

**Stranton and Burbank Community**

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# **SIGNPOST**



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

**March 2022**

# Questions ?????

I am running an Alpha course in church, this is a course put together by Nicky Gumbel and he also teaches on the videos we watch. One part of the video shows them going onto the streets and asking people a question. We then see the people's responses and what you notice is they all seem to have different ideas as to what the answer to the question might be. For example "Who is Jesus?" A selection of answers were:- A man Herod killed, A good man who lived a long time ago, There was no such person, He is meant to be son of God, I don't know!

The first thing you have to recognise is that people will have a variety of thoughts and ideas, which don't match up - and that is alright. We are all different and we all think differently as well.

The second thing is that all the people who were asked the question, also had lots of questions they wanted to ask. The Alpha course is said to be based on these types of people, and it is a course where you come to ask questions? We discuss the answers together. We don't always have all the answers!

In the time of Jesus people often became disciples of a leader, they literally followed him, watched him and listened to him. They were also to bring questions and observations to him. A rabbi was a person people followed and there were many rabbis. Jesus himself became a rabbi to his disciples. What we often saw with Jesus was when someone asked him a question, he would reply with another question, rather than an answer.

"By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?" Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism - was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!" Mark 11v 28-30.

It is by asking questions that you find the answers and so you start to learn new things and different concepts. In school I have taken a few RE lessons and it is great to have questions asked by the children as the teaching can often go deeper because of the questions which they asked.

I do think that some people think it is wrong to question God? But is it really wrong, to ask God a question? God is beyond our imaginations, His brain must be massive compared to mine. So I don't think God is upset when someone questions Him. After all, it is then an opportunity for God to give an answer. I understand that some people might be uncomfortable by some of the questions asked? But they would be so varied.

Why do Giraffes have such long legs? Why do we have suffering in the world? Why does England have four seasons of weather in one day? Is my grandma in heaven? Is there life on other planets?

"Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely." Psalm 139 v 4

I may feel uncomfortable asking God a question, yet this verse tells us that God knows the question in our mind before we have even verbalised it? I would like to know how He does that? I think I will ask Him!! God loves to communicate with His children, asking a question is a great way to get the conversation started, so go on, and ask God a question today.

**Rev Clive**

# Mothers Union

At last we were able to start our 2022 sessions!

Most of our members were able to be with us for what was the start of our year. I had to cancel the January meeting as Covid was quite rampant in Hartlepool at the time. After having a shortened usual service and updates we celebrated with a game of 'Beetle'. It was very comical to see Beetles of different sizes – from tiny to beefy! It took me back to meetings at a past parish I lived in. We had our 'Women's Own' meetings in an upstairs room in a large hall. After one summer meeting we were playing 'Beetle' with the windows open and it eventually filtered back to us that we had apparently been playing 'Bingo'!!

News from our new Durham President Carole Hopkinson who got in touch. Carole stressed that she and the other new members of the leadership team would like to visit all the Branches and want to help in any way they can.

We meet again on March 14<sup>th</sup> with a Membership Service and Enrolling Service – a chance to revisit our past vows and welcome a new member. New Zealand members of Mothers Union have been showing their support of members in Tonga in response to the recent tsunami, which hit the island in January. They have been able to provide financial support for urgent supplies, and have sourced other essential items to be shipped to the island. There are new concerns around outbreaks of the omicron strain of Covid 19 in Tonga, but through the generosity of members in New Zealand and around the world this is being dealt with and we pray that the effects of the tsunami will remain minimal. We are asked to hold members in Tonga in our prayers at this difficult time.

Here we look forward to Lent and hopefully this year to participate in the joy, sorrow and freedom from sin that the Season of Lent brings into our lives. May we be strengthened in faith and continue to be strong in witness to others.

Please pray for Betty Hotham's husband Fred, as he is now awaiting an operation.

Mothering Sunday is on March 27<sup>th</sup> this year but... British Summer Time also begins on that date, so we lose an hour's sleep!

God Bless

**Ann Courtenay**

# From the Home Front



Life often seems to pressure us into trying to be some sort of amazing superhero!

