

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

September 2021

Patience

The minister stood at the door saying “good bye” to his congregation. “Please can you pray for me Father”, “Yes of course my dear, what am I praying for”, “I need more patience” she said. “Lord I pray for my sister here that you send long suffering to her and some hardships”. “Whoa, just a minute father, that is not what I asked for!!”, “My dear, God does not give out portions of patience, He makes things happen so we can learn patience”, “Then I have decided that I have enough, goodbye Father”.

Considering we live in a time when the unsaid teaching is that you don't need to have patience because you can get what you want when you want. Next day delivery. Fast food, ONE click orders. Don't use money just show your card, you don't even have to put in your pin number so it's quicker and easier for you. Save all your photos to iCloud so everything is together! Pay at the pump and save the walk into the kiosk!

I will stop there, but I hope you are getting the picture. The dictionary definition of patience is ‘the ability to continue doing something for a long time without losing interest, especially something difficult’. I once had to use paint stripper on some old wooden chairs it was taking a long time to get the chairs ready to be varnished. I was told you must be very patient to be able to do that job. The fact I was doing something practical helped me to be patient. But if I saw a traffic jam on the road or a long queue at the checkout my mind is instantly looking for a short cut. The thought of actually just standing still and doing nothing - I would find it hard to be patient.

So how is your patience? Very good, good, moderate, bad, very bad? Be honest with yourself because no one else will know your thoughts except God! I am interested to know that when it comes to Spiritual gifts one of them is ‘Patience’. Now is that because God already knows we might need to extra help with this area? I am reminded when I see this list that in the film Evan Almighty. God is working in a café and he tells Evan's wife this:-

God : Let me ask you something. If someone prays for patience, you think God gives them patience? Or does he give them the opportunity to be patient? If he prayed for courage, does God give him courage, or does he give him opportunities to be courageous? If someone prayed for the family to be closer, do you think God zaps them with warm fuzzy feelings, or does he give them opportunities to love each other?

I think this is a great line from this film which gives so much depth to the teachings of God in real life. This is a alternative way of thinking about different situations. You may be in a situation where you think, God has left me! Or God is punishing me! So change that thought to, what is God trying to teach me here? It may give a deeper understanding of your situation?

‘Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;’ Psalm 37 v 7
Let us all be more sensitive to what God wants to do in our lives.
God Bless
Rev Clive

Mothers Union

Thank you all for praying the special prayer on the 100th Anniversary of the death of our founder Mary Sumner – I'll repeat it here, so other readers of this magazine can join in as well:

Loving Lord, as we look back down the years and see the imprint of your faithfulness on all that has come to pass, we thank you for the life of our founder, Mary Sumner. We thank you for her vision, her work, her forward thinking and her active commitment to your will.

We look back with gratitude of what has been achieved and look forward with faith for the future. We place our trust in God who calls us to follow him as we honour his name and seek to follow his will. We thank you, Lord, for lives which have blossomed through the outreach of our members, for those helped in times of adversity and all who have grown in faith.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for each other and the joy of journeying together on the path you have called us to walk. Amen.

This year also marks the anniversary of the start of MU, 145 years young!

In September we are able to return to St Matthew's Community Centre for our monthly meetings:

Monday 6th September at 1:30pm.

I have brought the time forward to ease the journey home during the darker afternoons in the winter time. I will look forward to seeing you there. The first meeting will be a catch up one and please do bring a prayer or reading that brought you comfort during the times of lockdown. I'm in the midst of getting the house (and me) ready for my eldest daughter and her family coming to stay. They were only coming for one week and then visiting the Lake District. Then the phone call – "We have been let down by the people whose cottage we were renting. Is it alright if we stay the fortnight?" A quick unseen and unheard "Oh!", then a "Yes dear, no problem." Then a few days later it was back to the first plan... I thank God he stilled my tongue and saved what could have been an upset.

The 18 months of Covid regulations have been a testing and wearisome time and let's pray that we can gain strength and hope as well as a return to a hopefully normal life again.

Please continue to pray for each other, and our church, remembering those who are ill, others who have lost loved ones and those who are moving on to new challenges.

Hope to see you on 6th September.

