

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

December /January 2020/21

Dear Friends,

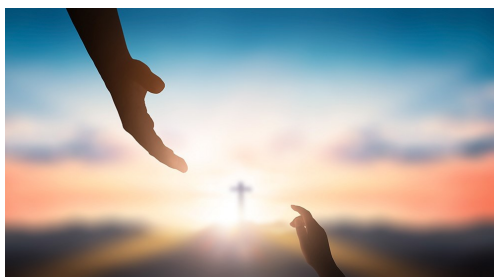
In these unusual times I have found great solace in the psalms. For example in Psalm 46 we read,

- ‘God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging....
¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.’

From a human point of view it still feels as if we are in the midst of a storm. This week the Covid rate is the highest it has ever been in Hartlepool. In the last few days I have heard of three deaths of church members or families linked with our parish. One of our local schools has been shut for two weeks because of the pandemic. All this means it is very hard to plan for services in December let alone Christmas. And yet...

We can be still and recall the source of our faith. As the psalmist points out God is our refuge and strength, the Lord Almighty is with us. Although things may be different, through Advent let's continue to pray the ancient prayer, 'Come Lord Jesus.' When he comes to us in the face of another person, let's show welcome, encouragement and love. As we move into Christmas let's remember Jesus is called Emmanuel, God with us. Looking to January and beyond may we go forward in hope and joy as we seek God's future.

Norman



Mothers Union

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

The normal greeting at this festive time. But... this past year hasn't been “normal” has it? For some, a really difficult time of social distancing, keeping away from our normal routines and activities; particularly missing our loved ones, hearing of the loss of dear friends and unable to celebrate their lives with their families at their funerals; missing “normal” church services and our usual hurly burly of life as we know it.

I have found it really difficult, but have also found joy in having time to be quiet, to renew friendships and strengthen new ones, mainly through telephone conversations. I'm grateful to have visitors who check in with me regularly and brighten my day (social distancing of course!). I've found time to read and pray, to listen to what God is saying for the future. Some of the jobs that needed doing in the house have actually been done – still more to do however!

I've realised how I've become used to living at the seaside and am taking time to see how beautiful it is and how blessed I am to have been able to return to Seaton and Hartlepool after living in the South for so long.

Let us keep praying for Mothers Union that all those who are struggling may find hope and peace in their situation. “Our God is a Great Big God and he holds us in His hands”, is a favourite song we sometimes sing in Family Services. It's an uplifting way to chase away the blues, a reminder that God really does hold us in His hands in all circumstances and changes in our lives now and in the future.

If you need a diary for 2021 or Christmas cards please let me know – I still have some left, also calendars too.

When recently doing my bulbs and pots delivery I was so pleased to be able to see you and have a little catch up chat. Please remember to pray for our Branch, our Diocese, MU Branches throughout the UK and the World. Also pray for our clergy at this busy time for All Saints Stranton, for St Luke's and St Aiden's, and for our witness here in this town.

God Bless, Love

Ann Courtenay

Our God IS a Great Big God

From the Home Front



John 15:2-6

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

Over the past eight or more years my garden has not received the attention it really required due to working full time and then the increasing care which was required by my parents and latterly my brother, interspersed by years of struggling with worn out knees and the subsequent replacement operations meant that the 'big stuff', such as tree pruning, just wasn't tackled. Consequently the buddleia, variegated holly, elderberry, mock orange, conifer, lilac, rowan and others (planted and self-seeded or offshoots) had grown very tall, very wide and very tangled up with each other! The lawn was overshadowed and it was very difficult for the plants in the borders under the trees to thrive as they lacked sunlight. In addition they blocked light from my neighbour's garden too...

So as the autumn progressed and the leaves fell we called in the tree surgeons! The result was quite shocking – the trees looked as if they had been brutalised. The garden felt exposed and overlooked as we could now see the houses around us for the first time in years! But the scripture about 'pruning the vine' came immediately to mind... I know that during the winter the trees will rest and gather strength and that come the spring there will be new growth and energy in the trees. Those that have been removed will have enabled the others to have more room and to grow into better shapes and for the blossoms and fruits to be even more abundant.



*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **John 8:12***

Another bonus is the amount of light which now floods the whole garden. This will enable ground plants to grow with new vigour, plus I can hang out my washing in the sunshine!

