

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

November 2021

Be Still and Know I am God.

This title is a verse which is often said within a sermon by many a priest! Yet it is a line which is far easier to say than to actually do. I am quite good at keeping my days off and I don't even check emails. I have a quiet time at the start of each day. But when Mother Gemma informed us all that she would be leaving her role at St Aidan's church we knew that this was going to make quite a few people busier, as she was a busy lady and someone needed to take on the roles she was doing.

With that in mind and a bit of forward planning in July I booked a 4 day retreat at Sleights near Whitby. The St Oswald Centre used to be run by the Sisters of the Holy Paraclete in Whitby, but now a new couple called Paul and Jackie Reilly run it. I had a sense that I may need a little break to recharge the batteries.

I did not know that the week before I left for the retreat, I would preside over two funerals, go on three baptism visits, work in school taking a baptism class for Nursery, lead a communion service at St Columba's, take two baptisms over the weekend and the normal church services. Alongside the usual staff meeting, home group and a supervision meeting. It was such a full on week!

When I arrived at the centre, I walked around the building and then the grounds. I like to orientate myself. Then I went back to my room and promptly fell asleep.

When I awoke, I read the welcome booklet it mentioned signing up for you meals just in case you wanted the vegetarian option and also if you required porridge in the morning. I went to look at the menu outside the dining room. I read the board and I simply could not believe it. I knew right then that God was smiling down on me. The meal was almost the exact menu that I had asked Angela to make me for my birthday back in January when we were in lock down - Beef Bourguignon, potatoes, vegetables and sticky toffee pudding with custard!

How had God planned that? I had an overwhelming feeling that God was treating me and he wanted me to just enjoy my time here. I then walked into the lounge and saw on a table near the window a jigsaw which had just been started. I was told it was a community jigsaw and all can have a go at putting it together. I sat and put some pieces in before the 5:00pm prayers in the chapel.

I was already feeling at home and relaxed. Cutting a long story short, the next day I went for a long walk seeing lots of wild life and the day after God said clearly, "do nothing at all". I even think I heard him say "go finish that jigsaw" - which I did! I did come home feeling recharged and totally blessed. Why am I telling you all this? I would like to say go and do likewise! I have definitely learned that I need to find time to rest, even as I type this I know Norman is also away on retreat. I wonder what special treat God has in store for him?

We do live in a very busy world, and I do encourage you to find time with God, in a way that suits you, but in a way that God can use to bless you.

Yours in Christ

Rev Clive

Mothers Union

At our last meeting we celebrated Harvest by singing two hymns during our time together - Come you Thankful People Come and We Plough the Fields and Scatter. Unfortunately Jo Leslie was unable to join with us – she is able to be at our next meeting though, on November 1st.

Our lovely curate, Rev Michelle Delves, was with us. Michelle has followed the work of the Mothers Union for quite a while and had become an MU member quite recently. Michelle told us of her journey along the way to priesthood and spoke about her lovely Mum, whose support was so important to her. Thank you Michelle.

I have booked the Marine Hotel for our Christmas Lunch on December 13th. I'll sort out menu choices nearer the time. We will still meet for an Advent meeting on December 6th.

I'll have Christmas cards, diaries and calendars on November 1st, so do come prepared to look at them.

There are a few MU events happening in our Diocese in November and I will update you about them nearer the time. Do read your "Connected" magazine for more information on 16 days of activism and Global Day, when we focus our prayers on those living with gender based violence.

Please pray for those members of MU having various hospital treatments and for those who find it difficult to do what they used to do. We may be older but we are still God's children and are still in His wonderful care.

Hope to see you on November 1st at 1:30pm.

God Bless

Ann Courtenay



From the Home Front

In mid September we managed to go on holiday to Northumberland, we went with some dear friends (she and I have been friends since we were three, plus when we were all teenagers she introduced me to my hubby – although I don't hold that against her!) we stayed in a lovely cottage near Warkworth and had the most fantastic weather during our break.

As a history student at Durham my final year field trip had been around castles and abbeys in Northumberland. It was a wonderful walk down memory lane in so many ways for me. We enjoyed walking from Craster to Dunstanburgh Castle, around Bamburgh Castle, exploring Warkworth Castle and Alnwick. I really wanted to visit Chillingham Castle and to see the famous Chillingham Wild Cattle. This would be new ground for me, but I felt I knew so much as my closest friend at College had visited the cattle on her science field trip and talked so much about them. Sue died in her late forties from breast cancer and I still miss her. In addition I am now back in touch with the group of College friends from those years and we were busy WhatsApping as we made our plans to visit Chillingham. One friend who now lives in Australia was originally from Wooler – just eight miles from Chillingham, and vividly remembered the castle as a ruin where she and her friends cycled to for 'Enid Blyton' type adventures! In 1982 it was taken over and restored over the next thirty years by an enthusiastic eccentric, Sir Humphry Wakefield and his wife (who is related to the Earl Grey Family, who have owned the castle since the 13th Century). I can safely say it was the most bonkers castle I have ever visited! It was crammed with a bizarre and eclectic mix of antiques and old things, ranging from silk wall hangings to pewter plates to torture chamber paraphernalia! Visitors were allowed to touch articles and furnishings and the room guides were full of fascinating information. The castle is supposed to be one of the most haunted places in Britain – indoors and out!