Love and God Bless

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

The lesson I feel I keep on learning everyday for the last 18 months is – to expect the unexpected. So much has, and continues to, happen each day that it leaves me in a whirl of amazement and shock. The arrival of and effects of Covid on every aspect of our lives has been jaw dropping and shocking. Events leading up to and then results of Brexit and elections, followed by the behaviour of politicians has left me questioning morals and ethics of those in power. What has happened in Afghanistan these last few weeks and days has reduced me to tears of disbelief and frustration at the escalation of the suffering of so many, by a fanatical violent minority, with the lack of help or compassion and even foresight by powerful nations!


Close to home the sudden illness and death of a dear college friend has shaken me, and my emotions are volatile to say the least.... The return of my youngest and her family to Hartlepool took me totally by surprise and turned our everyday life upside down.

But within all this I know I must trust in God.

I have prayed the 'big' prayers for nations, politicians, harmony and peace – and know I just need to wait on God's answers, some of which I may never discern. But other prayers I have seen answered – being able to attend my friend's funeral at the other end of the country, supporting her family and also re-engaging with my other college friends after so many years of 'Christmas card' only communication; also my daughter getting a job in Hartlepool and selling her house, the children finding places in the chosen school - all within four weeks.

Keeping communication with our Father open means looking and listening every day for His answers and comfort. While away in the south the walks I had in RHS Wisley Gardens just reminded me how complex plant and animal life is on this planet, how intricately our Creator God fashioned every living thing to compliment and delight.

This scripture in Lectio 365 jumped off the page



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

Followed by this in UCB Daily Reading, which just made me stop and rethink :

“Jesus carried peace with Him wherever He went. When the disciples were terrified by the storm, He simply said to the waves, “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39) and it happened.

Peace doesn't come from finding a lake with no storms; it comes from knowing Jesus is on your boat, and with Him on board no storm can take you under.”

What love and reassurance from our Father to us His precious children in a distressing and hard world.

J.A.R.

Mother Gemma's final Holy Communion at St Aidan's Church August on 1st



On Sunday 1st August we all said a fond farewell to Gemma at her final service at St Aidan's. The church was packed (Covid distanced!) with the St Aidan's faithful and representatives of the congregations from Stranton and St Luke's. The Mass was still a happy event and tears of both joy and sadness were much in evidence.

There were a number of reflections of Gemma's time with us in Hartlepool, emphasising how her energy and drive had galvanised the parish, resulting in all the wonderful community service now being carried out. Obviously, she will be greatly missed by her flock in St Aidan's and across the town, but we pray that the good works established here will continue.

The service was followed by a time of fellowship, with prosecco and cake being enjoyed. Let us pray for safe journeys for Gemma around the UK and to Australia at the end of August, also for her reunion with, and marriage to, Craig and for the challenges awaiting her in her new parish in Beaconsfield, Perth. So let's also pray for the forthcoming recruitment process, hoping that we can attract someone with similar enthusiasm and flair.

Andrew Rogers.



Harvest Quiz

- | | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| H | Which | H is a New Testament Book? |
| A | In which | A was the word Christian first recorded? |
| R | Which | R was Joseph's older brother? |
| V | Which | V is an Old testament Queen? |
| E | Which | E was Methuselah's father? |
| S | Which King | S threatened to cut a baby in half? |
| T | Which | T doubted Jesus? |

Baptisms 25th July

Our first baptisms in church were of Lewis (11) Ava (10) and Isabelle (7). Their parents Andrew and Sarah with Kate and Daniel were godparents. It was a wonderful occasion.



Confirmations with Bishop Sarah at St Aidan's Church 25th July

Bishop Sarah confirmed candidates from St Aidan's, Stranton and St Luke's on the evening of Sunday 25th July in St Aidan's Church. A joyous occasion for all the candidates who were supported by family, friends and members of the congregations.



Hojat, Nyan, Hossein, Josef and Karar confirmed at St Aidan's



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 months - J.A.R.

M

Marigolds planted near potatoes, tomatoes & roses keep aphids at bay.

To control spread of mint, plant in a bottomless bucket.

Mint planted near the house helps to keep mice at bay.

Mint planted near cabbages will help to repel white butterfly.

Mint leaves in your dog basket will help to keep fleas away.

Marrows like to be planted with beans, mint, nasturtium, sweetcorn – but do not like to be near potatoes.



Answers to the Harvest Quiz

H	Which H is a New Testament Book?	Hebrews
A	In which A was the word Christian first recorded?	Antioch
R	Which R was Joseph's older brother?	Reuben
V	Which V is an Old testament Queen?	Vashti
E	Which E was Methuselah's father?	Enoch
S	King threatened to cut a baby in half?	Solomon (Demonstrating his wisdom)
T	Which T doubted Jesus?	Thomas



Fundraising Challenge: Tehran - Hartlepool in 61 days

Hello everyone

Thank you so much for signing up to the fundraising challenge! I'm excited to see how quickly we start clocking up the miles together and raising money!