In work we give 100% every day and go that extra mile to finish work and keep employers happy. Often this is related to job insecurity or a need for promotion or overtime for increased income in order to pay the bills. Sometime it is ambition forcing us forward to prove that we are 'clever, talented, good at our jobs', or a need for power and control over others, in order to make ourselves feel important. Work

– life balance just seems not to exist...

In our homes, women in particular, are expected to be the perfect wife and mother, to have a spotless, organised home. The children are to be entertained all day and dressed in branded clothes and have the latest toys and gadgets. New parents try to aspire to the expectation of successful parenting – a baby who sleeps, eats and hits all the right milestones at the right time. Parents are guilt tripped into spending a fortune on 'must have' equipment – which can only be brand new (a myth is put about that bad parents have second hand products and risk their children's wellbeing!).

We are expected to be body perfect spending money on gyms and state of the art exercise equipment and designer clothes, being tanned, having lip fillers and Botox, men with a 'six pack and abs', the latest make up and body preparations, tattoos and piercings ... the list is endless!

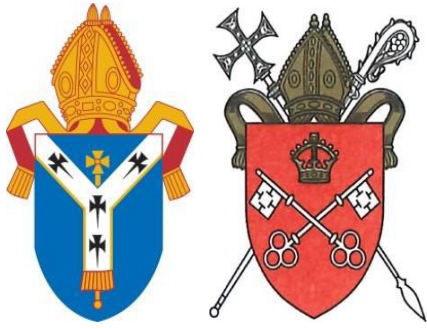
Holidays should be expensive and exotic...filled with 'memories' and fun.

But we are all human and not perfect – we come in all shapes and sizes; we have incomes that are insecure and impacted by inflation; our health is not totally within our control (illness doesn't care about our hopes and dreams!). Real life **isn't** perfect - babies cry and don't sleep, we get exhausted, frustrated, depressed, relationships can be strained and end, our homes require time and money which may be in short supply...I could go on ----- but you know the truth! Jesus was the only perfect person.

All our strength, courage and resilience come from God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Without them we can achieve so little and at a great cost to ourselves. Calling on them and following their guidance, drawing on their strength we can do immeasurably more ... perhaps even be a kind of superhero!!

**J.A.R.**





24 February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.*

*John 14.27*

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.

As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

You can find liturgical resources on the Church of England website at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby  
Stephen Cottrell  
Archbishop of Canterbury

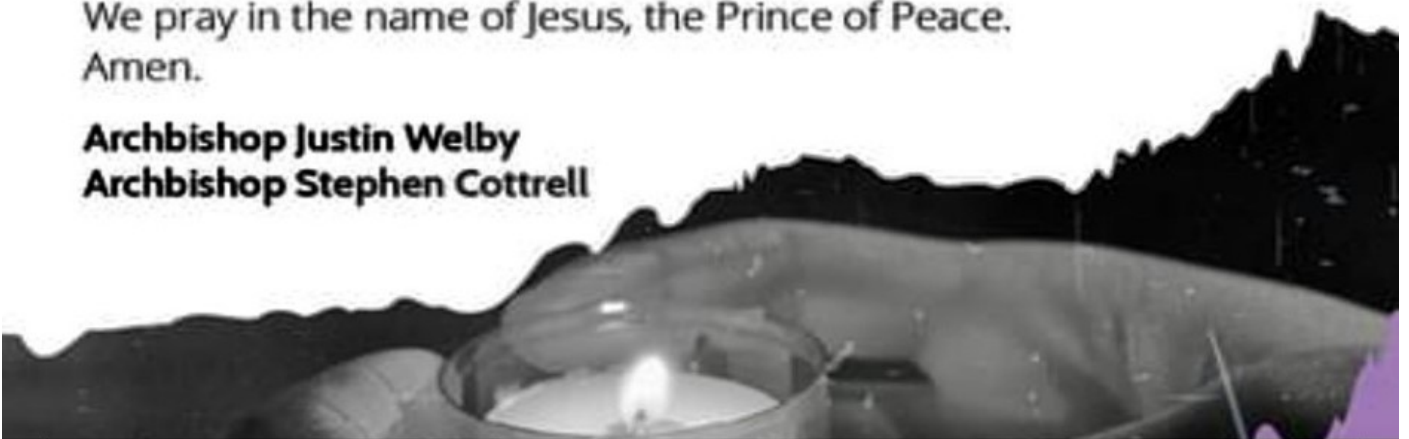


The Most Revd & Rt Hon  
Archbishop of York

## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Archbishop Justin Welby**  
**Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**