Our lives also need the expert pruning of our gardener God to enable us to thrive, to expand in the right way and to bear more and better quality fruit in this world. So don't be dismayed if God seems to be working quite ferociously in your life at this time—things will change in the new season He is planning for you.

J.A.R.

Barbara Butcher and St Matthew's Community Centre

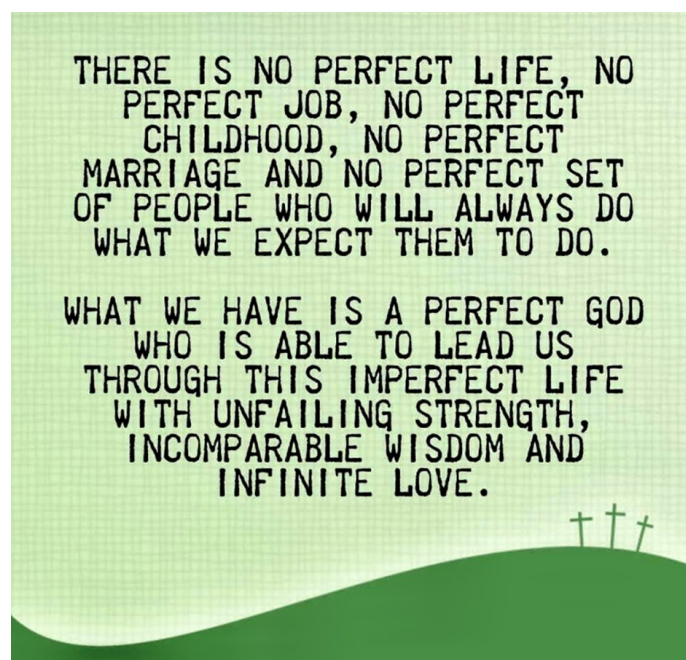
After many years of faithful service on the St Matthew's Centre Committee, Barbara Butcher is standing down from her role as treasurer on the Committee. Barbara has been absolutely key to making St Matthew's Community Centre what it is today - a lively, self-financing Community Hub. Barbara has secured a remarkable number of grants to refurbish the entire building, renew the roof and more recently to build the extension. We are extremely grateful to Barbara for all her conscientious work over the years and extend a huge **Thank You** from all within the church and parish.

If any parishioners or members of the community would like to join the Committee there is space for you. On Wednesday 20th January at 1.30pm we will be holding an Annual Meeting to elect the post holders on the Committee. Nominations for the post holders need to be received by Carol Laud 2 weeks before the meeting. All are welcome to this meeting.

Geoff Webster

At 85 years of age, and after 18 years in retirement, Geoff has now decided stand down from active ministry (permission to officiate). In retirement Geoff initially helped out across the deanery, but more recently he has mainly helped with our Wednesday Holy Communion services. Geoff, we look forward to many more years' fellowship with you. Thank you for your ministry amongst us, and in less restricted times let's all celebrate your ministry amongst us properly.

Norman



Remembrance Sunday 2020



Hartlepool Communities of Hope Team

The Team now has a Facebook page so you can be informed and support their work and become involved in our community plans with them: <https://www.facebook.com/hartlepoolcoh>. Although Lockdown has meant they have attended firstly to work based around St Aidan's Kitchen, all three parishes are involved in areas such as schools engagement and outreach with asylum seekers and rough sleepers, and our active support is needed.

Confessions of an impatient woman!

I always thought I was quite patient!

I'm pretty patient at work especially with those who are struggling.

However there are many areas of my life where I don't show patience!

At the beginning of the year I buy a fancy new notepad and I promise myself it will be orderly and neat! After day two I've started to scrawl as I rush to get down what I need to write!!

I get impatient with

- . Waiting for my kids to come down for dinner, after I've called them twice.
- . Waiting for someone to get to the point of their very long story.
- . Waiting in a bay after ordering fast food (why call it fast?)
- . Automated messages press 1 for this, press 2 for that ... press 365 if you want to talk to a real person!
- . When my hubby tells me to wait a minute for him to respond to a request.
- . People flicking through channels with the remote (just choose something!!!)

I'm sure this list could go on forever!!!

I've realised I don't like waiting as it makes me feel I could be doing other things while I wait!

My biggest frustration is unanswered prayer!

I try and maybe fix the situation myself if God isn't answering straight away!

As I started to write this blog a picture formed of me in heaven's waiting room!