Here is the link to the spreadsheet which we'll use to track our miles. It should be fairly straightforward to use, but any questions let me know. The more regularly you add your miles the more regularly we'll see the distance going up!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1skuUvVMKxBCA4wzSYAo9x8_g32FdP2albB5SiZTZhFE/edit#gid=0

Remember, if you're doing a joint activity, each person's miles count - so 5 of you on a 5 mile walk = 25 miles. You can enter them all individually or as a group, it doesn't matter.

I'll aim to keep posting regularly about sponsorship on the Stranton Facebook page if you want to use that to share on your own timelines.

Those of you who said you wanted to be in a WhatsApp group, I'll make that soon as well so we can keep in touch easily. Feel free to organise a group walk or cycle whenever you'd like!

Thank you all again and I hope you enjoy getting out and about as we reach the 3,655 mile goal!

Latest update

Hey team,

We've made it 2000 miles - great work!

Thanks for all your efforts so far.

Please keep sharing the sponsorship page on social media/via email <https://www.gofundme.com/f/3655-miles-in-61-days>

We're also grateful for the support offered by Hartlepool United Supporters Trust who have organised a match against Sanctuary Rangers on Thursday night in aid of our fundraiser - more info about that here <https://www.hufcsupporterstrust.org.uk/hust-vs-sanctuary-rangers>

Seth and I will be there if anyone wants to join!

Keep up the good work!

Thanks so much

Rachel

Parish Giving – how to support the mission and ministry of Stranton Church

The Parish Giving Scheme has been updated and it is now possible to join this direct debit scheme through the scheme's website. The link for Stranton church is <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stranton-all-saints-ts24-7qt/>. We do still welcome and give thanks to those who give by standing order and / or envelopes but there are additional costs involved in these older methods. It is also still possible to join the scheme by obtaining a form if you prefer a paper application. If anyone has any questions about the scheme please let me know.

David Craig, Hon. Treasurer

Open Church Saturday Mornings

Church is open each Saturday morning, 10:00 to 12:00, for visitors and for those wishing to receive some pastoral support or prayer. If you would like to be part of the team of people doing this please talk with Rev Michelle (07564 029010).

VACANCY: as Mother Gemma leaves for Australia there is now a vacancy in the Central Hartlepool Group of Churches. The Group Council have met to begin the process of seeking a new priest for the Central Hartlepool Group. Stranton PCC met with the other two Central Hartlepool Group PCCs on Saturday 14th August in the process of discerning the shape of the future post, and we will keep you informed as we go along. In a 'normal' vacancy there would be quite a delay before the recruitment process could start, however, the Diocese regards this vacancy in Hartlepool Group as a 'mission critical exemption', so the recruitment process has started.

Life lessons



My beautiful mum used to give us a challenge when we were on long drives. The challenge was to give a talk or mini sermon on any object she would give us. It could be anything from a box of cornflakes to a tree! This is why I can see God's hands and lessons in most things, I was taught early to look.

This past few weeks I have swam in really rough seas, the waves have bashed my ears. They have knocked me over. Other days I was swimming in the warmest, calmest most beautiful lakes. I have had the absolute pleasure of swimming in the River Nidd and the River Wharfe.

I have learnt so much from all of these swims.

One morning I was swimming with the lovely Brass Monkeys and I noticed a lady not fully in the sea. She had stopped. I didn't know her but I swam up to her put my arms around her and asked her, her name and I told her mine, She told me that It wasn't her first swim, but she had just stopped and not moved further in as it was so cold. I told her, as I held her to keep walking and talking with me and to get her shoulders in. She asked me "Who are you? Are you some kind of leader of the group?" I answered "No, there are no leaders, but I know what helps and it's to keep moving forward "

I know from my own first swims that having someone next to you giving you words of encouragement really helps to distract you from the shock of the ice cold water. 1 Thess ch 5: 11 tells us to 'Encourage one another and build each up.' I love words of affirmation or encouragement and doesn't everyone need them right now? I challenge you to say an encouraging word to everyone you meet today. See what happens to them and to you.

In my first few times in the sea, it was so cold that if I didn't keep walking forward I would have just walked right back out! It wasn't pleasant, the waves too fierce. I also knew that if I just stopped and stayed in one place I would have concentrated on the waves or the cold and not experienced the feeling of floating in the water and of warming up.

