet)
- Pasta sauces
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned tomatoes
- Cereals
- Rice
- Pasta
- Tinned Rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Instant coffee
- Tea bags
- Instant mash
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Jam/spreads
- Biscuits/snack bars
- Savoury snacks
- Store cupboard items
- Toiletries

Our staff and volunteers are able to deliver sermons and talks in church throughout the year, helping your congregation to learn more about the work of Hartlepool Foodbank poverty in our town. If you would like a talk in your church at any point please email Abi on info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk or call 01429 598404.

Tesco Collection November 2019

Our annual Tesco collection is fast approaching (Thursday 21st – Saturday 23rd November) and we are looking for volunteers to help support this important event. Our collection at Tesco brings in around 3 tonnes of food donations for us at this vital time of year, ensuring we can support our town's most vulnerable people at, for some, the most difficult time of year.

If you or anyone in your church is able to offer a few hours to support this collection, please let us know. We will be in Tesco Extra on Belle Vue Way from 9am – 5pm each day and roles will include giving out shopping lists to customers, accepting donations and supporting the warehouse team to sort and store donations.

Volunteering

We are always looking for volunteers to help at our twice weekly Foodbank sessions. Roles include listening to clients, packing food parcels, greeting clients at the door and making teas and coffees. We are also looking for people who would be interested in delivering talks to raise awareness of our work to groups including schools, churches, interest groups, Scouts and Guides. If you would like to volunteer with us, please get in touch! We would love to hear from you. Either pop into one of our Foodbank sessions on Tuesday and Friday between 11:30 and 1:30, email Abi on info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk or call 01429 5948404.

Chris & Ros Smith News #16

July 2019

25 Heworth Village, York YO31 1AE

We are now back in the UK and beginning to settle in to a completely new environment.

It has been a weird few weeks, not least because Chris was required to remain in Malaysia three weeks longer for reasons to do with local Malaysian tax residency rules. Ros was with Aden and Thomas and left promptly in order that they could settle in to new schools in York. This was a big prayer concern and priority for us in yet another transition but the initial signs are hopeful. We have been quite fortunate, in that the local primary school less than 10 minutes' walk from our house had two vacancies, in the correct year groups. Aden and Thomas arrived at the school just in time to join in swimming classes and end of year school trips! Aden has arrived just in time (to the envy of Thomas) to register for the Year 6 week-long Field Trip. We keep telling Thomas that he will also go on a Year 6 Field Trip eventually... The prospects look fairly good for them. This C of E Primary School is relatively small and the staff get to know the students quite well. The school "feeds" a well respected senior school. We have been amazed at the number of opportunities that come to the school – Aden has taken part in a concert by the Early Music Festival after three weeks' practice, as he was prepared well by Dalat's music and drama curriculum, and he impressed the Festival team with his musicality, so we hope to continue this link. Thomas seems interested in drums, drumming and percussion – and there are possibilities here as well. York as a city furnishes an amazing variety of activities to be part of – so the challenge is to enjoy what is here without being pulled in too many directions. One joy is that we are close enough to the City centre (about 1 mile) so that we can walk, scoot, or ride bikes to our destination, as makes most sense. We are hardly using the car at all – which is just as well, since parking can be problematic. The history in York centre, including the Minster, is (according to Historian Chris) a physical and visual treat every time we arrive.

We are trying to find our feet with local churches and have visited St Michael le Belfrey and York Community Church over several Sundays, although churches are tending to "wind down" in to the Summer when people are either away or focused on national Christian events such as New Wine.

Belfrey is right in the City centre so it is quite do-able provided one is “prepared” for the walk! Ros is getting ready for her year-long Community Music Postgraduate course, which will begin in the autumn at York University. It is really nice to hear recorder music wafting around our home. Chris is in the first instance preparing to work as Supply Teaching again. There seems to be just as much opportunity up here as there was in Hertfordshire for Supply. We are still in the transition. The boys suddenly feel a little rootless again with the end of school routine. Next week they go to Reconnect camp, designed for Third Culture Kids returning to the UK, so we hope that this will help. Finding Christian friends, keeping in touch with old friends, and enjoying York, are our prayers for them as they settle. And for their parents, too!! We have been preoccupied with setting up home but we have not actually ended our link with Teach Beyond.

We will be based in York for a long while, aiming to see both boys through their Secondary education. At the same time, however, we hope to transition to Associate membership of Teach Beyond. This means that gifts sent to Teach Beyond can still serve Mission Schools through us. We hope that Ros can find a way to use her Librarian experience to benefit other Teach Beyond-linked schools, and that we both could assist with deputation activities for Teach Beyond at Conferences or Mission events. This is still to be settled and formalised.

There is a lot to pray about in this settling in for all of us as a family, and we will continue to keep you informed about what is happening, especially about the formal relationship with Teach Beyond and how past and present financial gifts are deployed. The main principle remains the same as stated previously.



A prayer for our Diocese on Waymark Sunday

Loving God, guiding the people of Durham Diocese faithfully through the years:

We thank you for saints who have marked our path, young and old, known and unknown, from all places and all walks of life.