## Pamela Thompson

Pamela Thompson died suddenly and unexpectedly in the middle of February, she and her husband Michael are very long standing and loyal members of our Church Family. Although restricted by circumstances in recent times, Pamela, like Michael, was a musician and retired music teacher, a lover of classical music, and a regular attender at the Stranton early Sunday morning communion service. Until lock-down, Pamela hosted a house group, and was also a member of the Shared Ministry Development Team for several years. She loyally delivered Signpost Magazines for many years until the start of the pandemic. Please pray for Michael and also for Adrian and Claire, her adult children as they support Michael.

Pamela's Funeral will be in Stranton Church on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 2 pm.

# Easter Eggheads

Easter Eggheads is suitable for 5-11 year olds. It is to be held at St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick Rd during Holy Week - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6.00pm-7.15pm and a family service on Good Friday Morning in St Matthew's Community Centre - 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am



Easter Eggheads is filled with games, crafts, stories, quizzes and above all FUN plus it tells the story of the first Holy Week to make it memorable to children in 2022.

If you know any Boys or Girls in this age bracket please bring them along - they'll Love it!!

**George Bainbridge**

*St Matthew's  
Community Centre  
Elwick Road*



*Please come and join us*

*Saturday 5th March 2022*

*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*

# Stranton Sunday Club News!

Our Sunday Club returned on the 13<sup>th</sup> February after sadly being cancelled due to covid-19. We really enjoyed our return and learned about Noah's Ark. The children enjoyed creating skittle rainbows and also bird feeders.

Haiden, Harry, Autumn and Lexi enjoyed creating a beautiful rainbow and made their pattern very carefully. Whereas Tyler, Lorelai and Rebekah made a rainbow but accidentally added too much water meaning their rainbow became a little muddled.



Haiden and Harry enjoyed making bird feeders.



Autumn, Lexi, Tyler, Lorelai and Rebekah carefully mixed lard, bird seed and sultanas to make their bird feeders.

## What's On in March

Our theme this month is children in the bible. We will be looking at bible stories which focus on children and thinking about how everyone is important to God.

**6<sup>th</sup> March - The Boy King Josiah**

*This week our bible reading is 2 Kings 22:1-23:3. Our story can also*

*be found on page 235 in the Beginner's Bible.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> March – David and Goliath**

*This week our bible reading is 1 Samuel 17:1-5. Our story can also be found on page 173 in the Beginner's Bible.*

### **20<sup>th</sup> March – Jesus is Lost!**

*This week our bible reading is Luke 2:14-52. Our bible story can also be found on page 296 in the Beginner's Bible.*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February was also Racial Justice Sunday and some of our Sunday Club members read out some prayers to celebrate our diversity to the congregation. Tyler and Lorelai said their prayers at the front of the church thanking God for making us all special and different but all part of his family.



If you have any questions, please let me or the church wardens know.

**Kate**

Stranton Sunday Club Leader

## **Lent Courses**

A Central Group joint LENT COURSE will be led by Revd Michelle on Thursdays in St Luke's Parish Rooms. It will be based around The Beatitudes. Arrive at 6.30pm for 7.00pm at St Luke's from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March for 5 weeks.

DAYS TO LAMENT is the Lent Course at the Church of the Nazarene, Lowthian Road, at 2pm Wednesdays: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> (not 6<sup>th</sup>). Journey through Psalm 13 together in the weeks before Easter. Join us each week or when you can.

Print copies of 'Days to Lament', £2 per copy, are available from Cath and Dave Thompson ([hartlepoolnaz@gmail.com](mailto:hartlepoolnaz@gmail.com)).