The picture was of me praying for the healing of people and as soon as I said 'Amen' I was In heaven's waiting room (the place where you wait to see if your prayers get answered, not waiting to see if you get into heaven when you die!!) and just like on the walls of a doctors' surgery there were bright Godly posters saying 'God is faithful'

'God is for you not against you'

As I sat on a plush chair (it is heaven after all, no plastic here!) I wait to see what God is going to do with my prayer!

I nodded off to sleep, then I woke up and I left the waiting room and forgot the prayer for a while because I thought God's got it in his capable hands.

When I returned to the same request, I come back to the waiting room because I felt that He may have forgotten my petition, so I paced the room praying and getting a little annoyed with Him, raising a pointed finger (He's got broad shoulders, He can cope).

Still no response, this time I noticed a plaque on the inside of the door 'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see' Hebrews ch 11:1

I've read that verse many times and it sinks in that there is something to be doing while I wait!

Having faith and hope is believing my prayers will be answered, whichever way God sees fit and in whatever time frame!

So the lesson I took from that picture was to keep praying and waiting and having faith!! It's not passive or idle to be waiting in prayer, faith is active when you believe that God will act on your behalf.

At the start of this I listed all the things I get impatient with, when I read them back I realise there is always an end to the waiting.

I eventually hear the point of someone's stories, my boys eventually come down to dinner, my hubby gives me a response, I eventually get to speak to a real human on the phone!

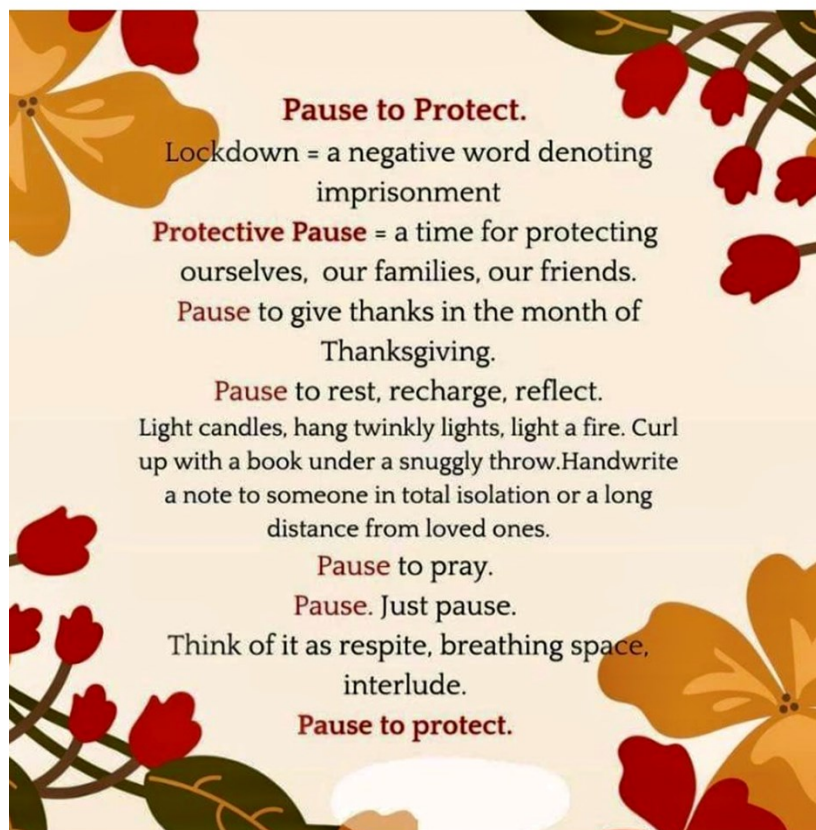
God **ALWAYS** answers our prayers.

Ang Hall

The Inn Keeper's Inkling

As I remember it was a time that could not be bettered.
Crowds all rocking up, the demand for rooms were never greater
For they were all turning up thanks to the Census ordered by Caesar.
We were soon full and extremely busy, employing anyone who was able.
Finally, we even gave a poor weary couple a place in the stable,
Which was just as well as she would have a strange tale to tell.
For she gave birth on an eerie night as a heavenly star appeared
Accompanied by a musical sound that had an angelic appeal.
They were then visited by shepherds to see the new-born child,
Their reason for visiting to me seemed rather peculiar and wild.
The Census came and sadly for my Inn, far too soon ended.
Later I heard a rumour of royal travellers seeking a new-born king.
I often wondered whatever became of that young babe.
The last rumour I heard was that he escaped Herod's wrath,
Others now suggest the family is settled in Galilee in Nazareth
Who knows one day, I have an extraordinary inkling, it may well be,
That he will do something sacrificial for us all individually

George Bainbridge



Forwarded from Rev Roz at Holy Trinity West View

Rebecca Henderson

We have been praying for Rebecca for many years now and she is again undertaking chemotherapy after cancer returned for the third time. She is continuing on a new drug's trial. There was a worry that the cancer had grown or spread but thankfully it hadn't. She feels very poorly after each chemo and is due to have another scan soon – so please continue to pray for her.



