SIGNPOST



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

40p

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday

9.00am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11.00am. Service (with children's groups for 3-14s)

1st Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion2nd Sunday of the month will be Morning Worship3rd Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion4th Sunday of the month will be Lighthouse Service

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

7.00pm 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 November 2019 and will continue to take place on the Third Sunday of each Month

God Story?

We have just had a conference led by Bishop Paul and Bishop Sarah. This meant that there were about 500 clergy and people from congregations missing from Churches on Sunday!! They had called us all together to talk to and listen to us about the way forward for church and also teach and guide us. It was a very encouraging weekend. One of the speakers said a sentence which stood out. He said "45% of church goers don't have a God story!" I found that quite surprising. Even wondered if it had anything to do with, to whom or where they were asking the questions.

Then I remembered another statement I had heard that something like 75% of church goers don't read their bible? I am not showing these statements to make you feel guilty. They are just factual figures and may or may not involve you.

After thinking about these two statements, I did think why is this happening? I personally know I worship a living and loving God who does let me know how much He loves me and He helps me in my walk with Him. This I am sure is also true of a lots of you who are reading this. I am sure you could write a story on how God ministers into your life, with a thought or a word of even a feeling. But there also quite a few people who don't sense God's presence or hear him talking to them. I felt I wanted to write a word of encouragement.

F.B. Meyer wrote in 'The Secret of Guidance', The written word is the wire along which the voice of God will certainly come to you if the heart is hushed and the attention fixed.

It seems true that people are not reading bibles, yet there are people who then go on to say that God does not speak to me. I would encourage all believers to read their bibles. It is a LIVING word. It can speak a new and wonderful message into our hearts. We need to build on our relationship with God. The more we become attuned to God, the more we will receive our God stories. I would like to share my own God story.

It started with someone saying "You have a small TV would you like a bigger one I am giving one away it is HD and 3D." My answer was "My boys will love you forever for such a gift" Then we received a sum of money which we knew we had to use for a much needed sofa. We spent a few weeks looking in lots of furniture shops for a settee. Never finding anything at our price limit. Hoping to find something on a 50% sale, which most windows claimed was happening in their store! We started to think it is not going to happen. Then one morning I read in my quiet time.

"Do not be tempted by this world and its desires?"

We went sofa shopping again. We found a really suitable sofa, it was everything we wanted - a corner one with reclining seats and we could choose the colour we wanted. BUT it was more than we could afford. Should we use the money we have to pay as a deposit and then use hire purchase for the remaining amount? We were very tempted to do it. But I said that this morning I had read about not being tempted, and it felt wrong to do it. We walked out of the shop. Two weeks later we were passing Teesside Park we saw Sofology and thought let's pop in for a look at their sofas. In this shop we saw a sofa on sale for 75% off the retail price... It was even better sofa than we had been tempted to buy and it was under our price limit. We bought it there and then. Then someone else said would we like some curtains, which matched everything we had bought up to that point!

Our front room has been transformed into a new God Lounge and has given us a God story I can tell people. I wonder what your God story is? If you have one then tell someone about it.

God Bless

Rev Clive Hall

Mothers Union

Thank you for your prayers and good wishes during my recent illness. I had a few days of not being able to talk and having to communicate to my dog Ember with hand signals – she knows a few, sit and stay, but was puzzled by most of my efforts. "Off!" seemed to pass her by! Later I thought about whether I understood God's signals in my life, perhaps some of the time, but not all of the time.

Our October Meeting speaker had to join us at short notice as the original person took ill. Joyce Stewart rose to the occasion and talked about the importance of wills, trusts and fixed price funeral plans (a really good idea as prices are rising all the time). Joyce answered questions from our members and her help was appreciated.

November's meeting will be held on **Monday 11**th at 1.30pm in the ASDA Room.

We'll be looking forward to Advent and I'll bring you up to date with news from MU. Diocesan meetings.

Our December Christmas Lunch will be at **The Marine Hotel**, Seaton Carew on **Tuesday 10th December** at 12.00 noon. Please let me know if you'd like to attend and advise me of your menu choices. We have moved from the usual Monday because some of our MU members already have other commitments.

I have some Christmas cards but only a few calendars left, so see me if you'd like to view them.

This prayer is from a new little book of prayers from MU called "Faith in Action" – copyright the Mothers Union.

Faith in the Family

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who care for families by encouraging them to grow in faith; showing ways to encounter God hand in hand together.

We thank you that you love us all, adults and children alike, and call us into relationship with you.

We pray that families will be helped to enjoy faith as a natural part of family life; experiencing the love of God hand in hand together.

Amen.

As we approach the Advent Season we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth all those years ago and pray that today our nation will return to faith in His name.

Please remember those members who are unable to join with us and those who are awaiting news of health issues.

God bless, Ann Courtenay.