# **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”**

## **Matthew 6:10 NIV**

The Lord's Prayer is prayed so often isn't it?

This line has become more real to me of late.

I used to believe that when we prayed 'God's kingdom come', we were talking about heaven. Which in my mind was up above.

Now I realise that God's Kingdom is here, on this earth and it's so close to us. It's a prayer away. It's an arms breadth away.

The other day the Lord gave me such a vivid picture it could almost be classed as a vision it was so real.

I had had a rough couple of days, my mind was full of stuff! I had too many tabs open in my brain. I couldn't concentrate in prayer.

I knelt down and spilt it all out to Him.

I had heard a talk about God's limitless Kingdom.

And as I knelt this came back to me and I wondered what that looked like.

God showed me rooms that were not small rooms but vast like wide corridors filled with all I needed.

If I needed wisdom there would be abundant wisdom spilling out of these rooms. I would only have to reach for it and it would be mine.

If I needed strength or to fight for someone in prayer angels would be weaponised ready to fight with me.

If I was struggling to love a difficult person there were rooms full of God's unconditional, pure, abundant love for me to reach for.

I came into a room that was pure white. No sound came from there. There was nothing to see.

It was a healing room to my mind.

I needed my mind to be still, to be emptied of anxiety, worries, and lists of jobs that needed to be done.

I stayed there and felt such peace.

I didn't have to talk to God or do anything. I was able to just be...

God's kingdom is limitless, never ending.

I realised that me being overwhelmed with life and, well just stuff! Was because I was not accessing all that God's kingdom offered.

I was not going to His resources, I was using my own very limited resources!

That picture has never left me.

The Holy Trinity's Kingdom is bountiful and available for all of God's children.

What are you in need of today?

I encourage you to pray this prayer:

Holy Trinity thank you that you and your kingdom are limitless.

By Jesus' death and resurrection we have access to your bounty.

I repent of only using my limited resources.

I open up my heart and my mind to encounter and receive from only you and your limitless kingdom.

Amen

**Ang Hall**



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# 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.*

## **T**

Tomatoes enjoy the company of asparagus, basil, cabbage, carrots, onions, parsley, peas and sage but dislike fennel and potatoes.

Tomatoes need a well drained sunny spot. Set young plants in the soil so that their lowest leaves are just above soil level.

Give tulips an artificial winter ----- put them (labelled so you will not mistake for them vegetables) in the crisper drawer of fridge for six weeks.

Tulip bulbs are flat on one side. If you are growing them in pots, place the flat side outwards as it is from there the leaf comes. That way you will get a symmetrical display.

When arranging tulips do you have a problem in keeping the stems straight? Roll each bloom in wet newspaper and soak overnight.



Perhaps this will be uncomfortable reading for some....

**If the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation. The church offers grace. Anything else we try to peddle is snake oil. It's not the real thing.**

RACHEL HELD EVANS



Ward Jackson Primary School

2 Feb · 🌐

...

Today has been 'Prayer Space Day' in school. It's been a chance for us to be still and think about the power of a prayer "It was like magic, the activities made me feel calm and I was able to just stop and chat with God. The healing cross was my favourite station." Lily (Y4)





## Ward Jackson Primary School

2 d · 🌐



What a fantastic week year 6 have had at Dukeshouse Wood. The children have been amazing; challenging themselves, supporting each other and showing everyone just how incredible they all are. All the instructors have commented on how awesome our children have been. Well done year 6!