We had a long escorted drive up a deserted distant hillside to see the wild cattle, which fortunately for us were in the field next to the track. These amazing animals have had no human interference for over 800 years. They are now left to breed and survive without veterinary care or human support. They are not used for food, milk or skins – they defy the known genetic problems caused by inbreeding and a limited gene pool – they are now so closely related that they are almost clones of each other!



I felt that Chillingham taught me some useful life lessons. No matter how bad your life has become, with love your life can be rebuilt and restored (Chillingham was a leaking, windowless ruin for over 50 years). The new you might not be what is expected, but it will be exciting, innovative and well worth knowing

(Chillingham was so different to any other castle I have ever visited I can't wait to return as there is so much more to see and discover). Getting up close and personal with God is like being able to handle artefacts – you learn so much more and you want to keep on finding out more. As for the cattle – God's ability to engineer His created masterpieces can be mindboggling to the greatest scientific minds – God is the God of the Impossible.....

J.A.R.

Harvest Festival 10th October

Between the two morning services Boys Brigade provided bacon-butties, tea and biscuits in St Matthew's Community Centre to begin the Harvest Festivities, which was an opportunity to meet up and chat. Rev Michelle led the service where the congregation was a mixture of regular congregation and families of children in the uniformed organizations.



The uniformed organisations paraded in their flags.



Boys Brigade Junior Section rang 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' on handbells.

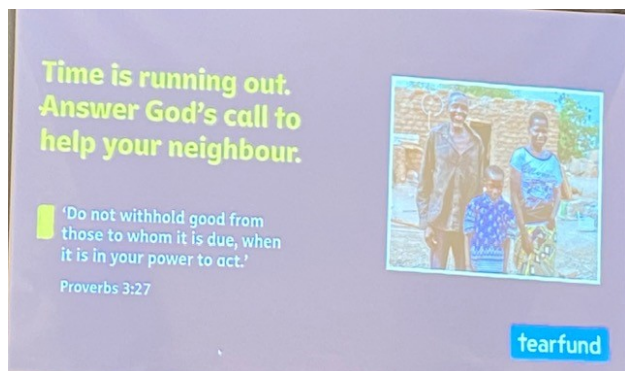
Sunday Club
(Tyler and Lorelai)
sang and read 'All
Things Bright and
Beautiful'.



Uniformed Organisations paraded their flags out.



Mary interviewed Julie about her visit to Bukino Fasu in 2011. Tearfund is focusing its Harvest Appeal for Bakino Fasu this year, so we heard all about the struggles the population are having with drought in this sub-Saharan African country.



Displays around the Church

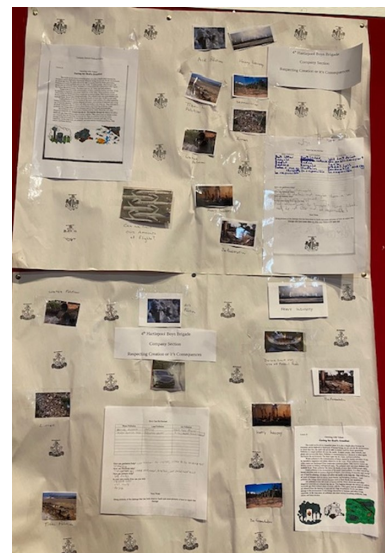
Sunday Club and Harvest gifts for Food Bank