As a Christian it way too easy to stand still, to give up and say "that's it, this is too hard, I'm done." It's easy to get stagnant, and not to keep flowing with God. I know there have been times I've looked at my worries or situation instead of keeping my eyes on God and it all looks too scary or too big for me. I freeze instead of walking in step with the one who is so much bigger than my circumstances.

How did we keep moving forward with Him? We get into his word, we study, we listen to sermons, we have fellowship with other believers, we learn from each other. Spend time In God's presence asking Him to speak and guide us.

A good friend and I planned to go river swimming, I always take a giant plastic yellow bucket filled with all I need. Two bottles of hot water to clean and warm out feet and hands, swimming gloves and swimming shoes, a towel and a changing robe.

The night of the swim I looked in my bucket and the only thing I had brought was a swimming hat and two bottles. Not even a swimming costume! I had packed in a hurry and picked up the bucket without first checking. My friend provided me with a huge fleecy hoody but there was nothing for it I had to swim shoeless and gloveless. Don't worry I didn't skinny dip! I borrowed a costume too... The water was freezing and the river bank slippery, but I enjoyed the swim. The next day we took on a much rockier river. I stayed in too long. When I went to get dressed I couldn't use my hands to dress myself. My friend had to assist!!

What lessons will I get out of this experience you may be wondering? It made me think of the armour of God in Ephesians ch 6 -10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying."

I know that when I have on my right gear for wild swimming I can cope with the cold and the rocky water beds so much better. I know that I can stay in longer as the gloves and shoes protect me. As disciples of Christ how much more do we need the armour of God on?

We are in a broken world and we need to protect our minds bodies and spirits from physical emotional and spiritual attacks. Only putting on partial armour will not benefit us, we need all of it.

I wonder what life lessons God is trying to teach you? Ask Him to show you Himself in every aspect of your life.

Ang Hall

Adam Barton
Joiner & Carpenter

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

07877 316030
adam.barton@live.co.uk

Steven McConnell
Roofing Contractor

37 Greta Avenue
Hartlepool
TS25 5LE

Tel: 01429 221784
Fax: 01429 281609
Mobile 07850 925183

*Member of the National
Federation of Roofing
Contractors*



THE CARPET DOCTOR
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
www.thecarpetdoctor.co.uk



TELEPHONE
01642 566551
Mobile 07770 451111



Victoria House
FUNERAL SERVICE

Under the personal guidance of



Carl Mean
Dip FD, MBIE



Apolena Wilson
Dip FD, MBIFD



Andrew Evans
MBIE



Andrew Gardner
Dip FD

TELEPHONE: (01429) 234777 • 26 VICTORIA ROAD, HARTLEPOOL TS26 8DD
WWW.VICTORIAHOUSEFUNERALSERVICE.CO.UK

Hartlepool & District Hospice

Provides free palliative care for patients.
Offers of voluntary help are always welcome ,
as are donations.

Please contact us at:

**Alice House Wells Avenue
Hartlepool. TS24 9DA
Tel: 01429 855555**



Stranton Business Centre

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

Telephone: 01429 280444

Mobile: 07932333779

Email: strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk

www.strantonbusiness.co.uk

Joanna's Poochies Paradise

**147 Elwick Road
Hartlepool
TS26 9BW**

**Pet Shop
&
Dog Grooming**

01429 270056

K. W. Monkman Building Services

**Joinery, Glazing, Property
Repairs & Building Work**



**Reg. Office:
104 Elizabeth Way
Seaton Carew
Hartlepool**

**Telephone:
01429 277385**

BRABINER CARPETS

249 – 251 YORK ROAD
HARTLEPOOL
TS26 9AD

TEL: (01429) 272298



Established for over 75 years

Atkinson Print

& Printability Publishing

Proud to support Stranton Church News

Please get in touch with your Print requirements

- DISC TO PRESS - PC & MAC • COMPUTER TO PLATE • FULL COLOUR PRINTING
- LAMINATING • PRINT MANAGEMENT • DIGITAL COPYING & PRINTING
- FULL FINISHING SERVICE • PUBLISHING & RETAIL

10/11 LOWER CHURCH STREET HARTLEPOOL TS24 7DJ

Tel: (01429) 267849

www.atkinsonprint.co.uk • enquiries@atkinsonprint.co.uk

LET US HELP YOU GET THROUGH YOUR LOSS

We'll guide and assist you through all the
funeral arrangements.

