Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

October 2020

Pressing on with your eyes on Jesus

In July I attended an on-line clergy seminar. The leader of the seminar, James, began by saying to those gathered, 'At the beginning of the pandemic we were talking about it being a marathon not a sprint. Well I have news for you, you are better to think in terms of a long triathlon, an Iron man, and we are just getting to the end of the first phase.' Now in the middle of September I think I can see what James was saying. Even in the middle of August we could not have anticipated the news as it is now, with extra restrictions across much of the North East, rising infection rates and a generalised increase of uncertainty and anxiety. The corona-coaster is here for the foreseeable future and we press on in what feels like a long endurance race.

Paul had the image of a long-distance race when he wrote to the Hebrews 20 centuries ago. He wrote, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith' (Chapter 12;1,2). There is so much in these verses, but I find them to be a real encouragement.

In essence, we are encouraged to press on with our eyes fixed on Jesus. We do this remembering the cloud of witnesses, the saints from previous centuries. These saints knew many uncertainties including illness, persecution and sometimes even martyrdom. Yet they proclaim that God is faithful. We do this also focussing our attention on Jesus: Jesus who shows us the way of God's love; Jesus who, in the death and resurrection, offers us life and hope; Jesus who sends the Holy Spirit bringing us strength and peace. So we press on with perseverance. In all the uncertainties of our present situation may God grant us the grace to look to him and press on in faith, hope and love.

Every Blessing,

Norman

Mothers Union

Harvest Festival time - this year has been a hard one for farmers. An exceptional wet winter with flooding in many areas of our country, followed by drought and extremely hot spells of weather....and of course coronavirus, which reduced the availability of workers in the preparation and distribution chain of supply that brings our food to us. So let us celebrate harvest in our homes in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, our possessions but remembering those more needy than us, plus those who are now without work.

I was hoping to have a soup lunch to raise funds for Mothers Union, due to circumstances beyond our control that isn't going to happen, but perhaps we could find another way of supporting the work of MU in our country and the wider world.

I was hoping we could start our meeting together again in October however due to the introduction of the 'rule of six' I feel our health and safety comes first. I know that my family is insistent that I keep safe and I'm sure that many others of us have had this constraint placed upon them too. Mothers Union members are known as prayer warriors so we can do something positive - do <u>not</u> feel helpless - pray for friends, family, church and clergy. Use your MU prayer diary, your Signpost magazine, news broadcasts etc. I'll try to get MU prayer needs to you.

When the latest regulations were announced the headlines in many newspapers stated "Christmas is cancelled"! Although for us Christmas will <u>not</u> be cancelled. We do not know what the situation will be like in December, however we do know what Christmas means to us as Christians and we celebrate its message every day we live. Harvest greetings to you all Take care and God Bless

Love Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front



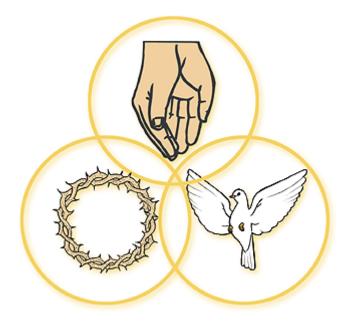
BBC's The Repair Shop is a firm favourite of mine. It is based and filmed in the Weald and Downland Museum (in Singleton, West Sussex). This alone would make me watch it, as when I first learned to drive (almost 40 years ago) this was my first long journey in the school minibus with my class of special needs children, at a time when the Weald and Downland Museum was just becoming established. It was a beautiful place and the buildings (which had been dismantled from their original sites, transported and rebuilt) were old, with wonderful histories and quirky to explore – as well as being somewhere dry in the inclement weather!

The purpose of the programme is to bring people with damaged heirlooms and beloved personal artefacts or treasures and which have a true life, emotional story, along to experts who repair and restore. This brings immense happiness and rekindles long held memories to the owners or allows a new generation to love and treasure the objects and remember the people originally connected to them. "In the case of some items, there are only a handful of people in the country who have the skills to fix them, so the programme is lucky to have so many of Britain's top craftspeople involved. It can get busy at times, with as many as 12 experts working in the barn, plus the occasional appearance of a barn owl!"