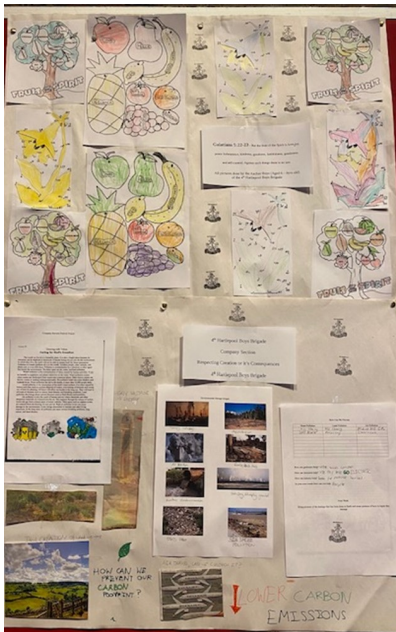
Rainbows and Brownies Harvest Blessings



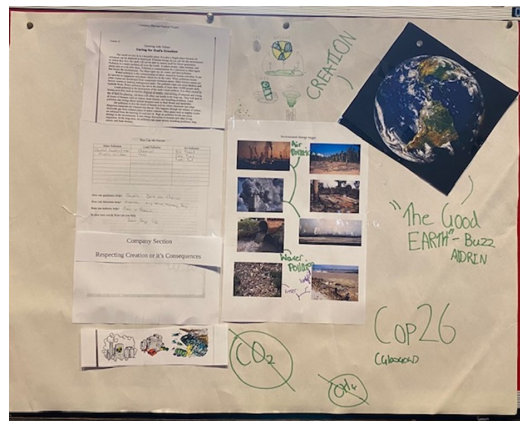
BB Company Section
Respecting creation or its consequences.



BB Anchor Boys
Fruits of the Spirit



BB Fruits of the Spirit



BB Company Section
Respecting Creation or its consequences

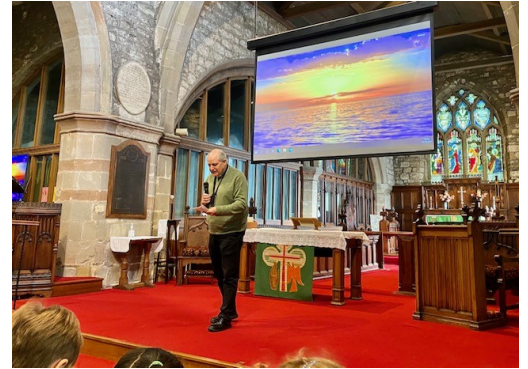


Ward Jackson Harvest Festival Thursday 7th October

After an absence of almost two years it was wonderful to welcome the children and staff of Ward Jackson CE School back into Stranton Church for their Harvest Festival Celebration. The weather was warm and dry for the walk from school to church and the children were impeccably behaved, with older children looking after younger children. The service was very well attended by parents, carers, family and Governors. Some children were a little overawed by having to perform in front of such a large audience – some have no memory of doing this before! However they performed a packed programme with enthusiasm. Rev Clive welcomed everyone and ended in prayer and the Head, Mr Akers introduced the classes.

J.A.R.





Harvest Prayer at the end of the service. Spoken by Rev Clive

Heavenly Father I thank you that we have had a great time here in church. It all started when we sang about being bonkers for conkers. Even when the words of the song said 'I want a conker that is **better** than all the rest', all the children changed the word to **bigger** than all the rest.

Then Nursery and Reception came and sang all about the Dingle Dangle Scarecrow who had very shaky hands and feet but who could sing very LOUD.

Norlina were up next Lord and they sang about a Big Combine Harvester and I loved how they rolled their hands over and over like the blades of the harvester. Next we all sang the Harvest Samba song. This mentioned lots of food to eat which made us feel hungry, but we really like the line that said "Thank you to God the Father".

Blanchland sang about Autumn Days which followed the theme of saying Thank you to God. I especially like the picture of the milkman from years ago, which reminded me of my dad who was a milkman a long time ago.

Aurora sang It's Harvest Time and took us on a journey to China, India and Spain and reminded us to celebrate and enjoy this harvest time together.

Then came Wingfield and the Harvest Shanty with the line that made everyone smile "Enjoy the lovely Arrghvest" I can't wait to see this on You Tube it might make them all famous!

It was such a great time Lord and I thank you for this harvest time and being able to celebrate it here in church.

Amen.

Communities of Hope

I wondered if any of you are available to offer to help with any of the below upcoming one off events.

20th December – Christmas Event. This will be held at St Matthews's Community Centre. This is an event for local families, those we have met and from the kitchen. We would like some general helpers, people who are happy to set up, clear away and offer more general help. As well as people to be part of a volunteer team to do simple activities/crafts with the children and simple catering.

Other volunteering

We may also require support around Christmas with food hamper packing.

Or if you are still looking for regular volunteering then let me know and we can have a chat, as we have various regular activities happening/coming up.

Kind regards,

Jo Leslie

Communities of Hope

Community Worker

Telephone: 07597 308748

Tony and Katherine Paton CMS Mission Partner visit to Stranton will be Sunday 5th December. Paton Family Return to UK - update

Sept 2021

We have been back in Scotland for 6 weeks now (although only 4 of those we've been allowed out of the house).

We have had a bumpy landing and it seems to be continuing that way, hopefully for only a little longer.

The children started school a few days after we were out of quarantine. Eilidh (P5) is enjoying her small primary school where there is lots of play. Euan (S2) is struggling as his classes are quite disrupted by "naughty" pupils, and he's not made friends which is tough as he's the most friendly and outgoing of our 4. Innes (S4) is quietly (and unusually not complaining) getting on with things and I think is enjoying having trained teachers.