The family were recently filmed for the Stand Up To Cancer fundraising campaign aired on Channel 4, Rebecca, along with her parents Tracey and Paul, were talking about Rebecca's cancer – its diagnosis, the ongoing treatment and its effects on her physically and emotionally and also on them. Rebecca and her parents talked about their fears for the future....

Her story can be viewed on su2c.co.uk – look up 'personal stories'.



Tracey, Rebecca and Paul at Seaton Carew

Hartlepool Communities of Hope Christmas initiatives - read on!

Christmas Hampers:

We wish to be truly generous this Christmas to so many who have so little. We hope to give hampers of food and presents to people who live in the "ladder" streets of Elwick Road, to the homeless and to the people who visit St Aidan's Kitchen. For more details please contact us.

Deconstructed Christingle service:

We are planning to distribute oranges, "candles", sweets, cocktail sticks and ribbon to several local primary schools, so the children can make their Christingles in advance of their school service, which will be during the last week of term. The service itself will be on Zoom and may also be streamed on Facebook, so others will be able to join in.

If you feel you can support us in providing the materials needed for so many children, use our banking details *Reference should be "Christingle"*.

Advent trail:

Jess will run an outside "trail" during Advent. We will give all our partner schools a trail form and a map of where the posters will be placed. If you have pre-school age children who would like to take part, please get in touch with us (telephone below) and we will do our best to help you join in as well.

At the end of the holidays, those who have managed to work out the special sentence hidden in the trail will receive a small gift. If you feel you can support us in sourcing gifts (we are thinking of, possibly, a chocolate orange), please let us know.

Mobile Carol service (with donkey!):

As we can't sing in Church, we thought we would take our carol singing out to people where they live. So, we have hired a donkey and on **20th December** we will take "our" donkey along a pre-planned route, to sing carols with all who would like (and Covid permitting, are able) to join in with us. If it is possible, please do come and support us. More details about the timing and the route will follow once we have it arranged.

Christmas cards:

We have designed Community of Hope Christmas cards and they are on sale now. The designs are advertised on the Hartlepool Community of Hope Facebook page where you can place an order. Pack of 10, with 2 different designs, costs £3.50 Pack of 12, with three different designs, costs £4.00

Please contact us via Facebook to order cards and then pay via online banking

- Account name "Stranton Parochial Church Council"
- Account number 10146501
- Sort Code 20-82-18

quoting reference "Card sales":

or, if you don't bank on line, please get in touch with us and we will make different arrangements, to make it possible for you to buy our COH Christmas cards!

Please contact us via our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/hartlepoolcoh> or our phone numbers are: Emma: 07597 308722 Jess: 07597 308751

Jo: 07597 308748

Advent Photo Challenge!



During the time of advent your challenge is to take a photo a day to help you to pause and reflect through the season of Advent. Each day will have a different word to help to inspire your daily photo. Anyone can take part in this challenge and you may want to share your pictures with each other or create a collage of photos at the end of Advent. Don't worry about whether you are using a camera or your phone, just make sure that you are having fun and thinking about the things that we are celebrating at this time of year. If you would like to receive the daily word to inspire your photo, as well as a picture for inspiration (taken by yours truly), please let me know. If you would prefer to do this independently here are the daily words to inspire you:

1 st Dec – Light	7 th Dec – Patience	13 th Dec – Good News	19 th Dec – Gentleness
2 nd Dec – Inspire	8 th Dec – Preparation	14 th Dec – Love	20 th Dec – Trust
3 rd Dec – Joy	9 th Dec – Hope	15 th Dec - Promise	21 st Dec – Waiting
4 th Dec – Peace	10 th Dec – Family	16 th Dec – Grace	22 nd Dec – Kindness
5 th Dec - Prayer	11 th Dec – New Life	17 th Dec – Faith	23 rd Dec – Rest
6 th Dec - Wonder	12 th Dec - Blessed	18 th Dec - Holy	24 th Dec - Christmas

You may just want to enjoy taking pictures, however if you want you can enter the Stranton Advent Photo Competition which is open to all ages. To enter all you need to do is to send a collage of your pictures to me and then they will be judged. Some of these pictures will be shared in the Signpost magazine (with your permission) and the winner will be announced in the notice sheet and the Signpost magazine.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is kate.lawson4@outlook.com.