The Repair Shop's popularity has soared during the recent lockdown – I was watching it in New Zealand where it has always occupied a primetime slot! It has been fascinating to see objects as diverse as a church weather vane, teddy bears, smashed porcelain dishes, a squeezebox, a piano playing automaton, a bus conductor's ticket machine, trophies, a chopper bicycle, clocks, a leather satchel, an Edwardian high chair and second world war binoculars, all being brought

back to working order and things of beauty and wonder.

It seems to me that we often bring ourselves into God's Repair Shop at times of crisis or pain, when we are broken in body, mind or spirit. We have been dented, damaged and broken by the relentless impacts of relationships, work, stress, anxiety and physical illness that is living in a broken world. In His amazing Repair Shop there are only three experts -Father God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Only they have the knowledge to put back and repair missing and broken parts hidden from view, to supplant and refashion twisted and fragmented emotions, to make whole and heal sick flesh and minds. They can do the impossible.... But first you have to take your broken self into their presence. Then trust the Trinity to remodel you into the loved and unique person you should be the process may involve stripping layers back to root out and resolve the problems, it may be painful, but the end result will once more be a whole person of beauty and wonder, bringing tears of joy and happiness to those seeing the work of the hand of the Trinity, plus rejoicing in the heavenly realms.



JAR



ReVive A group of people, fighting for the child's right to a family

ReVive works with children and teenagers in the North East of Brazil who are suffering from abuse, trafficking or exploitation. We aim to free them from their situation; restoring their lives and renewing their hope for a better future.

ReVive International UK, ReVive International USA and the Brazilian NGO Reaviva are three independent organisations each administrated and organised by their own board of trustees, working together to stop trafficking, abuse and to help the survivors. Young person who needs one either through adoption or reintegration back into their family.

'What is a child's greatest need?' This is the question that we felt God asking us these last few years and we feel like he's gradually brought us deeper into the answer. Back in 2010, we met three sisters who were being sexually exploited by their own Mother... another example of what UNICEF calls 'invisible children' as their abuse is hidden within their own homes and their abusers are close family members as apposed to 'visible' children living on the streets etc... At that time, our city of Olinda in the north east of Brazil had no home for girls who needed to be taken into care - there were plenty for boys - but none for girls. At that time, their greatest need was a safe place to live away from their abusive situation and, in 2012, God led us to begin ReVive and soon after we opened the first and only home for girls in the city. Since then over 60 girls have come

through ReVive's doors and found the safety, love and support that they needed. Many have seen their lives being transformed and their hope renewed for a bright future. Some have gone onto university to study courses such as psychology or dentistry, others have started families of their own and two former girls have since returned to ReVive as staff members! Another need started to arise - this time for babies and very young children - and once again God led us to open a second home for boys and girls from 0 to 7 years old. But safe houses aren't the answer to a child's greatest need - at best they're a short term solution - but a child needs something greater for them to flourish in the long term. Psalm 68.6 says that "the Lord places the abandoned in families." He places them into families, not into care homes. A child doesn't really need a safe house, they need a home. They need a family and not an institution. So, over the past few years God has evolved and developed ReVive's work - the answer to a child's greatest need is met in a loving and safe family environment. Now, we've known this for a while which is why we focus so much on reintegrating the child back into a family or finding a new family via adoption. But, the trouble is that this takes time some children spend over 5 years waiting to return to a family, which is why we are now focussing on bringing a fostering service to the city. Currently, fostering is illegal - we're working with the local government to pass the necessary legalisation. We're currently opening up our second home but we're opening it with the intention of closing it - not because there aren't any more children being abused and needed to be brought into care - but because those children are being placed into foster families rather than into institutions because, according to Psalm 68.6, that is what God would do.

Andy Roberts



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Andy Roberts' visit to Stranton 20th September



Andy Roberts was our guest preacher on Sunday 20th September. Andy and his wife, Rosie, are our CMS link missionaries, working in north east Brazil; their strap-line being:- Revive, Restoring Lives, Renewing Hope. Their main activities (apart from declaring God's word and love) are working with abused children, originally providing safe houses, but more recently searching for adoptive and foster families. This is tricky as fostering is currently illegal in Brazil, so changes to the law are required.