We dropped Anna off in Glasgow last weekend, she's studying biomedical engineering at the University of Strathclyde. She's feeling a bit overwhelmed and undoubtedly like the rest of us suffering culture shock. We're hoping things improve once she gets to know people and starts classes.

We haven't arranged any church visits yet as we weren't sure how things would be due to Covid. We only had our first vaccine the day after we were released from quarantine as they were difficult to get in Vientiane. We would however like to visit people to say thank you for supporting us over our 16 years in Laos.

Blessings,

Tony and Katherine Paton

PCC Burbank Report October 2021

Burbank Church – All the members who were attending Burbank Church when the decision was made to close were invited to Clive and Angela's house on 5th October for a meal, to have a time of fellowship and sharing of memories.

On the 7th November we will have a Thanksgiving service at Stranton Church for Burbank Church, the details for this service to be finalised at a later date.

Ward Jackson School – I did a talk at the end of year assembly for the Year 6 last term and I advertised YF. I have just heard one of the pupils is coming along to YF for the first time. I have heard the Bruce family are hopefully coming back to Hartlepool and they will definitely increase numbers in many places in church. Sunday Club, YF etc.

Norman and I have also just received date for when we will be going into school to start to lead Worship again, and lead additional services of Communion and Harvest in Church. I went into the Nursery this week and did a pretend Baptism service with them all. The school has received some very good resource materials which we used. They had a font and jug and baby doll dressed in white. I then stayed on till home time being an extra pair of hands. The whole afternoon went very well.

YF. We have restarted YF even though we have only 3 youth, hopefully that will rise to 4. One youth has now turned 18, so we have taken her on as a trainee leader. This term we are going to use the Rock Solid youth material which is published by Youth for Christ.

Stranton Church – In my last report I said things are getting busier, I am now going to claim that as a word of prophecy! Things are much busier. Two funerals, three baptism visits, 2 baptism services and a Mass at St Columba's, afternoon at Ward Jackson and YF, made this a busy week. I am going away for a 4 day retreat at St Oswald's, Sleights and am looking forward to recharging my batteries.

Community – The Burbank Community Centre did open a drop in café. It has switched its day three times, I think it is now on Wednesdays, I will pop along to find out? I did attend another funeral, that of Mary Mossert who did a lot of resident work on Burbank over the years.

Personal – I was informed by Archdeacon Rick Simpson that they won't be putting any clergy vacancies on the Durham Diocese website till October. So I have been waiting patiently for these to appear. They are also advertising them one at a time so could be a while before I find a church I can move too. Please continue to pray for us in the waiting.

Regards

Rev Clive Hall

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.

P

Grow parsley near tomatoes, asparagus and roses.

Primulas love a feed of dried blood.

Petunias look great on the vegetable border. They also repel a number of pests.

Pansies love manure.

When using peonies for a floral arrangement first place in boiling water for 30 seconds only. Add to vase 3 tablespoons of sugar to one quart of water.

Poppies pick when buds are just opening. Plunge ends into boiling water or sear with a flame.

Feed polyanthus with dried blood for extra-large prolific blooms.

The most important rule is that your pruning tools be sharp. You will do more harm to a plant by tearing it about with blunt shears than by misjudging what to cut off.

Peas friends are - carrots, cucumber, lettuce, radish, spinach, sweetcorn, tomatoes and turnip

Peppers go with basil, carrots, lovage, marjoram, onions and oregano.

Potatoes grow well with beans, cabbage, lettuce, onions, petunias, marigolds, radish, sweetcorn – but do not like apples, pumpkins or tomatoes.

Pumpkins grow well with beans, mint, nasturtiums, radish, sweetcorn- but not potatoes.

Nip back pumpkin runners to 2 feet & they send out side shoots which bear fruit. Keep water up to them

Pear trees like to be near currant bushes.

Having trouble striking parsnip seeds – try pouring boiling water along the open drill just before sowing.



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Stranton Sunday Club News!

Our Sunday Club sessions have been a great success and the children have enjoyed participating in a range of fun activities. During September we looked at the theme of God providing for us in the run up to Harvest. During our Harvest service Tyler and Lorelai read All Things Bright and Beautiful to the congregation.

What's coming up:

Our theme for October is listening to God.

17th October – The Two House Builders

This week our bible reading is Luke 6:46-49. This is a well-known parable which you may be more familiar with calling the wise man and the foolish man!

24th October – A Tree and its Fruit

This week our bible reading is Luke 6:43-45.

Our theme for November is 'God is our protector'.

7th November – The Armour of God

This week our bible readings are Ephesians 6:10-11 and Ephesians 6:14-17.

14th November – Psalm 18

This week our bible reading is Psalm 18:1-3.