PIC•COLLAGE

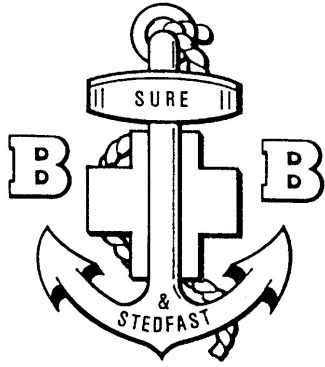


## Ward Jackson Primary School

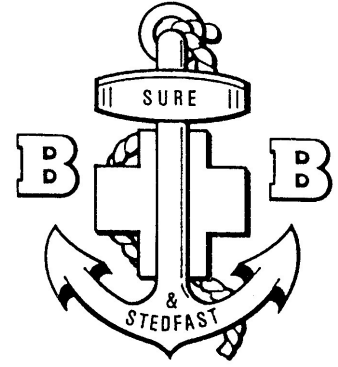
4 h · 🌐



Today is a sad day at Ward Jackson as we say goodbye to Mrs Hilder. Mrs Hilder has worked at Ward Jackson School for over 13 years and has had such a positive impact on so many children and their families. This is an exciting time for Mrs Hilder as she goes back to school herself and begins a new career; she is a fantastic role model to us all. We wish her every success in her new post.



## Boys Brigade News



Jonah Project - each section has been learning about the story of Jonah and we have done several activities based on Jonah including dot to dot, colouring, word search, crosswords, mosaic (making a sack cloth) and a quiz.

This was the first time we as a BB Company followed a full study of a book in the bible and it was worthwhile and there was a good response from all the Boys/Lads throughout our Company.

In our devotion slot after half term we are going to be looking at the Lord's Prayer.

Membership - since the return to Boys Brigade after the pandemic our numbers in each section have slowly grown and now our regular attendance in each section is 13 Boys/Lads.

Our plans up to Easter include doing more advanced drill in the Company Section, trampolining in the Juniors and some simple crafts for the Anchors.

The Anchors and Juniors will be taking part in Easter Eggheads and hopefully some of our leaders will help to run it.

If you would like to know more about us, either pop into St Matthew's CC on a Monday or Friday night or find us on Facebook

**George Bainbridge**

### Ukraine Quiz

Which **U** was ordered to take a deadly mission by King David?

Which **K** was the father of King Saul?

Which **R** was Joseph's oldest brother?

Which **A** came from Ur?

Which **I** was Abraham's first son?

Which **N** was visited by Jonah?

Which **E** is a name for Communion?

# **Burbank Report January 2022**

**Ward Jackson School** –Norman and I have received dates for when we will be going into school to lead Worship, and lead additional services of Communion plus Easter Celebrations in Church. I am going into Aurora class to talk about “What kind of world did Jesus want?” I am still going into the playground to chat with parents and going on a pastoral visit to a member of staff who was bereaved recently.

The school are also having a Sacred Space Day; I will be in attendance during the afternoon of that day.

**YF.** We were encouraged to have 6 YF youth at our Christmas Party considering we started with 2 members in September. The party went very well. We treated them to the wood fired pizzas from the Little Horse Box!

We are continuing to train our new 18 year old leader, giving her various sessions to do from our Rock Solid material which is very good.

**Stranton Church** – This Christmas period did not feel as frantic as in the past. It was a pleasure to take the Christmas services and having a first of blessing the Crib at St Aidan’s church! It has been good to go along to the Communion Services at St Matthew’s Community Centre again; I have to admit to enjoying the chat over a cup of tea at the end.

**Community** – The Burbank Community Centre has closed its Drop In Coffee Mornings, but I have been attending the coffee morning at St Aidan’s on a Friday.

I am still running my home group and I am in the process of putting together an Alpha Course which Angela and I will run from the Fulthorpe Chapel from 1st February. It is an 11 week course. We have a number of people we are approaching and I will speak to the Community of Hope Team also, to see if they have people who might like to join us.

**Personal** – I am still looking for a Clergy vacancy, but there has not been any advertised in Durham since November and that was a job I could not apply for (Experienced Priest). I have been looking further afield but I think my age and the fact I am SSM is stopping me from getting interviews. So starting to feel this is not as simple as it looks! I am so glad that Stranton Church is happy to continue to support me at this time.

I did meet with my Working Group recently to discuss my role and the way forward together. The time and open discussion was much appreciated.

Regards

**Rev Clive Hall**

## Birds of a Feather

On the beach with my dog Ember this morning, near the rocks opposite the Staincliffe Hotel, I noticed that lots of gulls were stationary among the rocks. They were just standing very still. The weather forecast was for another storm with very strong winds and even snow. These gulls were mostly herring gulls and a few black headed gulls in their winter plumage (black spot on head).