Call us 24 hours a day.

**MASON'S
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
01429 862021**

129 Park Road, Hartlepool.
TS26 9HT



Do you need a Helping Hand?

Our Stranton care team has been
providing award winning quality
home care since 1989.

We offer you a one to one live in care
service which enables you or your
loved one to remain at home with
compassion and dignity.

To find out more, call:
0808 180 1033 or visit:
www.helpinghands.co.uk

Keith Walker Ophthalmic Opticians

28 Victoria Road, Hartlepool

Tel: 01429 275551

Birds of a Feather

My front garden birds are a bit upset with me. my well used large fridge (15 years old) died after the door fell off and nearly squashed me, the bottom hinge still had a bit of a grip but the top hinge snapped right through as I opened it!

So I switched it off, decanted what was in it, stripped out what could be used in the big work room I have, rang the Waste and Recycling Service, got booked in, put the remains of the fridge into the front garden (in the corner out of the way) and am awaiting a fridge pick up in a few days' time.

The birds do not like it encroaching on their food site-it's bad enough that I give them less food in the summer to encourage them to collect grubs and insects, for their families of young birds. The fridge door is propped up against a wall and that is another scary thing. I am now feeding them normal rations away from these two strange items in their space! Roll on Tuesday.

The back garden and side garden birds are fine. Every plant and bush has really grown large this year and whilst I am busy chopping back and pruning, the birds watch me and pick up food items from the trimmings I put in the corner, ready for the compost heap.

My new fridge is working well and is safe!

PS The swifts look down on the other birds with distain. They get their food on the wing!

Ann Courtenay



Ceilidh

Sunniside Up Ceilidh Band

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday 9th October 2021

St Matthew's Community Centre
Elwick Road

Tickets: Adult £2 - Child £1 - Family £5

Join us for a fun evening of music, dancing and good company with
faith supper

Tickets will be available from Church and Church Office

St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road



Please come and join us

Saturday 2nd October 2021

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company

A time to spend together,
meet new people, make new friends

Sunday Club News!

Sunday Club will be returning on a weekly basis, except for special/lighthouse services, starting the **12th September**. Each session will have a bible focus and then some fun activities too! Please join us and if you have any queries please feel free to get in touch.

Kate

Stranton Sunday Club Leader

Update from Kilimatinde

Greetings to you all!

I have a great pleasure to inform you that we are going on well with studies. By God's grace all workers and students are okay, no covid-19 deaths. We are still taking precautions against Covid-19.

Form IV Students have already completed regional mock exams today and their results will be out next week.

I would like to inform you about progress of construction of the girls' toilets and bathrooms. We have already completed many construction activities like excavation, foundation, erecting walls, building toilet dump, doors and plumbing work. You may find some photos attached to this email.

We are left with plastering, painting and electrical system in which we are expecting to complete it soon. By the end of this month the girls will start using new and better toilets and bathrooms. Thank you so much for your financial support to St John's Seminary.

On behalf of St John's Seminary, I would like to remind you about scholarship of students so that we can purchase more food, pay for electricity bills, water bills, salaries of workers, learning aids, laboratory requirements for practical elements for CSSC exams at the end of August and national exams on October 2021.

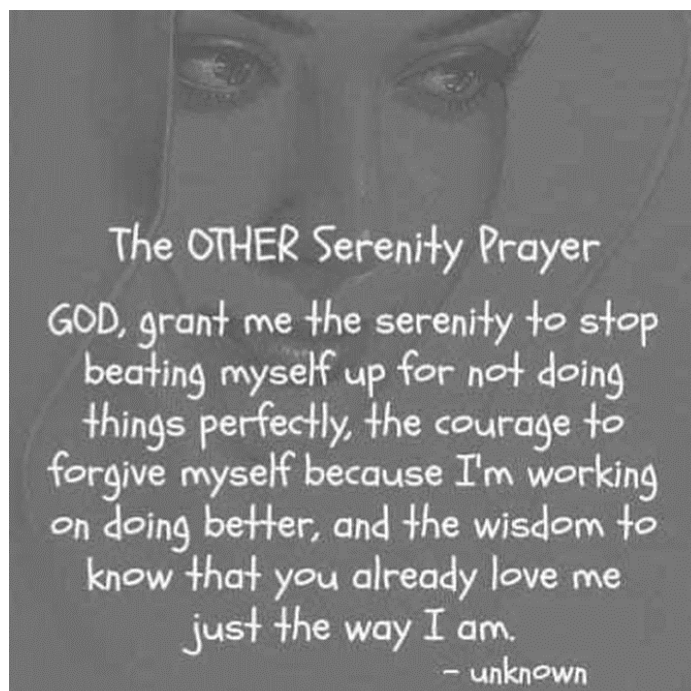
Your financial support will save students future and the school in general.