21st November – Psalm 18

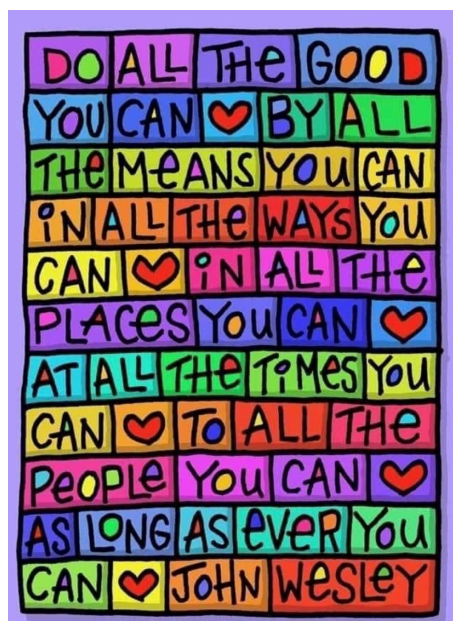
This week our bible reading is Psalm 18:30-34.

If you have any questions about Sunday Club, please contact the church office or speak to me in church.

Enjoy,

Kate

Stranton Sunday Club Leader



Introducing Anita Burke.....



Hi! I'm Anita, an ordinand in my final year studying part time at Lindisfarne College of Theology, I live in Billingham and my home church is Stockton Parish Church. I am married to Jason, who has served 25 years with the Army and then entered 'Civvy Street, swapping tanks for heavy cranes. We have two children who are now in their early 20's and a crazy Chocolate Labrador.

My background is in management, human resources and administration, for the last 8 years I worked as General Manager/Deputy CEO for 'A Way Out', a charity which engages in outreach, intervention and prevention to women, young people and families experiencing challenges resulting from high deprivation and related

difficulties, most particularly specialising in reaching out and supporting women whose lives are impacted by on-street survival sex work. Prior to this I was 13 years as office manager in a large primary school in central Middlesbrough.

In my early 40's I was twice diagnosed and treated for cancer – today, thanks to the miracle of medicine, I am still here - loving Jesus and loving life with a passion for mission, blending the great commandment with the great commission.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you during my 6 month placement in Central Hartlepool!

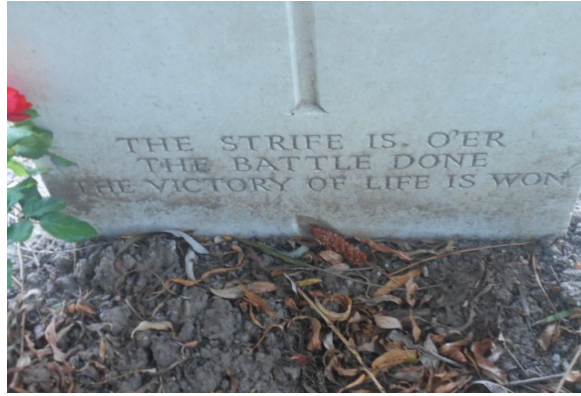
Rebecca Henderson Update

It is eight years since my colleague's daughter Rebecca contracted a rare form of cancer in her leg, she was just eight years old. She has undergone, radical chemotherapy, surgery and remission. But the cancer has returned again and again. Further invasive and experimental treatments have caused her many problems - she is still the same height she was when treatment started, she can barely walk and has struggled to come to terms mentally with why she should have this illness. Over the years members of Stranton Congregation have prayed for Rebecca, her loving parents and younger brother, all their lives have been changed forever by Rebecca's illness. She is now coming up sixteen and has been unable to attend school for over a year due to constant and radical treatment. But that will stop soon as she struggles to tolerate the side affects with limited impact on the cancer.

On Friday 15th October during Channel 4's Stand up to Cancer Appeal Rebecca's story was retold – it was a powerful film, leaving the hosts stunned into silence... please continue to pray for Rebecca and her family and her clinicians over the coming months as decisions are made on her treatment.

May God's love, comfort and surround and guide them

The Victory is won



The rows of graves are very sad uniform
Just as those worn as death was meted out
Yet the story of faith can still be found
On epitaphs carved so near to the ground

The battle done

The victory of life is won

A statement that links the soldier to Christ
Correct in every detail
But with an important word to be added

The victory of eternal life is won

Two deaths both remembered
Both bodies placed in a garden tomb
One that was sacrificed for his country
The other sacrificed for all mankind

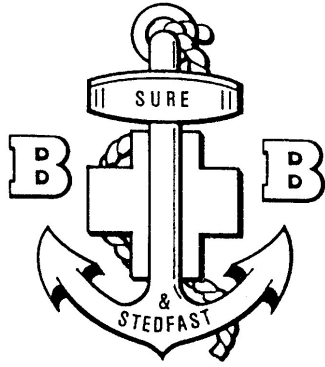
Both won a victory for freedom
One lies with many others
As a warning from the past

One rose out of His tomb
To give all believers hope
So that....