The day before, driving along Brenda Road near to the Tees Bay Retail Park, I passed the remnants of the water ponds from the steelworks and was astonished by the number of coots and gulls feeding there. Our ancestors were much more canny than us. They read these signs of birds and other animals' behaviour and interpreted the weather that way. During these times of lockdowns and warnings of bad storms the birds have been a weather forecaster for me. In the Bible birds were important – in Genesis God hovered over the face of the waters like a dove, birds bringing bread to the prophets and birds of the sky, neither reaping or sowing. The bird mentioned first in the Old Testament is the raven, but the bird with the most appearances is the dove (over 50 times); a gentle bird.

So take note of our birds, whether in your garden or on a beach and wonder what they are trying to tell you!

**Ann Courtenay**

### Answers to Quiz

Which U was ordered to take a deadly mission by King David?	Uriah
Which K was the father of King Saul?	Kish
Which R was Joseph's oldest brother?	Reuben
Which A came from Ur?	Abraham
Which I was Abraham's first son?	Ishmael
Which N was visited by Jonah?	Nineveh
Which E is a name for Communion?	Eucharist

# Recipes

## **Date Bars**

1 packet of dates  
1 x 250g of rich tea biscuits or ginger biscuits  
225g margarine  
1 cup of sugar  
2 eggs beaten  
Vanilla essence

Chop dates, melt marg & stir over a gentle heat until dates are softened  
Add sugar & mix well  
Remove from heat & add beaten eggs  
Crush biscuits to a powder & add vanilla essence, then stir into dates  
Press into a greased lined swiss roll tin, chill in fridge, then cut into squares. Store in fridge

## **Grilled Red Peppers**

4 ripe red peppers  
salt & ground black pepper  
125g goat's cheese  
optional sprinkling of Mediterranean herbs  
8 cherry tomatoes or fresh basil to serve  
2 tablespoons olive oil

Wash red peppers & cut in half lengthwise-cut through stalks so each half has some stalk attached.  
Remove the seeds & lay halved peppers on a baking tray  
Cut the goat's cheese into 8 thin rounds & put a round into each half pepper  
Cut each cherry tomato & put 2 halves in each pepper half  
Drizzle each pepper with olive oil & sprinkle with herbs  
Place in hot oven 200C/180C fan/Gas 6 for 20 minutes until the pepper halves are really soft, the cheese melted & bubbling & the tomatoes well grilled.  
Serve with salt & black pepper, crusty bread & a green salad.

# Misprints and misquotes and other oddities

“In the Handicrafts exhibition at Wordsley Community Centre, the contribution of the Misses Smith was “Smocking and Rugs” and not “Smoking and Drugs” as stated in last week’s report. (County Express Stourbridge)

Old established manufacturer of suspension bridges requires door-to-door salesman. (African newspaper)

Rochdale is to have a mobile barbecue at its Centenary celebrations on September 8th. Because the site chosen for it in the town centre is in a smokless zone, a whole ox will be roasted nearby and towed over the border when the smoke has died down. (Report in Daily Telegraph)

The Henley-on-Todd regatta took place at Alice Springs last Saturday. There was not a drop of water in the river. A crowd of 2500 lined the banks of the Todd River to watch the crews running as they carried their bottomless yachts and skiffs over the sandy river bed. The head of the river for skiffs and the Australia Cup for yachts were won by crews from Anoonguna aboriginal welfare settlement. (Australia news)

“When my husband reads in bed on warm nights he puts a colander over his head. He says it keeps off the flies, shades his eyes from the light and lets in air at the same time.” Mrs L Taylor, Bradford. (CWS Good Shopping Magazine).

EARS PIERCED WHILE YOU WAIT (Notice in Somerset Jeweller’s shop)

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Fog and smog rolled over Los Angeles today, closing two airports and slowing snails to a traffic pace. (Los Angeles newspaper)

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Gentleman has several small houses let to tenants he wishes to dispose of. (Dalton’s Weekly)

(All quotes from Funny Ho Ho and Funny Fantastic Pub. Pan Books

# Beware the Yabbuts

YABBUTS are monstrous little beasts that inhabit the meetings and conversations that take place all over our Organisation. A YABBUT's purpose is to sap the team of its united strength by killing any new ideas or creative approaches as soon as they are suggested.