Kate
Stranton Sunday Club Leader

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Vaccine Jab Quiz

- V** Which V described Mary?
- A** Which A ordered the Census?
- C** Which C describes the population of Jesus birth town?
- C** Which C is an English city and a part of a title of a carol?
- I** Which I were slaughtered at the first Christmas?
- N** Which N was first sung by the Angels?
- E** Which E was John's mother?

- J** Which J adopted Jesus?
- A** Which A, a saint, is mentioned in Good King Wenceslas?
- B** Which B is a 'little town'?

The Return of Virtual Sunday Club!

As Sunday Club is currently unable to happen, I am bringing back the Virtual Sunday Club from the first lockdown. Back in March I began sending Sunday Club emails to a variety of families that included a bible reading/story, some suggested activities/things to think about and an adult assisted activity. Many children enjoyed the activities and learning more about God. These emails are suitable for 5-11 year olds. A lot of the activities will be looking at the Christmas story and include fun Christmas activities!

The first email has already been sent starting the 15th November and there will be a weekly email every Sunday until Christmas. If you would like to be added to the email list or have any questions about this, please let me know. My email address is kate.lawson4@outlook.com.

Kate

Stranton Sunday Club Leader



Mary Baines' Seasonal Recipes

Nut Stuffing for the Christmas Turkey

2oz walnuts - chopped

2oz cashews nuts - chopped

1oz Brazil nuts

1 teaspoon dried parsley

A pinch of mixed herbs

2oz margarine

2oz onions finely chopped

4oz mushrooms finely chopped

6oz fresh white bread crumbs added with salt & pepper

Melt margarine and add it to the chopped nuts, herbs, salt and pepper breadcrumbs

Fry onion and mushroom and add these to the rest of the ingredients and mix well.

Place in greased ovenproof dish and bake for one and a half hours at Gas 4 or 180C

Raspberry Cheesecake

1 raspberry jelly

3oz butter

6oz crushed digestive biscuits

8oz cream cheese

½ pint sour cream

Pack of fresh/frozen or tinned (drained) raspberries

- Dissolve jelly in boiling water – make up to a pint with cold water. Cool.
- Melt butter & stir well into crushed biscuits. Press into base of loose bottomed tin or flan dish. Chill in the fridge till very firm.
- Beat together with cream cheese and sour cream till smooth.
- Whisk this into the cool jelly, then pour over base.
- Place raspberries on top and chill well in the fridge.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Answers

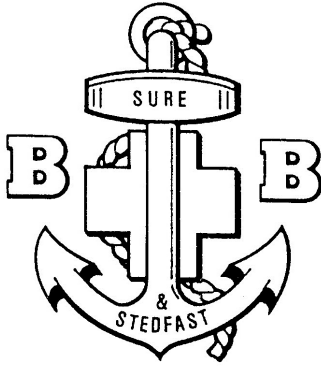
V	Which V described Mary?	Virgin
A	Which A ordered the Census?	Augustus
C	Which C describes the population of Jesus birth town?	Crowded
C	Which C is an English city and a part of a title of a carol?	Coventry
I	Which I were slaughtered at the first Christmas?	The innocents
N	Which N was first sung by the Angels?	Noel
E	Which E was John's mother?	Elizabeth
J	Which J adopted Jesus?	Joseph
A	Which A, a saint, is mentioned in Good King Wenceslas?	Agnes
B	Which B is a 'little town'?	Bethlehem

Alphabet of Gardening tips

I was given a little book of gardening tips "Green fingers and dirty nails", when I was in New Zealand which I thought I would share with you over the coming months - J.A.R.

- B**
A sprinkling of salt along beetroot rows is beneficial.
Chopped banana skins are good for roses.
Birds being a nuisance – sprinkle pepper among your plants.
Basil – bees love it, white fly and house flies hate it!
Plant Basil with beans, cabbage and tomatoes
Borage and strawberries like each other.
Bearded iris lower successfully if the rhizome is half out of the ground.
Plant bulbs in containers to mark their position in the garden if you wish to lift them after flowering.