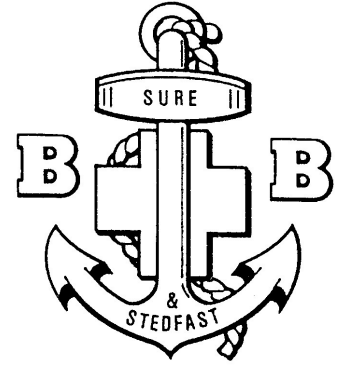
The strife is o'er

The battle done

The victory of eternal life is won



Boys Brigade



Harvest Festival

A very good morning was had by all, over 50 people sampled tasty bacon buns at St Matthew's Community Centre including our friends from both the 9.00am and 11.00am Services.

We then travelled down to church, presented our colours and enjoyed the Harvest Service. Our highlight was a fantastic performance from our Juniors playing Handbells, which was brilliantly conducted by Sgt Ellis Swales (if you go to the church face book page you can find the performance from 16 minutes 30 seconds) and afterwards the Congregation admired the work on display by the Anchor Boys and Company Section.

In fact our turn out was very good - over twenty Boys and Leaders were present.

Remembrance project - our Juniors are making a frieze that will be on display at Pools Surplus in Catcote Road and all sections will be doing various acts of remembrance leading up to Remembrance Day.

Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 27th November from 09.30am - 12noon

We are collecting bric a brac (No clothing) and look forward to seeing you there.

(Remember Mrs Claus says 'It's where our Lad gets all his presents from'!!!)

New members

We still have room for new members in all Sections
To find out more - why not visit our Facebook page

George Bainbridge

Thank you from the Bear Ladies

Thank you for supporting the Bear Ladies as they raise awareness of the work of the Kilimatinde Trust and the ongoing projects in the Diocese of the Rift Valley.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event on Saturday the 9th October and to those who ordered and bought bears before the event. We had a wonderful time. So far the event has raised £600 and the bear auction is still ongoing.

The Bear Ladies project is aiming to raise £3000 per year which will be used to provide the first 10 days of treatment for burns care, free of charge for every patient who is treated in our unit. The first 10 days are the most critical and costly to treat. Good care at this point often means the difference between life and death, and between full recovery or disability, pain and suffering. We are delighted by your support for this.

Stephen Taylor spoke of the history of the trust and Stranton Church's ongoing commitment and support over the years. He also updated us on the more recent work of the Burns Unit which was opened in 2018 and continues to save life and improve the chances of a good recovery for those suffering from burns.

St John's School received funds to build a new boys and girls toilet block which has improved health by reducing water borne disease caused by poor sanitation. We also sent money for food, and continue school sponsorship and for this too we are deeply grateful for the support given not just financial but also feel the sense of being remembered and held in prayer.

If you would like us to come and speak to a group we would be really happy to do so.



Thank you very much

Jill Barrett, Kilimatinde Trust and the Bear Ladies

HELP SAVE OUR PLANET - ONE STEP AT A TIME.

It's no secret that our world is in serious trouble. This is really sad, but even sadder to think that we are mostly to blame. Our 'disposable' and 'convenience' lifestyle has contributed enormously to global warming and to the loss or endangerment of many species of animal and plant life.

Something must change, and quickly, but what can we do about it?

Many big companies are making changes to the materials and packaging they use, there is also the introduction of electrified cars. This is all good, but, in reality, taking too long.

You might think that just one person changing won't make any difference, but if that one person inspires another, we could soon be millions - and that definitely would change things.

One of the biggest problems is down to plastic packaging, especially if it is not recyclable. We really need to think hard about this. When we are busy, it's so easy just to just pick things from a shelf without thinking about how they are packaged or what they contain.

Now there are refill shops popping up all over the country, selling good quality products which can be decanted into your own containers. We even have our own local store at Harton Village, Zilch Weigh House.

There are some very simple steps we can take without completely changing our lifestyle. Here are a few suggestions.

If you're not doing so already, use and re-use your own shopping bags. Make a point of having some in the car or one of those little fold-up ones in your handbag or pocket. If you have a huge stash of plastic bags, you could consider donating them to the food bank. They will be very grateful.

Vegetables: when you are buying vegetables, try to choose ones that are unwrapped. You can take your own produce bags for things like tomatoes, carrots or onions, where you are buying several at a time.

Bottled water: I'm shocked to see supermarket shelves stacked with plastic bottles of water, every one, single use! How much more economical and better for the environment to have your own reusable bottle, which you can fill with filtered water from the fridge. If you use Brita filters, the used cartridges can be recycled at any Argos Store.