The Bible passage about which Andy preached, was from Mark's Gospel, chapter 5. This is where Jesus and His disciples crossed the lake and healed the demon possessed man. Andy suggested that the crossing of the lake to Gerasenes was a missional act as it was into a non-jewish, gentile area. Mission is a calling, it is transformational, scary and pioneering all at the same time. Obviously, Jesus' entire life was a calling from His Father. The effect of Jesus' words on the scary, demon possessed man was transformational. He was told to stay in the area and declare what had happened to him, this was pioneering.

The work Andy and Rosie carry out is a calling; his "Popeye Moment" of realising what God had called them to do. They are able to transform the lives of many abused children. The situations in which they often find themselves can be scary. However, it's also pioneering as finding adoptive and foster families is counter cultural in Brazil.

All in all, it was an interesting and thought provoking insight into another culture. Andy concluded by offering an open invitation to visit them in Brazil. So, when the Covid restrictions are finally lifted (if ever), then dare we accept his invitation?

Andrew Rogers.

Introducing the Communities of Hope Team:

Hi, my name is Emma Cain and I am the newly appointed Team Leader for the Communities of Hope, here in Hartlepool.

My husband and I came to Hartlepool, following God's lead, what feels like a whole lifetime ago; though, when I counted, it turned out to be 19 years ago. I suppose we were only young then, and childless, which probably explains it. We loved it here and settled down; our three children were all born in Hartlepool – our youngest one on the very last day the maternity ward was still open in Hartlepool Hospital.

Three years ago, I heard God tell me that the time for patience was over and that it was now time to start doing His work. Since then, life has been one long rollercoaster, which has seen me being recommended for training towards ordination as an incumbent as well as being appointed to this post.

I would like my ministry to be about bringing love and hope to my brothers and sisters and am really excited about the work that lies ahead of us all, as we come together to be the living presence of Christ in Hartlepool, bringing hope and healing to this town and its people: our community.

I can't wait to get going and hope to meet you all soon, if we have not already done so!

Sunday Club Important Information

Hi All,

This is just an update about our Sunday club plan to restart. Our first session is planned for the 27th September at the 11 o'clock service. Our Sunday club will then take place on a fortnightly basis. This is of course dependent on any changes to government guidance.

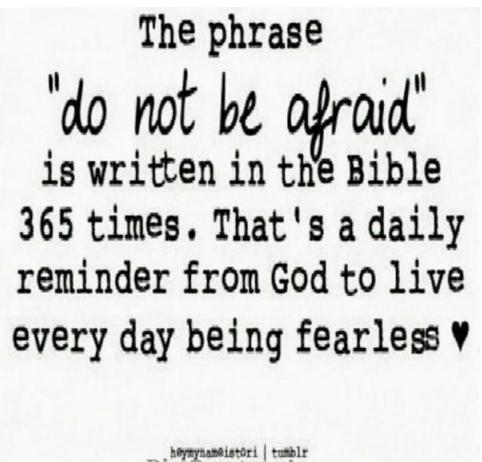
We have a risk assessment in place which will be reviewed as government guidance changes. The following measures have been put in place to ensure we have a safe, healthy and fun Sunday Club:-

- 1) The Sunday Club is for children aged 5-11 years. Unfortunately due to government guidance younger children will be unable to attend.
- Hand sanitiser will be available when the children arrive and leave 2) the Sunday Club session.
- 3) The children will go to the Sunday Club room (the Fulthorpe Chapel) as soon as they arrive at church, where colouring will be available as they wait for the session to begin.
- 4) The children will sit in space bubbles that are two metres apart. These are marked in masking tape on the floor. Siblings may sit in special double spaces together.
- 5) Children will be provided with individual craft boxes that will be labelled as theirs and be provided at every session they attend.
- All paper resources provided will be guarantined for at least 48 hours 6) before use. All materials used will need to be taken home at the end of the session.
- The children will have access to a toilet, if needed, which will be 7) cleaned before and after use. They will also be accompanied by a leader and soap and paper towels will be available.
- 8) When the children leave they will return to their parents before the end of the service following the leader's guidance.
- 9) Due to limited spaces available please book a place in advance by contacting me via email. My email address is kate.lawson4@outlook.com. The deadline to book a place is the Friday before the session. In the email please provide the name and age of the child/children.