They do this by grabbing someone's tongue and making them say things like:

“YABBUT” we tried that three years ago

“YABBUT” we've never done it like that before

“YABBUT” the Diocese would never go along with it

“YABBUT” the members would never buy into that kind of idea

“YABBUT” They (The Ubiquitous **THEY** who control the Church) won't let us

“YABBUT” it might not work

“YABBUT” it won't work here      etc, , etc.

Be aware that when these YABBUTS crawl onto the table during a meeting, or swoop down into conversation, they don't look monstrous at all. Often they adopt the appearance of a cute, cuddly, perfectly respectable, or even helpful, contribution to the discussion. But if these YABBUTS are not recognised and neutralised straight away they usually succeed in their deadly, negative missions.

The flow of ideas soon changes from “**This is how we can make this work**” to “**How can we make this work?**” and all the reasons why it won't work and therefore is not worth trying.

We are faced with major changes to our organisation and way of doing things and must change to take on board new challenges. This does not mean we have to throw out the basic tenets that have stood the test of time, but reflect the world we live in and become more meaningful to the populace outside.

In so doing we must understand there is a natural aversion to change and at all times strive to maintain harmony.

Brothers and sisters – “remember what happened to the Dinosaur”.

**The Gadfly**

# This hit me...

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

## A Prayer for Racial Justice Sunday

Merciful God,  
you are righteous and love justice:  
stir the hearts of your people that,  
rejoicing in our diversity,  
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,  
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



# **CELEBRATE!**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### **March**

**Teagan Bruce  
Kayleigh Bruce  
Andrew Busby  
Erin Connell  
Azam Chaichi  
James Lawson  
Tim Padgett  
Rachel Price  
Stella Clarke**



**If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email  
[admin@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk)  
or phone 864006.**

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

# **Dates for the Diary**

## **March**

Worship continues on Sundays at 9.00am and 11.00am.

Midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays at St Matthew's CC 10.00am

### **March**

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday:  
10.00am Holy Communion, St Matthew's CC  
7.00pm Sung Mass, St Aidan's

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent Course begins - 6.30pm for 7.00pm, St Luke's

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee, Cake Company 2.00pm – 4.00pm St Matthew's CC

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> PCC, 7.30pm, venue St Matthew's Small Hall.

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Messy Church, 4.00pm St Matthew's CC

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Forest Church, 3.00pm St Aidan's School.

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee, 7.30pm, The Vicarage

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday,  
Church Parade and Lighthouse Service 11.00am,

## **Extract from a discussion on Quality in the Public Service.**

"I am reminded of the Policy Committee of a local council that made the recommendation that the Council purchase a new chandelier, and the Chairman of the Council ruled the motion out of order on the grounds that:

Firstly he didn't think that anyone in the Council would be able to spell the word chandelier

Secondly he didn't think that anyone in the Council would be able to play it and

Thirdly he couldn't understand why on earth there was a proposition to buy a chandelier when everyone knew that what was wrong with the place was that the lighting was totally inadequate"

**J Cornelius Starbuck**

# Who's Who

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

## Vicar

Revd Norman Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609  
E-Mail: [nshave1@btinternet.com](mailto:nshave1@btinternet.com)

## Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

## Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

## Reader

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

## Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,  
St Mary's RC

<b>Church Wardens</b>	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
	Rohan Wanduragala 62 Clifton Avenue 223751

<b>Music Group</b>	Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609
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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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<b>Treasurer</b>	David Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279
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<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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<b>Loyalty Treasurer</b>	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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<b>Notice Sheet</b>	The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)
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<b>Signpost Editorial</b>	Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527
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<b>Signpost Advertising</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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<b>Signpost Subscription</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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<b>St Matthew's Booking</b>	Trish Playfor Church Office 894006
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***Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.***