Boys Brigade



In what has been our 90th Anniversary Year our Company, both Leaders and Lads, has risen to the extraordinary challenges thrown up during 2020.

Our programme for every section has changed - but for the better!! We now have a greater variety of games and ideas than before Covid 19 changed everything.

All the younger Leaders have taken on more responsibilities including programme planning, overseeing marching, supervising games and taking temperatures too!!!

We have made use of far more of our equipment and intend to add to our resources so that the spring and summer programmes can be just as good, or even better than last year's.

We have managed to promote three Lads to Sergeant - Ethan, Ellis and Austin - who will be given more tasks at each Section meeting.

Our theme for devotions since September has been Boys in the Bible, which hopefully we will complete in the New Year.


Our Christmas plans are very different this year as there is no longer 'tea@hart'. However there will be a mixture of crafts, devotions and Christmas activities of a 'socially distanced' type.

All at the **4th** Boys Brigade wish you a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

** We still have room for three additional Anchor Boys (6 -8 year olds).

George Bainbridge

Countdown to Christmas

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

There's something very special about the Advent Sundays leading up to when Jesus was born. Join in with these activities as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas – and as we remember the Comfort and Joy that Jesus brings to us all.



Comfort and Joy

Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
29th Nov, the First Sunday of Advent	<p>Counting down with excitement</p> <p>Look at your Advent Calendar – just 2 days until you can open the first door! Give a jump for joy or fist bump your family at the excitement of looking forward.</p>	<p>Those who are anxious about Christmas</p> <p>Look at the floor. Some people are anxious about Christmas. Ask God to be close to them in the coming days.</p>
6th Dec, the Second Sunday of Advent	<p>Being able to give presents to others</p> <p>Christians sometimes call Jesus 'God's gift to us' – that's why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. Make a list of the people your family will give gifts to this Christmas. Thank God for each person.</p>	<p>Those worried about money</p> <p>Christmas can be expensive. Some people are worried that they do not have enough money for gifts or food. Could your family help by giving a gift to your local foodbank?</p>
13th Dec, the Third Sunday of Advent	<p>Access to water</p> <p>Count the number of taps in your home. Pour yourself a glass of water and give thanks for access to clean water for washing, cooking, drinking, and cleaning.</p>	<p>Children of the world</p> <p>Pour a glass of water. Add a teaspoon of mud to it, stir and place it in your kitchen. In some parts of the world children only have access to water like this. Each time you see your glass today, pray for agencies like Water Aid, trying to bring clean water to children across the world.</p>
20th Dec, the Fourth Sunday of Advent	<p>Health and people who care</p> <p>Draw a rainbow. Around it write the names of your local doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. Colour a heart by each one to show you are thankful for them.</p>	<p>People who are feeling sad</p> <p>Find a sticking plaster. Draw a sad face on it. Stick the plaster onto your bathroom mirror to remind you to pray for people who are sick or sad.</p>
Carol Service	<p>The gift of music</p> <p>What's your favourite Christmas Carol? Record your family singing it and send it to your wider family and friends.</p>	<p>Those who can't get to church</p> <p>Some people will be sad that they can't go to a carol service. Make a poster of your favourite carol to put in the window to cheer everyone up.</p>
Christmas Eve	<p>Everything that makes Christmas exciting</p> <p>Gather round your Christmas tree and look at the decorations. Tell each other which is your favourite and why.</p>	<p>Those who are home alone</p> <p>Do you know someone who will be home alone this Christmas? Surprise them with a phone or video call.</p>
Christmas Day	<p>The gift of God's love in Jesus</p> <p>Today we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Light a candle (safely) and sing Happy Birthday for Jesus before you open your presents. (Remember to blow the candle out!)</p>	<p>People who have no homes</p> <p>Some people don't have their own homes where they can celebrate Christmas. Pray for charities like Crisis who will provide safe space for them to eat and sleep today.</p>

Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
Boxing Day	<p>Those who serve us in shops, cafes, and entertainment</p> <p>Go for a walk with your family. As you pass shops and cafes, thank God for the people who serve us in them. (If there are no shops or cafes near you, think of the ones you last visited.)</p>	<p>Those who have no work to do</p> <p>Some shops and cafes have closed because of the Covid crisis. This means people no longer work there. As you pass closed shops and cafes on your walk, ask God to be close to the people who used to work in them.</p>
27th Dec, 1st Sunday of Christmas	<p>Wider family who love us, grandparents, etc</p> <p>Look at your Christmas cards. Find the ones that came from grandparents, aunts, uncles and godparents. Thank God that they love and care for you and your family.</p>	<p>Families who cannot be together</p> <p>Find a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces need to join together to complete it. Some families cannot be together this Christmas. As you put your puzzle together, ask God to be with families who have been separated during the holidays.</p>
28th Dec	<p>The children in our family</p> <p>Make a chain of paper dolls. On each doll, write the name of a family you know and all the children and adults in it. Put the dolls in a place where you can see them and thank God for the people they represent.</p>	<p>Those who are grieving for loved ones this Christmas</p> <p>Make another chain of dolls. During this year some people died, and their families are sad. As you write the names of people who have died on the dolls, talk about something you remember about each person.</p>
29th Dec	<p>Holiday time to be together</p> <p>Shout out 'Group Hug' and get everyone in your household to either have a household huddle or hug themselves tight. Thank God that you can be together at holiday time.</p>	<p>Those who are hungry</p> <p>Open your fridge or food cupboard and look at what's inside. Some people have very little food and very little money to buy more. Next time you go to the supermarket, buy some extra tins to put in their Food Bank collection.</p>
30th Dec	<p>Remembering all those journeying to find out about faith</p> <p>Some people who visited Jesus followed a star to find their way. Make or draw and decorate a large star. As you hang it on your front door or in a window pray for people who want to know more about Jesus.</p>	<p>People struggling with illness of whatever kind</p> <p>Hospitals don't close over Christmas. They carry on caring for people who are ill. Send a card to your local hospital to thank the staff who were working over the holiday.</p>
31st Dec	<p>For all the good things the past year brought to us</p> <p>Have a family huddle with your favourite hot drinks. As the drinks cool, tell each other the things you have really enjoyed in 2020.</p>	<p>Those who have found this year very difficult</p> <p>Squeeze your hands into fists until it feels uncomfortable. 2020 was uncomfortable for some families. Slowly open your hands and ask God that 2021 would be less difficult for them.</p>
1st Jan	<p>For the good things in store this year</p> <p>Draw around your hand. Inside it write or draw the things you are looking forward to in 2021.</p>	<p>People worried about the future</p> <p>Draw around your other hand. Some people are worried about 2021. Draw hearts inside this hand and ask God to hold the people and their worries.</p>
2nd January to Epiphany	<p>That Jesus is for the whole world</p> <p>How many countries can you and your family name? Jesus came to be God's Good News for all the countries of the world. Jump for joy that Jesus is God's Good News for you too.</p>	<p>Those in the Middle East</p> <p>Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth. He came to bring peace but today there are many conflicts in that part of the world. Find the two towns on a map. Place your fingers on them and pray for the people who live there.</p>

Find more resources like this at: churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

December

Siobahn Connell

Anne Courtenay

Lauren Davison

Eloise Dobbin

Chloe Greenwood

Diane Greenwood

Benjamin Hall

Joseph Hall

Pam Hutchinson

Heather Jennett

Catherine Padgett

Julie Shave

Robbie Spoons

Ella Spoons

Lilly Spoons

Mary Tones

Mark Tones

Josie Watson

January

Tyler Anderson

Frances Boyd

James Boyd

Michelle Butler

David Craig

Nancy Fearnie

Clive Hall

Daniel Hart

Doreen Lathan

Callum Lithgo

Carol Moore

Trish Playfor

Catriona Robertson

Kieran Scott

Isabel Spoons

Luke Tones



**Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary**

Jack Rogers & Gina Guo

Rob & Michelle Butler

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.

Plans for December

Please watch the Church notice sheets, website or Facebook page for updates about what we plan for Advent and Christmas.

On Sundays we will continue to open Stranton Church for private prayer between 9.00am and 10.30am.

There will be a streamed service available on line at 11am.

We will reopen Church for regular public worship, in a Covid secure way, once the restrictions are lifted.

We are yet to plan how a Carol Service or a Christmas Eve Family Service might be possible, but we hope to provide something for members of the Church family to join in with.

We will also hold a Midnight Communion Service and Christmas Day service, but how we do this will depend on restrictions at the time.

Is Christmas Cancelled?

No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test. 😂😂

Who's Who

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Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

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Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

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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.