From the Home Front

Having had such a relaxing and enjoyable holiday in September I returned to reality with a nasty bump! My elder brother, who has for some time been successfully dealing with cancer, after chemotherapy, had suddenly deteriorated while we were away. His symptoms were varied - some related to his cancer, but he also had become very forgetful, confused and disorientated. We discovered he was not taking vital daily medications, he was skipping meals (not good for a diabetic) and not drinking much. We managed to get him to his GP, who thought it might be dementia. At this point we also realised he was hardly able to stand and walk and struggled to process information. We contacted the other support agencies involved with his care and managed to bring forward his oncology appointment. Despite deep concerns we felt that this appointment was the route on to which God was directing us. Sure enough, after seeing his consultant, my brother was immediately admitted to hospital where his care has been exemplary. Within 12 hours we knew he had a serious infection, but unfortunately he also had a secondary tumour in his brain - this was causing all the new and worrying symptoms.

The prognosis is not good and his time on this earth is now limited.... We have prayed about each step and feel that God has had all our worries and concerns safely in His hands. My brother has now gone into our preferred nursing home for palliative care for his last days where he is being kept pain free and comfortable.

It is so hard when someone you love is struck by such an unfair illness – but ranting and raving solves nothing and neither does weeping and wailing. But we have found through prayer and trusting in God's love and His care for His precious child has given us not only the strength to face each hurdle and the coming days, but also to recognise and work with the answers to prayers. We feel greatly blessed that so many people are holding Peter and all the family in prayer at this time. Eternity maybe closer for my brother but we are reassured that he will be welcomed by his heavenly Father for his simple faith and the way he has lived his life......

J.A.R.

Harvest Ceilidh

A fun filled active night of harvest celebration, with a great band leading, was held on 5th October in St Matthew's Community Centre. Those who attended including Stranton, St Luke's and St Aidan's members plus Burn Valley North Residents and others, enjoyed the evening. The food was delicious and the company excellent. There were some great raffle prizes too.

Many thanks to Trish and her helpers for all their hard work in organising such a successful and entertaining social evening for our Central Group of Parishes at harvest.











St Luke's Patronal Day Sunday 20th October

We all enjoyed gathering together at St Luke's to celebrate their Patronal Day. It was heartening to observe the friendly interaction of the 3 churches worshipping together as one and the church was packed!



The worship was led by Lucy and Andrew McAllister, ably assisted by Ann Courtenay. A wide variety of songs and hymns were sung ranging from - Lord For The Years, through King of Kings, Faithful One and Here I Am Waiting, to Thy Hand O God Has Guided. Also including was St Luke Beloved Physician – which was eminently appropriate

Bishop Sarah preached on the Isiah 35 reading of sharing the kingdom with those on the margins of society, those seeking refuge, the poor, but not forgetting the rich. She reinforced her thoughts with the image of crocuses flowering in the desert. Furthermore, she commented on how many times she has now visited Hartlepool; including when she was



considering coming to the diocese and having a clandestine "look see" tour. A feeling of being "oddly at home" came over her while eating chips from Verill's overlooking the bay.



Naturally, after the service tea, coffee and cakes were shared and the hubbub in St Luke's Parish Rooms was yet another manifestation of our togetherness. May there be many more similar events.



Andrew Rogers.

Sunday Church Services

St Aidan's and St Columba's

St Columba's - 9.00 am - Sung Mass every second and fourth

Sunday of the month

- 10.45 am -Sung Mass St Aidan's

6.30 pm - Sung Evensong the first Sunday of the

month

Baptisms at St Aidan's will be at 12.30 pm on the second and third Sunday of the month.

St Luke's

8.00 am - Holy Communion the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

9.15 am - Parish Eucharist

All Saints Stranton

9.00 am - Holy Communion

11.00 am - 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

11.00 am - Morning Worship at Burbank Community Church at Ward

Jackson School

Midweek Services

St Aidan's and St Columba's

Tuesday 8.30 am - Morning Prayer in St Aidan's Wednesday 6.00 pm - Mass in St Aidan's

Thursday 9.15 am - Mass in St Columba's

St Luke's

Wednesday 9.30 am - Holy Communion 8.30 am - Morning Prayer Thursday

All Saints Stranton

Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Matthew's

Community Centre, Elwick Road

Everyone is welcome at any of the services

If you know anyone who does not get a magazine but may benefit from knowing services times please let them know.



Waymark 2019 Diocesan Conference

More than 500 delegates from the Diocese of Durham made up equally of Clergy and Laity gathered together over the weekend of the **12th and 13th October** at the *Waymark '19* conference in Newton Aycliffe. The representatives from Stranton included Norman, Michelle, Clive, Andrew and Jacqui Rogers.