Help us to find your way in our generation: transformed by your truth, sharing your life, blessing our communities.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen



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Up-date on Chaplaincy

I am waiting for my DBS check to clear and then I will be able to start my new role as Chaplain of Ward Jackson C of E School. I am excited about this position. Since moving to Hartlepool 16 years ago my boys have both attended the school and I became involved with Assemblies and eventually Church moved into the school building as well.

I have been a Governor along with Angela and we helped to establish it as a Church of England Primary School. Now I feel called to be their Chaplain. My role would look something like this:-

1) Relationships – Building relationships with pupils and staff, by visiting school and chatting with people.

Building relationships with parents through greeting them in playground.
Showing support for emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all involved with the school.

2) Leading in school –

Leading Worship

Leading the Eucharistic Service

Planning and leading CREATE After School Club

Acting as host at Stranton Church when school comes to visit or take services.

3) Support spiritual growth – This could be the development of a Communion class. This maybe for children, but also developed for Staff and Parents.

Support the sanctuary space.

Help plan and prepare special events. ie. Labyrinth, Prayer Space Day,
Attend the Annual Leavers Service in Durham Cathedral.

4) Support the teaching of RE – If a teacher would like support for a certain subject the Chaplain could be available to help in an RE lesson. There could be a 'Big Questions' time with the children – perhaps letting pupils post letters to the Chaplain to answer.

5) Support the leadership of the school – Be available to support the Governing body.

Support the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection schedule.

6) Prayer – To attend the prayer meeting and to be continually prayerful for the school. Pray for each member of the school individually.

Do please pray for this opportunity and for God's hand to be seen at work within the school.

Kind Regards

Rev Clive Hall

Katherine and Tony Paton

Link Letter no. 27 | September 2019

churchmissionsociety.org/kt

Dear friends,

How time flies! The children are back at school after the summer break already, praise the Lord! School holidays was challenging to say the least as we didn't have a car to ferry children around. However, three months and a hefty repair bill later, that situation has thankfully changed. It's great having the car again and not having to make repeat trips on our poor, overloaded little motorbike, often getting drenched!

Tony writes...

Transport woes aside, what's been happening? As usual, church has been quieter over the summer with many of our regulars gone for extended breaks back in their home countries. However, numbers have really picked up again the last couple of Sundays. Praise God that even as we've said goodbye to some key contributors to congregational life, new arrivals have come. Please pray that some of them will make their spiritual home with us and find a niche in which to exercise their gifts both at church and beyond, reaching out to the wider community.

My new role has been pretty much on hold as the project director's wife has been ill and this has meant that the director has largely been focusing his energy on looking after her and their three children. Coupled with the fact that the new dean for this country hasn't yet started, it's ensured that the project has only really been running in a limited capacity. I am also still having to work from home, more than a year after joining, as the church office which is being built for me hasn't yet been completed (I hope to be in by the end of the year). Please pray for restored health for the director's wife and for the incoming dean (he will have a dual role as vicar of an Anglican congregation in Singapore). Pray that we will have a good working relationship. Please also pray not just for my office to get finished but that my presence will be a real blessing.

Please keep on praying for these needs, especially that the new "hospital" boss will bring much needed change for good. Pray too for

government approval required to continue running the UK embassy-funded mental health crisis helpline that I am involved with.

Katherine writes...

Anna did really well in her GCSE exams and has started at her new school to study the International Baccalaureate. Please pray for good friendships and safe travels across town. The other three have all returned to school and we hope that this year will go better for them all, particularly Innes who had a tough year last year as school was not really meeting his needs.

Pray also for our house helper as she has a difficult family background. Pray especially for her younger brother as he needs somewhere to live so that he can resume schooling.

A final thought...

We don't know if you're all aware of our funding needs but exchange rates against sterling continue to pose a particular challenge regarding our finances. With this in mind, we do need to raise more regular support in order to stay out here and continue this work. So please give it some thought, pray about it and, if you feel like you are able to support us financially, then do visit our online giving page: churchmissionsociety.org/kt or contact Paul Read, CMS people in mission funding manager, on paul.read@churchmissionsociety.org or 01865 787525.

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

Your Church needs you



The Church is as varied as all the different things it engages in?

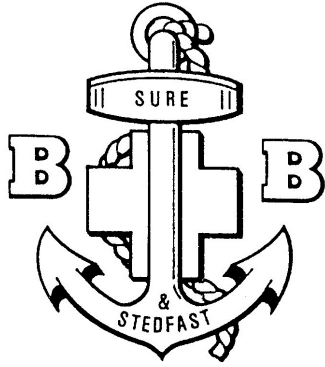
A lot of these things need volunteers to help make them happen: PCC meetings, Music group, Messy Church, Sunday Club, YF, Bridge Builders, Create, Sides-people, Readers, and Intercessors. The list goes on!!

We are especially in need of people to help in Sunday Club at Stranton Church. You don't need to commit to every week, a rota is in place. Do ask Norman about this.