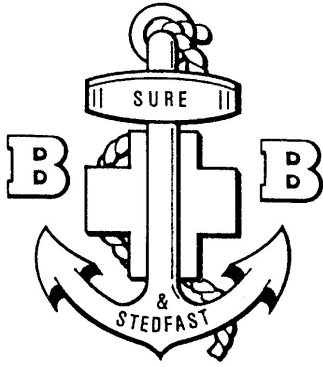
God bless you all.

In Christ Jesus,

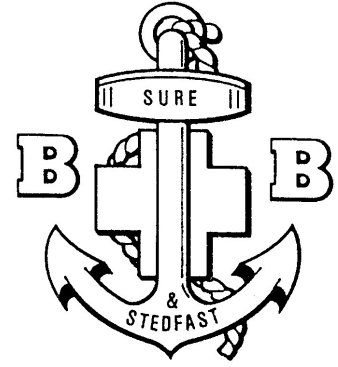
Rev. Canon Lucas NGASSA CHUMA

The Manager of St John's Place





Boys Brigade



New Session - We have an active programme planned for each section of Boys Brigade including devotions and activities based on The Fruit of the Spirit on the run up to harvest, plus our regular programmes of crafts and games.

We also intend to get the Company Lads back into uniform after the pandemic.

Our meeting nights will be starting from On Friday 10th September for Anchor Boys & Company Section, then Monday 13th September for Junior Section.

Anchor Boys - For Boys 5½ to 8yrs old. Every Friday Night at St Matthew's Community Centre 6.00 - 7.00pm.

Junior Section - For School Years 4, 5 and 6. Every Monday Night at St Matthew's Community Centre 6.30 - 8.00pm.

Company Section - For school years 7 and beyond. Every Friday Night at St Matthew's Community Centre 7.30 - 9.00pm.

The Subs are £1.50 per night.

We welcome new members in each section.

If you would like to see what activities, we do check us out on our Facebook page

George Bainbridge

07816 445829

Church History

I have recently been doing some research in order to write an updated history of Stranton church for a brochure that will be available for visitors to the church and anyone else who is interested. For those who would like to know something of our history, but don't feel the need to read the whole thing, this is a selection from the information that I have discovered (which I present with as much accuracy as I am able to when dealing with events from so long ago):

- ◇ The present church building dates back to the early 12th century, though it is thought that some form of Saxon church, possibly timber, preceded it. The church was therefore built in the Norman style of architecture, though many changes have taken place since then, and most of the rounded, Norman windows were subsequently replaced by long, narrow pointed arches (called lancets) in the Gothic style, like the ones at the east end of the chancel (behind the altar). If you look at the window on the west wall near the vicar's vestry, you will see the original Norman shape. The remains of a 12th century semi-circular window arch can also be seen in the east wall of the chancel and there are some ancient stones (two of them with crosses on them) in the east wall in front of the organ chamber which have been dated to Saxon times and are possibly from gravestones.
- ◇ The original building consisted only of the nave and chancel, (ie the middle section of the church) with small, high windows, but, in the late 13th/early 14th century, the north aisle and the tower were built.
- ◇ In the 14th century, the chancel (the area at the front of the church including the altar) was rebuilt and made bigger, the south aisle was added and the tower was remodelled and built higher.
- ◇ In the 15th century, the Fulthorpe Chapel was added to the north side of the chancel. The chapel was created for the Fulthorpe family (some of whom are buried here), who in 1707 provided funding for the conversion of this chapel into a school for pupils from Stranton and Hart. This was the first free school in the area and operated for 134 years until 1841, when a new school was built.
- ◇ When the changes took place to create the school, the walls and stonework were whitewashed, covering the paintings which originally decorated all the walls of the church.
- ◇ The porch is also thought have been built in the 15th century.
- ◇ In 1889 the organ loft was built, at about the same time as the vicar's vestry at the back of the church. In 1896 the choir vestry was added in the north-west corner.
- ◇ The pews date from the mid 19th century, when they replaced the 18th century box pews, the panels of which were then used to line the walls of the church (and are still there).
- ◇ The communion table dates from the 16th century.
- ◇ Originally, the congregation stood on straw-covered floors (maybe in an effort to keep everyone awake while the services were conducted in Latin!).
- ◇ The stained glass is mainly 19th century, though the chancel windows (not the glass), date from the 14th century. Of the two built on the south wall of the chancel, one can only be seen from the outside of the building as it is inside the organ loft. There was originally a door between these two windows.