Waymark'19, saw parishes come together, share, reflect, pray and discern together what God is calling them to do in order to chart a course for the next 5 years that will develop and grow the Diocese's vision to 'Bless our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'. This is expressed through 3 core priorities 'Growina churches'. 'Children and Young People' and 'Tackling Poverty'. The Waymark '19 conference was an opportunity encourage us all to reflect on the mission of God in our Diocese and to chart the next part of that journey."

The two day conference programme was extremely intense with speakers, questions, discussions, presentations, challenges and information. There was worship (which to me had too many unknown songs and teaching of new songs which I felt detracted from the depth of worship).

Gathering for worship on day one





The Community of Children's Council and Youth Council spent the first day observing and joining in as well as helping to distribute the packed lunches. They gave an insightful media presentation about what young people desire in the world and environmental issues. They spoke with confidence and knowledge and kept a close eye on delegates in their groups as they answered questions.

Bishop Paul with Bishop Sarah then commisioned the two Councils for their future work. In the Diocese It was highlighted to us that the teenage age group is the least represented in churches, or encouraged and nurtured, of all children and young people within most churches. This was quite frightening as they are the Church's future!

Bishop Emma Ineson of Penrith gave a thought provoking talk on ambition and success – the bad and the good aspects of both which provoked much discussion. The inclusion of a YouTube clip of Stormzy at Glastonbury amazingly inciting thousands of unchurched festival goers to sing was quite astounding:

Lord I've been broken. Although I'm not worthy, You fixed me.

I'm blinded by your Grace - You saved me.

She left us with the phrases - "the success of Jesus looks like failure." And "We are free not to be bound by targets."

On day two her interpretation of the meaning of the Beatitudes challenged every theological explanation I think I have ever heard – and I came away with a

new perspective of this very significant part of Jesus ministry.



Matthew Frost's first address I found difficult to assimilate – whether due to my tiredness or the feeling that he was outlining problems – but not offering solutions – which he hinted he had, but seemed like he was leaving us to reinvent the wheel.

However his address on day two was the total opposite. His personal walk of discipleship was insightful, interesting and

at times quite breath-taking. He gave us a clear outline of how he has followed a five point plan of:
Intimacy with God
Embracing a whole life of vision
Discerning specific vocational calling
Practising a rule of life, rhythm and spiritual practises
Being in a learning community of disciples





Sarah Bishop interviewed three ecumenical quests who had participated in the conference, as to their insights of discipleship and pilgrimage. The answers the Methodist District Chair, German Lutheran Bishop and the **Baptist** Regional Minister were perceptive, discerning. thought provoking and astute.

I had arrived at the conference with quite a negative expectation plus

feeling very low in spirit. However the enthusiasm of the other delegates, the speakers and the unexpected opportunity to meet up with old Stranton friends (Ann and Jeff Anderson, Dave Chadwick, Roz Hall) plus to talk to unknown fellow Christian disciples stumbling along the same rocky unmapped path as me, was uplifting, reassuring and stimulating. I'm glad I went and I hope I am able to pass on some of the positives and challenges to you here in Stranton as we seek to grow as disciples of Jesus and to spread His kingdom in our town.

J.A.R.

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Winter Food Collection 2019

Hartlepool Foodbank will be collecting donations of food at

Tesco Extra Hartlepool from 9am – 5pm on

November 21st, 22nd, 23rd

We need your help!

Our annual collection at Tesco brings in around three tonnes of food for us every winter and makes an enormous difference to our work feeding the most vulnerable people in our town over the winter.

We need volunteers to give our shopping lists to customers, accept food donations and help to sort and store food in our warehouse

If you can help or would like to know more please email info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk or call 01429 598404 Daily shifts: 9am – 11am, 11am – 1pm, 1pm – 3pm and 3pm – 5pm

Thank you for helping feed people in need

Recipes

Swirly Sponge Cake

225g SR flour 225g butter (softened)

225g caster sugar

4 medium eggs

1 teaspoon baking powder

Natural food colourings – red, yellow blue.

Preheat oven to 180C. Get out all bowls & colours

Add all ingredients (except colourings) to a large bowl.

Mix well together until a smooth batter is formed.

Use 2 non stick or well greased 18cm cake tins

Divide the mixture into 6 or 7 bowls & add food colouring to each – mix in well

Place blobs of coloured mixture into the cake tins in a random pattern until all is used up.

Place cakes into oven & cook for around 20 minutes or until start to brown & surface bounces back when pressed gently. Check centre is cooked by poking with cocktail stick – if it comes out clean the cake is ready.

Allow to cool on rack

Add melted chocolate or icing & sprinkle with coloured hundreds & thousands

Aubergines with palm honey

2 large aubergines 400g plain flour 500ml olive oil 1 egg (beaten) 8 teaspoons of palm honey Sea salt

Peel aubergines & cut into slices or strips – squeeze

these to drain off some excess water, then arrange them on a plate.