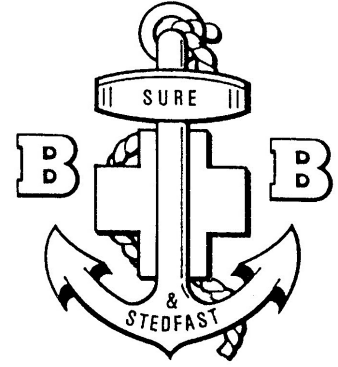
We also need two volunteers for YF (Youth Fellowship) - Sunday night 7:00pm till 9:00pm. Talk to Norman or Clive!

We are very appreciative of all our volunteers and the hard work they put in. Please pray about how you can help support the activities of the church?

Rev Clive



Boys Brigade



Camp 2019

This year's camp at Melton Scout Centre near Hull included the following activities:- rafting, kayaking, paintballing, potted sports, archery. Also a visit to very sunny Cleethorpes and to Flamingoland, games, plus camp fire and the highlight of a walk over the Humber Bridge.

We all had a great time and are raring to go in the new session.

Camp 2020

This is to be held at the Ashworth Scout Centre near Rochdale, (we do get about a bit!!) at the end of July.

Help wanted

We are a leader down in the Anchor Boys if you can spare an hour - 7.00pm on a Friday Night - please contact George Bainbridge.

New Starters - we have room for new starters in each section. The age range is from 6 to 16 years. It is a chance for Lads to make friends, learn a new skill or two and have a great time.

George Bainbridge 07816 445829

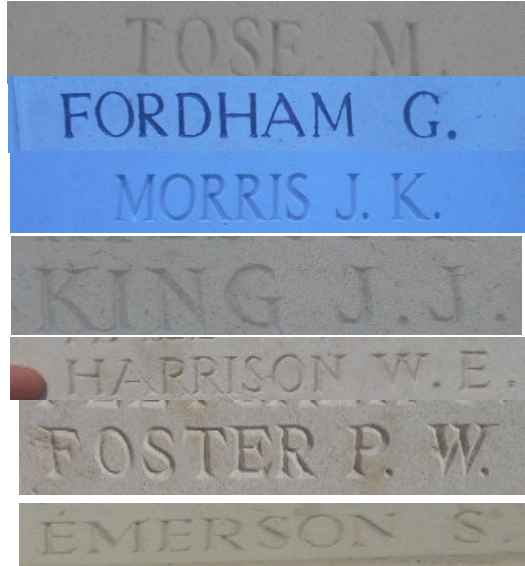
An inspiring visit

During the summer holidays I visited Ypres in Belgium and managed to see where eight Strantonians are remembered or buried. The ratio is eight on memorials to one grave!

This poem is inspired by this visit

George Bainbridge

8 Men



Yet not related, but all met the same fate.
 All soldiers of the Great War
 Dead or even worse - missing!
 Family worship is their common link
 For any comfort that their faith may bring.
 Men cut down in their prime
 As their families are reminded
 Every time the Stranton bells chime.
 All remain in the foreign fields of Belgium.
 Remembered closer to home on a panel
 Erected so that all their families
 Sorrows, faith and memories have a place
 To allow them an emotional channel.



CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

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



Congratulations on your Wedding Anniversary

Peter & Maureen Anderson
Clive & Angela Hall
Duncan & Trish Playfor
30th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to
Jack Rogers & Gina Guo
on the arrival of
Trent Thomas Frank
on 7th August

If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email
admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 864006.

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

Dates for the Diary

Dates for October

Tues 1 st October	7.30pm	New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sat 5 th October	6.30pm	Harvest Ceilidh, St Matthew's Community Centre
Sun 6 th October	Harvest Thanksgiving	
	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Bacon Butties in St Matthew's CC
	11.00am	Family Parade Service
Sat 12 th & Sun 13 th	October	Diocesan Waymark Conference
Mon 14 th October	7.30pm	Lighthouse Planning, Browning Ave
Sun 20 th October	9.15am	Joint service at Luke's with Bishop Sarah (no services at Stranton this Sunday)
Sun 20 th October	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tues 22 nd October	7.15pm	Standing Committee
Sun 27 th October	11.00am	Lighthouse Service
Sun 3 rd November	11.00am	Stranton Sunday Joint Communion Service followed by shared lunch



Sidespersons

9.00am

11.00am

6 Oct I Walker

S Shepherd

13 Oct P Porritt

K Shepherd

D Greenwood

B Greenwood

20 Oct No Service all St Lukes.

27 Oct B Butcher

S Shepherd

K Shepherd



Funerals

12 August William Atkinson

5 September Robin Nunn

12 September David Smith

18 September Alice Setterfield



Baptisms

18 August Elijah Maplebeck
McKenna-Lee Spowart

1 September Thomas Riley Pearson

22 September Ronnie Victor Barton



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

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Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

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Churches Together in Hartlepool

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

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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
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St Matthew's Booking	Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

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