Here is the children's version of our rules:-

- 1) Use hand sanitiser to clean your hands.
- 2) Stay in your space bubble which is marked on the floor.
- 3) Raise your hand if you need anything.
- 4) Listen to the leaders.
- 5) If you need the toilet, ask a leader.
- 6) Make sure that you take home everything as asked.
- 7) Have fun! 🛈

If you have any queries or questions, please contact the church to discuss the measures in place.



PinQuotes App

Childrens and Sunday Club guidance from 27 September 2020

اطلاعيه مهم: با سلام، این فقط یک اطلاعیه به روز رسانی در مورد برنامه کلوب یکشنبه ها در کلیسا برای کودکان و راه اندازی مجدد آن در تاریخ ۲۷ سپتامبر ساعت ۱۱ می باشد که بصورت دو هفته ای برگزار می شود. البته این بستگی به هر گونه تغییر در راهنمایی دولت دارد. ما با یک ارزیابی وبا بررسی ها و تغییر دستور العملهای دولت اقدامات زیر را برای شما بیان و فقط برای اطمینان از داشتن یک روز ایمن، سالم و سرگرم کننده در روز یکشنبه برای کودکان داشته باشیم و این مو ار د شامل: ۱ کو دکان ۵تا ۱۱ سال قادر به حضور در کلوپ می باشند. متاسفانه با توجه به دلایل راهنمایی های دولت كودكان كوچكتر قادر به ضد عفوني دست هايشان بطور كامل نيستند. ۲ کودکان باید در هنگام ورود و خروج از کلوپ با مواد ضد عفونی که بر ایشان مهیا شده دست هایشان ر ا ضدعفو نی کننده ۳ کودکان در زمان ورود به کلیسا لطفا به اتاق کلوب بروند. ۴ کودکان در اتاق کلوب با فاصله ۲ متری خواهند نشست که زمین اتاق کلوب با نوار علامت گذاری شده است و بطور کامل مشخص است چنانچه کودکانی که نسبت فامیلی نز دیک دار ندمانند دو برادر ، دو خواهر یا خواهر و برادر هستند میتوانند در کنار هم وبا هم بنشینند. ۵ کار دستی هایی برای آنها تهیه شده که همه آنها ۴۸ ساعت قبل از ورود کودکان ضد عفونی شده اند ۶ در هر جلسه کودکان میتوانند کار دستی ها را استفاده و در پایان آنها را با خود به خانه ببرند. ۷ کودکان در صورت نیاز به توالت ، آنها به همر اه مربی خواهند بود بر ای راهنمایی های لازم و همچنین حوله های کاغذی که أغشته به مواد صابونی میباشد برای کودکان فراهم و قابل استفاده آنها مىياشد ۸ تمام خدمات با خدمت پیروی از راهنمایی رهبران صورت میگیرد. ۹ با توجه به فضاى محدود لطفا با كيتى تماس بگيريد از طريق اين آدرس ايميل : kate.lawson4@outlook.com لطفا از قبل محل كلوب را براي كودكان خود رزرو كنيد. آخرین مهلت رزرومکان قبل از جلسه میباشد. لطفا در ايميل خود نام و سن كودك را وارد كنيد لطفا تمام موارد ذكر شده بابت ضدعفوني دستها به کو دکان خو د گفته شو د. چنانچه سوالي يا پيشنهادي در بهتر شدن محيط براي كودكان داريد حتما با كليسا تماس بگيريد در صور تیکه مشکلاتی رامشانده کردید حتما باما درمیان بگذارید. باتشكر كليساى استرنتون کیتے

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Ward Jackson School transformed many of their outdoor spaces during lockdown

"When I look at our physical learning environment... I see the potential of what it could be..." "Don't you mean what it needs to be?"

With a reduction in educational visits due to Covid 19, learners will be spending more time 'onsite' in 2020 - 2021. We therefore have invested more finance in creating environments to facilitate greater outdoor learning opportunities, support improved a broad and balanced curriculum and nurture social, emotional and mental health.

Four project areas: quad, prayer garden, murals and KS1/STEM garden were identified.