Sprinkle sea salt over them to draw out any remaining water & leave for a couple of minutes- then shake off any excess salt.

Break egg into bowl & whisk.

Place flour onto another pate, alongside the egg.

One by one dip the aubergine pieces in the egg wash, then into the flour, making sure that all the surface area is covered.





Once coated, place in a frying pan over a medium heat & add olive oil. Gently fry each of the slices until a crisp golden colour.

Drain each slice using kitchen paper then arrange on a serving plate – drizzle with palm honey & serve immediately

Scotch Eggs

4 eggs hard boiled - shells removed
200g sausage meat or pork mince
Seasoning (salt/pepper, herbs, chopped black pudding)
Small cupful breadcrumbs
Flour
1 egg beaten

Heat oven to Gas 5 or 190C Mix chosen seasoning with sausage meat or mince in a bowl Divide into 4 pieces

Put beaten egg in one bowl & breadcrumbs into another bowl Wrap meat around boiled egg & pinch seams together Dip covered egg into beaten egg & then breadcrumbs - covering well. Do this for all eggs.

Cover in foil or greaseproof paper & place on baking tray. Bake in oven for 45 minutes

Word on the Street Lord, we deeply desire that your Holy Spirit will touch lives in the Central Group of Parishes. We pray for sensitive hearts to know your promptings as we meet others in their search for truth. Jesus go before us in our daily mission. We ask for wisdom and courage as we speak for you. We ask for grace to go out to your people and share your word, your love, your joy. Amen

First published in 2002



All our sections are up and running this term and we have attracted several new members - but we always have room for more.

The Anchor Boys - have made posters for the Harvest Festival service and are now starting a BB Booklet challenge.

The Juniors played hand bells at the Harvest Festival Service and have also marched, carried out sporting challenges and been enjoying lots of games.

The Company Lads have entered the Badminton and Master Team Boys Brigade National Competitions. In these we are away to Nottingham and Gateshead respectively.

Leaders - we would, if possible, like to recruit a lady leader to help with the Anchor Boys. (This would be for 1 hour on a Friday night).

Fund Raising - we are holding our **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November** at St Matthew's Community Centre.

We are now collecting Bric a brac for the Fayre - if you need any collecting, please ring me on 07816 445829

George Bainbridge

Broken For You



Bodies broken and destroyed by war.

Some memorialized by names on a wall
In front of a shell smashed Christ
Who suffered for all of mankind.
Both are there to help us remember
A solemn day in every November.
Also both offer hope to the future
The soldiers' sacrifice can inspire politicians to stop war,
While Jesus Christ offers you a life forever,
Substituting his life for your sinful failure
All you have to do is make him your Saviour.

Mental Health Awareness

THEY MAY NOT BE AVOIDING YOU. THEY MAY JUST BE:

- Overwhelmed with work.
- Processing a shock or trauma.
- Putting some boundaries in place.
- Dealing with an illness.
- Saving finances by not going out.
- · Prioritising family.
- Distracted by an unexpected life change.
- Tired of having to put on a happy face.
- Needing some silence and space.

You never know, don't make assumptions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

November

Sally Clarke Linda Cartwright Debbie Coxon Anna Jennett Jasmine Padgett Sylvia Shepherd Mike Weimer Rachel Wilson





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

for November

Sunday 3rd Stranton Sunday: Services this year will

be at 9.00am & 11.00am with

refreshments between the services

Monday 4th 7.30pm Standing Committee, The Vicarage

Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday

4.00pm Service for Bereaved

Monday 11th 7.30pm Lighthouse Planning, The Vicarage

Sunday 17th 4.00pm Messy Church, St Matthew's CC

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel

Monday 25th 7.30pm PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel

Wednesday 27th 7.00pm Group Council, Fulthorpe Chapel

St Aidan's Kitchen

Friends, we are running short of funds at St Aidan's Kitchen .

BUT, YOU CAN HELP!

Would you like to support the work of The Kitchen in one of the following ways:

- * Contribute to the bags of fresh food and groceries we give out each week (£1.60 per family bag)
- * Sponsor one week's worth of toilet rolls! (£20)
- * Contribute to the hot meals for one week (£80 each week to feed 140 people)
- * Donate tinned meat/fish
- * Donate sanitary towels, shampoo, soaps or nappies

All donations of money or products will go directly to the guests at St Aidan's Kitchen.

or message Mother Gemma if you have any questions!

Sidespersons			(III)
	9.00am	11.00am	
3rd Nov	l Walker	S Shepherd K Shepherd	علاون
10th Nov	P Porritt	D Greenwood B Greenwood	
17th	B Butcher	S Shepherd K Shepherd	
24th Nov	M Hutchinson	J Lawson K Lawson	



Who's Who

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