Deodorants: lots of alternatives to plastic here. There are ones in cardboard tubes, balms in metal tins and, of course, the lovely posh ones in a satin metal case with refills in compostable bamboo containers, brilliant!!

Wipes: Baby wipes, household wipes, anti-bac wipes. Again, these are single use items, which is not good. Yes, there are some that are biodegradable, but not compostable, so use as sparingly as possible. It's much better to use a reusable compostable cloth with an appropriate solution - baby lotion, anti bacterial solution, etc.

It's the same with paper towels. We use these and throw away without a second thought, when so often, we could use a washable cloth to do the job.

Toothpaste - throw away plastic tubes can be changed for some brilliant toothpaste in glass jars and other alternatives. Mouthwash tablets are also available. Dissolve the little tablet in 20ml water and hey-ho, no more plastic bottles used.

Try reusable cloths. There are lots of good cleaning cloths available, loofahs and coconut scourers, which you can dispose of in your compost bin when finished. Do seek them out. Most of the others contain plastic and are not recyclable.

Food waste: if you can compost, then do. You will benefit from it later. You can minimise food waste by planning ahead and only buying what you can use. Birds, hedgehogs, foxes, etc., will be grateful for any leftover scraps.

Harmful chemicals: Many of the cleaning agents we use are harmful to the environment, especially to marine life, so think carefully about what you are pouring down your drains. Look for eco friendly alternatives. They are available. The production of liquid soap is actually much more harmful to the environment than bars of soap and now there are solid alternatives for dishwashing, shampoos and conditioners as well.

There is so much more to say, but this is a beginning. Making the decision to change and making it become a habit is the way forward.

One step at a time: If you're already doing things to help the planet, then please do congratulate yourself - but don't stop there. Add something else to your list and stick with it.

Finally, just because you're changing to get away from plastics doesn't mean you have to throw out all your plastic containers and replace them with glass. Certainly not! Use them until they can be used no more, then recycle them.

By the way, I have it on good authority that the peanut butter from Zilch is the best in the world (probably) 😊

Patti Smith.

Birds of a Feather

A bit late in the year I know, but I have been trying to reseed the front lawn after daisies and dandelions have taken over. The Green where I live is mowed quite regularly during the spring and summer but the grass cuttings are never swept up and land on my small lawn at the front of the house. I know that dandelions are very beneficial for bees but they really do take over – the blossoms not the bees! Daisies, I quite like (childhood memories of daisy-chains) and I am happy to have a few of these.

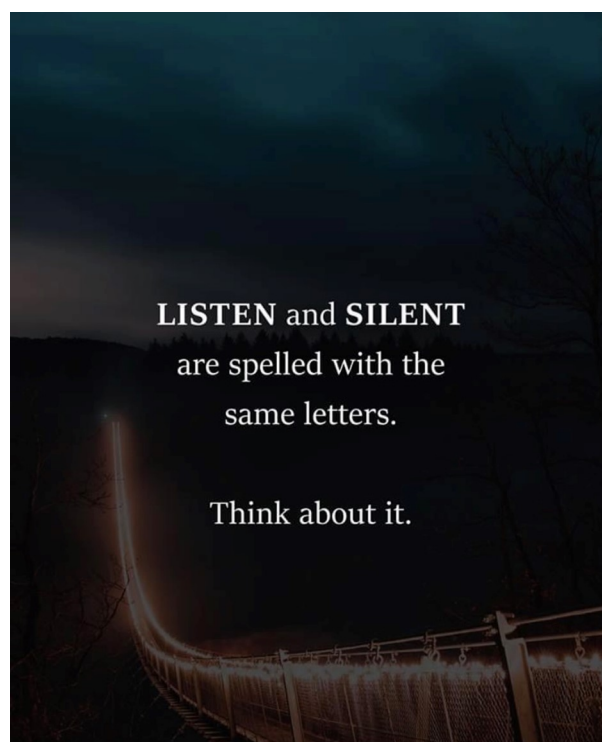
I am waiting now having put compost in a thin layer over the scattered grass seed – the seeds brand name is Sprogs and Dogs.

Coming back to the house to make a phone call I glanced out of the window overlooking the front garden, when I noticed the bird corner had a little brown mouse climbing up the tamarisk tree, he was heading for a white pottery bird food hopper which was shaped like a small teapot, but with a saucer attached and also a hole to put seed into the side. The mouse attempted to get onto the slippery teapot but misjudged the wind swaying it and down he fell. Undaunted, the mouse started climbing again. Finishing my phone conversation I went out to see if he had reached his target. At first I couldn't find any sign of him – but looking into the hole at the side of the mini teapot, I also didn't spot him in the shadowy inside. But as my eyes became used to the dark, a little face was looking at me as he was munching away. I left him to it.