Murals

Existing outdoor wall spaces have been targeted to improve aesthetics, curb appeal and promote the 'Distinctively Christian' ethos of the school. 3 murals have been completed across the school. Additional planting at the front of the school has also taken place. Staff time was used to complete this mural and some paints were donated.

Completed Quad Project

Theme: Beatrix Potter.

The workforce was 24 children (N-Y6). 13 members of teaching and support staff. Plus 3 local businesses involved, also 5 volunteers from the local community offered labour. Reactions included:

"I like the Jemima Puddle Duck section and the Jeremy Fisher section. I really like the eggs in the Jemima Puddle Duck bed. I can't wait to see how long it takes for the eggs to dissolve and 'hatch' – I like Science experiments." (Rebekah)

"I liked making the fairy garden. I chose to put the wind-chime above it – I think the fairies would like that." (Autumn)

"I like everything. I like the outdoor classroom because if we get too hot inside we can just go and sit outside. It's really quiet out there... I like looking at the paintings because they look real." (Maizie)

"I love the Jemima Puddle Duck bed. I helped make that. I built the nest and worked with Angela.

She didn't know that the eggs belonged to Rebecca duck she thought they were Jemima's so I had to show her." (Teagan)

"It just looks better. I want to go out there now and play." (Jenaya) "I love sitting on the logs and listening to stories. We get to draw and paint out there too." (Kaidon)

"I liked making Mr McGregor's garden. We planted carrots, radishes and cauliflower... I hope Peter rabbit doesn't eat them before we do!" "It was fun using the junior hacksaw to remove bark and branches from the logs. Sanding the UPVC for the water cycle wall was not as fun though – it took ages." (Owen)

"I enjoyed using the white masonry paint to cover the raised flower beds although ma naged to get more paint on me – it looked like a bird had pooed on me." (Connor)



Outdoor Classroom and Performance Area

The Outdoor classroom was transformed to promote greater outdoor learning opportunities (whatever the weather). Improved seating to encourage more 'stage' and/or oracy work. Opportunity for children to 'Step inside someone else's shoes...' (Dorothy Heathcote)





Outdoor Paintings

Opportunity to bring the texts to life through images. Hand painted murals painted by local artist. Paint and labour were donated.





Raised Beds

Groups of children were allocated a bed based on the texts they have studied. The children chose the plants 'Lambs Lugs' because they reminded them of bunny ears. Lavender was chosen to attract 'Babbity Bumble Bees'. Children enjoyed designing and making their own 'Peter Rabbit' blue jacket and hanging them on the washing line. Children took part in the process of transforming this bed; they sieved stones, removed weeds, planted new plants, cut plastic coverings, spread bark, inserted fencing, painted the wooden sign and finally used the masonry



Remaining pupils completed a Jemima Puddle Duck bed. They weeded the bed, re-stoned, pruned existing plants, gathered twigs from around the site for a nest, re-wrote the story to display and sourced eggs which could be used as a Science experiment (dissolvable with water).

A group of children learnt about Peter Rabbit. They recreated Mr McGregor's garden by weeding, sieving and preparing the ground for planting. They planted carrots, radishes and cauliflower.



They enjoyed eating the pea pods that had already been planted, made a picket fence and bird house and wrote some fantastic versions of Peter Rabbit. The children have enjoyed watering the bed each day. They also intend to plant some donated sunflowers. They helped to organise the tools needed for working in a veg patch and created a life size Peter Rabbit scarecrow. They also enjoyed creating decorative stones.

A herb garden was donated to school for the children to grow herbs for cooking.



A group of children have also recreated the story of Mrs Tiggywinkle. They helped to make a hedgehog, planted, painted and sourced objects for the flower bed including an ironing board. The children enjoyed using left-over bark from the seated logs to create a bug hotel.



Water Feature

The old water feature was broken and unused. This has now become a habitat for Jeremy Fisher. This also serves as a base for stone painting activities which the children have enjoyed completing. Both thin and thicker paint brushes have been encouraged to re-develop muscle memory and grip. The children painted the trellis, planed and chose buckets and moss as decora-

Fairy Garden

Children were given ownership over the central grassed area. They chose to create a fairy garden based on items collected from tidying the 'junk trunk'.