- ◇ There is 14th century piscina (a stone basin) in the south wall, which is where the communion vessels were washed, and there is another one in the south wall of the chancel.
- ◇ Just inside the church, above the door, there is a damaged stone carving which is thought to have been vandalised by Oliver Cromwell's troops during the Civil War of 1642-47.
- ◇ Stranton Church has the oldest bells in Hartlepool. The bell which now hangs as number 6 in the ring of 8 is thought to date back to 1599. Each bell has its own inscription.
- ◇ The church clock, erected by subscription in 1864, has a literary connection with another famous clock. William Humphrey, a famous clockmaker in the north of England, who made the clock which Charles Dickens used as the title of a weekly periodical entitled 'Master Humphrey's Clock', was a parishioner of Stranton in the 19th century and was buried in the churchyard in 1887.
- ◇ The church registers begin in 1580 and there are church accounts recorded from 1697, which make for interesting reading. These are just a few of the entries:
- ◇
 - In 1697, " 7 shillings for the bellringers upon the King's return from Flanders"
 - " 2 shillings for "Marjory Grievsson in time of her sickness"
 - "2 shillings "for a paire of Shoes for Will Crow"
 - In 1706, "7 shillings and 6 pence for the Burials of 2 men cast upon the sea shore"
 - "12 shillings and 6 pence for a cushion for the pulpit"
 - In 1792, "13 shillings for Beef for Easter Dinner".

When I was researching the history of the church, I used various documents, including a booklet written by P J H Kirner, vicar of Stranton from 1922, and a leaflet produced in 2002 by Frank Dunn, who some people will remember as a member of our congregation. I also discovered that the embroidered copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" in the Fulthorpe Chapel was completed by Rene Vickers, another member of the congregation whom I remember. What fascinates me about our history is not just the church building, but the thought of the hundreds and thousands of people who have gone before us, attending services in this same building, singing the same (or different) hymns and songs, commemorating important events in their lives as we still do in ours and it has been good to remember, through doing this research, some of these more recently departed members of our congregation. Similarly, when I see the banners in church, I think of the people who embroidered them and, when the spring flowers are in bloom on the way up the church steps, I am reminded of Chris Applegarth, a former church warden, who planted most of them.

Some of the families associated with Stranton are commemorated in our stained

glass windows or in plaques around the church, several of them were related, and our vicars are recorded on a wooden tablet near the vicar's vestry, the earliest dating from 1312. We won't all achieve such dizzy heights (!), but we are all part of the thread that God is weaving into our shared history:

"Man's life is laid in the loom of time

To a pattern he does not see,

While the weavers work and the shuttles fly

Till the dawn of eternity."

(From 'The Loom of Time', author unknown.)

Pam Stockton

EXAM BLUNDERS

As our students await the results of their assessments, you may enjoy these gems taken from Religious Studies school exam papers, as sourced from the book 'You're only Young Once'! © TLM Trading, 1988



- The first book of the Bible is called Guinnessis.
- God's people were called the Israel Lights.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar.
- When Mary heard that she was to be the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- Judas Asparagus was the disciple who wasn't very nice.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- St Paul cavorted to Christianity after seeing the bright light.
- Salome, a wicked girl, danced before Harrods.
- The last book of the Bible is called The Book of Revolutions.
- God created the world and then he created Adam and Ebay.
- The first five books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Laxatives, Deuteronomy and Numbers.
- In the first book of the Bible Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- Some angels told Abraham that he would bear a son, his wife Sarah was listening behind a door and she laughed loudly.
- Joseph gave refuse to his brothers when they had a famine in their own country.
- David fought Goliath who was a very tall philatelist.
- Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- The Philistines are islands in the Pacific.
- Judaism has one big God named 'Yahoo'.
- The masculine of vixen is Vicar.
- Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients.
- The end of the world will mark a turning point in everyone's life.