Sometimes we start out reaching for what we feel that God has asked us to do, and then when we hit a problem we step back. Remember this little mouse who carried on and won the prize.

Pray for patience, strength, courage, and rest assured that God will guide us in the way He wishes us to go.

Ann Courtenay



THE NO-EXCUSE SUNDAY

In order to make it possible for everyone to attend church next week, we are planning a special "no-excuse Sunday"

1. Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in".
2. Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.
3. We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church services.
4. Blankets will be supplied for those who complain that the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say the church is too hot.
5. We will have hearing aids for the people who say "the Minister doesn't talk loudly enough". There will be cotton wool for those who say "the Minister talks too loudly".
6. Score cards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites.
7. We guarantee that some relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
8. There will be TV dinners available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner too.
9. One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature.
10. The church will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.

See you in Church.



Recipes

Lime and coconut lentil curry

- 1-2 tbsp mild curry paste
- 160ml tin coconut cream
- zest of 1 lime , plus a squeeze of juice
- 1 heaped tsp brown sugar
- 400g tin lentils , drained
- handful chopped coriander , plus extra to serve
- 2 warmed naan bread, cut into fingers

Method

Heat the curry paste in a pan for 1 min. Pour in the coconut cream and stir to combine. Add the lime zest, brown sugar and lentils. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 mins, adding a squeeze of lime juice and seasoning. Stir through a handful chopped coriander and serve with warmed naan breads. Sprinkle extra coriander on the dhal if you like. Great warm or at room temperature.

Pumpkin cake

- 300g self-raising flour
- 300g light muscovado sugar
- 3 tsp mixed spice
- 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 175g sultanas
- ½ tsp salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 200g butter, melted
- zest 1 orange
- 1 tbsp orange juice
- 500g (peeled weight) pumpkin or butternut squash flesh, grated
- For drenching and frosting
- 200g pack soft cheese
- 85g butter, softened
- 100g icing sugar, sifted
- zest 1 orange and juice of half



Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Butter and line a 30 x 20cm baking or small roasting tin with baking parchment. Put the flour, sugar, spice, bicarbonate of soda, sultanas and salt into a large bowl and stir to combine. Beat the eggs into the melted butter, stir in the orange zest and juice, then mix with the dry ingredients till combined. Stir in the pumpkin. Pour the batter into the tin and bake for 30 mins, or until golden and springy to the touch.

To make the frosting, beat together the cheese, butter, icing sugar, orange zest and 1 tsp of the juice till smooth and creamy, then set aside in the fridge. When the cake is done, cool for 5 mins then turn it onto a cooling rack. Prick it all over with a skewer and drizzle with the rest of the orange juice while still warm. Leave to cool completely.

If you like, trim the edges of the cake. Give the frosting a quick beat to loosen, then, using a palette knife, spread over the top of the cake in peaks and swirls. If you're making the cake ahead, keep it in the fridge then take out as many pieces as you want 30 mins or so before serving. Will keep, covered, for up to 3 days in the fridge.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

November

Jenna Bruce
Daniel Busby
Sally Clarke
Linda Cartwright
Debbie Coxon
Ann Cuthbert
Anna Jennett
Jo Leslie
Jasmine Padgett
Sylvia Shepherd
Mike Weimer
Rachel Clark



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

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

Dates for the Diary

for November and early December

November

Wed 3 rd	10am	Holy Communion St Matthew's (weekly)
Sun 7 th	11am	Thanksgiving service for Burbank Community Church, at Stranton Church
	4pm	Service for the Bereaved
Tues 9 th	7pm	Deanery Synod, Holy Trinity West View (tbc)
Sun 14 th		Remembrance Sunday
	4pm	Messy Church
Sat 20 th		Burn Valley Residents Christmas Fayre, St Matthew's
Tues 23 rd	7.30pm	PCC Stranton, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sat 27 th		Boys Brigade Christmas Fayre, 9:30am-12.00 St Matthew's CC
Sun 28 th		First Sunday of Advent
	11am	Lighthouse Service
	2.00pm	Open Skies Forest Church, St Aidan's School

December

Sun 5 th		Visit from the Patons, CMS Link Missionaries
Sun 12 th	4pm	Christingle, Stranton Church

We may not agree.

We may not see eye to eye.

We may not have the same beliefs.

We may not have the same priorities.

We may not view things the same.

That doesn't mean I don't care what you think.

That doesn't mean we can't get along.

That doesn't mean you are any less deserving of
my kindness.

In a world where opinions seem to be dividing
us more and more, let's remember our humanity.

Let's treat others the same way we want be
treated. We don't have to agree.

But we should always be kind.

Truly Yours, Jen
www.trulyyoursjen.com

Who's Who

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Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

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Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

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Loyalty Treasurer	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.