Prayer garden – part completed by July.

New planting, groundwork, artificial turf in seating areas, enclosed fence, decorative posts with core values displayed, etc... the purpose of this space is to allow pupils some 'break out' / quiet space for prayer, reflection and time-out.





Boys Brigade



First of all the 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade leaders and members would like to thank Carol Laud for all her hard work and the assistance she has given us in managing to re-open as a Boys Brigade Company.

Restart

Anchor Boys re-started on the 11th September with eight Boys attending.

Activities included colouring, devotions, games and washing of hands!! We do have room for some new starters - three would be ideal as we are meeting in the Small Hall where the limit is 15 people including leaders.

The Juniors met on the 14th September with 12 Boys attending. Where we did marching, devotions, inspection, dodge ball, potted sport and hand washing!!

Numbers are also limited here as Boys Brigade protocol allows only 15 Boys and Leaders.

Company Section started on the 11th September and because we have access to both halls we had 19 Lads there.

The challenge each section is now facing is to develop a programme that is within Covid -19 protocols and yet still fun, exciting and challenging.

George Bainbridge

Mary Baines' Seasonal Harvest Recipes

Date and Apple Squares

(*This was delicious & prunes can be substituted for dates JAR*) 1 lb cooking apples – peeled & chopped into small squares

- 2 oz walnuts or pecans chopped roughly
- 4 oz dates chopped roughly
- 4 oz wholemeal flour
- 4 oz dark brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon runny honey
- 1 oz butter melted
- 1 egg pinch of salt



Put all ingredients in a basin and mix well. Grease 8" square tin. Place the mixture in, smooth the top. Bake Gas 6, 200C for about 30 minutes till golden brown Serve warm with cream or custard.

Apple Crunch Pie

1 lb cooking apples (peeled & sliced thinly) – cook gently with caster sugar to taste.

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 egg

- 2 teaspoons cornflour
- 1 teaspoon golden syrup
- 1/4 pint milk
- 1/2 oz butter
- 3 oz oats
- 1 ¹/₂ oz brown sugar

Place apples in dish with cinnamon

Beat egg & syrup together, then use a little of this to moisten cornflour – add to egg mixture

Stir in milk

Place in pan & cook over a low heat stirring all the time, until mixture thickens. Cool, then place over apples.

Melt butter, stir in oats & sugar & sprinkle over apple

Bake for about 30 minutes – Gas 4, 160C till the top is crisp & brown Serve with ice-cream, cream or custard.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

October

Seeley Bruce Mia Bruce



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

Congratulations on your Wedding Anniversary

Peter & Maureen Anderson **Duncan & Trish Playfor Clive & Angela Hall**

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

Future dates

Through October we will continue with two services at 9:00am and 11:00am. The two services are both Covid 19 secure and running two services enables us to keep lower numbers in Church. We will continue to stream the 11am service for those who wish to worship online.

Sunday 4th October

We will hold our APCM. This will be after the 11:00am service. There will be an opportunity to join online via zoom, more details to follow.

Sunday 11th October

We will celebrate Harvest Festival at both 9:00am Holy Communion and 11:00am Morning Worship.

Sunday 1st November

Stranton Sunday - celebrating All Saints at both services. In the afternoon the Church will be open from 3:00pm-6:00pm with an opportunity for private prayer remembering those will have died recently. This will include a place where anyone may light a candle with prayer.



Who's Who

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Churches Together in Hartlepool Secretary Susan Atkinson, St Mary's RC				
Church Wardens	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive	871266 234279		
Signpost Subscription	Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road David Craig 57 Claremont Drive Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednes Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road on Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road g Trish Playfor Church Office	233609 871266 234279 871266 871266 sday) 265527 871266 871266 871266 894006		

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

Sidespersons			<i>(</i> 11)
	8.30am	10.30am	
4 th Aug	B Butcher	S Shepherd K Shepherd	JEJUS
11 th Aug	P Porritt	D Greenwood B Greenwood	Y
18 th Aug	M Hutchinson	J Lawson K Lawson	
25 th Aug	P Thomson	A Craig N Proffit	
1 st Sept	9.00am I Walker	11.00am S Shepherd K Shepherd	

Weddings