Jeff Parsons

Communities of Hope Fun Day 27th July at St Luke's Church



Recipes

Vegan spaghetti Bolognese

Ingredients:

350g Soya Mince (all main supermarkets sell this)
2 tbsp olive oil,
1 onion finely chopped
1 carrot finely chopped
1 stick of celery, finely chopped
200g mushrooms finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
400g tin chopped tomatoes
1 vegetable stock cube dissolved in 200ml boiling water
100ml red wine (if desired)
1 tbsp tomato purée
1 tsp dried mixed herbs

Method:

Heat the oil in a saucepan and fry the onion, carrot, celery and garlic gently for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and fry for 2-3 minutes more.

Add the tomatoes, tomato purée, red wine, dried herbs, tomato ketchup and vegetable stock. Cover and simmer gently for a further 8-10 minutes. Stir in the Soya mince continue to cook over a low heat while you cook the spaghetti as per pack instructions, season to taste.

Drain the spaghetti, spoon the bolognese sauce over the top and serve, sprinkle with some basil leaves and Parmesan or vegetarian Italian hard cheese shavings.

Cuddly egg men



400g strong white flour
½ tsp salt
pinch of sugar

7g sachet fast-action dried yeast
2 tbsp olive oil
4 large eggs, at room temperature

Method:

Put the flour into a large bowl and stir in the salt, sugar and yeast. Pour in 250ml water and the oil and mix to a soft dough. Add a little extra water if necessary.

Knead the dough for a few minutes until smooth and then put into a bowl, cover and leave in a warm place for about 1 hour or until doubled in size.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Turn the dough out onto a board, knead briefly and then cut into four. Take one piece and cut off a quarter and shape into a ball for the head. Shape the other piece into a sausage. Attach the head to the body using a little cold water.

Place the dough onto a non-stick baking sheet. Using a sharp knife cut the bottom half of the sausage to make two legs, then cut into the sides up to the shoulders to make two arms. Using scissors, snip at intervals around the top of the head to make hair and make one snip for the mouth. Use a wooden skewer to make two eyes.

Take one egg and place on the dough man's tummy. Fold the arms over the egg and secure with a little cold water. Make three more egg men with the remaining dough. Leave to prove for about 10 mins.

Bake in the oven for 20 mins until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack for a few mins before peeling the egg and eating with the warm bread.

*I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"Lord, save me!"
The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
The Lord protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.
Psalm 116:1-7 (NIV UK)*

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

September

Vickie Addison
Freyja Bruce
Joan Herbert
Katie Herbert
Jack Hanlon
Mel Hutchinson
Angus Kerr
Maureen Wilford



Congratulation to

Will Spoors on his A' level results and
blessings for his future studying law in
Newcastle
and to Ella & Lily on their GCSE results

Wedding Anniversary

Alan & Catriona Robertson

Georgina and Norman Metcalfe

Congratulations on your
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Rev Hancock officiated at Stranton Church
at their marriage on
9th September 1961

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 and Services for September

9.00 am Holy Communion Continues every week

Sunday 5 th	11.00am	Morning Worship with Baptism
Monday 6 th	1:30pm	Mothers Union St Matthew's Community Centre
Tuesday 7 th	7.30pm	Standing Committee, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sunday 12 th	11.00am	Morning Worship, Sunday Club restarts
Monday 13 th	7.00pm	Group Council Meeting, Stranton – Open Meeting
Saturday 18 th		St Luke's Garden Party
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Family Communion
Tuesday 21 st	7.30pm	Stranton PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sunday 26 th	11.00am	Lighthouse Service with Baptism

Advanced notice:

Saturday 2nd October	Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company – 2.00-4.00pm
Saturday 9 th October	Ceilidh at St Matthew's Community Centre 6.30-9.30pm
Sunday 10 th October	Harvest Thanksgiving



*Start children off on the way they should go,
even when they are old they will not turn
from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

A Prayer of Susanna Wesley:

'Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Your presence. So may my every word and action have a moral content. May all the happenings of my life prove useful and beneficial to me. May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity of exercising some virtue and daily learning and growing toward Your likeness. Amen'

Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 07305 550009 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk

Vicar

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

Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

Readers

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

Church Wardens	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266 Rohan Wanduragala 62 Clifton Avenue 223751
Music Group	Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609
PCC Secretary	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Treasurer	David Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279
Asst. Treasurer	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Loyalty Treasurer	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Notice Sheet	The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)
Signpost Editorial	Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527
Signpost Advertising	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Signpost Subscription	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
St Matthew's Booking	Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

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

