

Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

June 2022

Dear Friends,

As I look to the end of June I am very aware that Julie and I will be standing down from full time ministry and soon afterwards moving back to our house in Chester le Street. So I am left thinking what should I write in this final magazine article. Last Sunday I preached from John 13 and Acts 11, and the themes that came out as I read and prayed seem good things to share here.

Love remains key. Jesus says, “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34). Remembering God is Love we need to be people of love. Love needs to be our motivation and our way of working. The love we are called to is love we see in the life of Jesus, in his welcome, his challenge and his self-giving. In all the ups and downs that life throws at us may we be people of love.

We need to remain true to our calling. Acts 11 is a retelling of Acts 10 where Peter through prayer, visions and God’s prompting takes the Good news of Jesus to the gentiles. This is a massive step for Peter following God, as a major barrier is broken down and the Church grows. May we like Peter, both as individuals and Church communities stay faithful to God’s call in our lives

All human beings are equal in God’s sight. Again drawing from Acts 11 God demonstrates his love for all people in this passage. We need to do the same. One of the key themes of our ministry in the last 6 years is the welcome and support of asylum seekers dispersed to Hartlepool. I personally am deeply disturbed by recent changes to British law and the way in which genuine asylum seekers will be treated. As Christians may we continue to show welcome and work for justice for all - both locally and nationally.

Finally I give thanks to God for each person reading this. May God continue to pour out His abundant blessing on you and may He lead you on in His ways.

Yours in Christ

Norman

Mothers Union

Last month I collected our Durham Diocese Newsround Spring/Summer edition and was able to distribute them to our Stranton Branch of the Mothers Union and also gave St Luke's their copies. The Newsround has lots of information about how we Durham members have coped with not being able to meet and how members kept in touch during the covid outbreak.

As it was the end of a triennial, the Newsround also had articles about our new Diocesan President Carole Hopkinson and also a piece about the retiring President Kathleen Wilson, who will still be busy continuing to help MU in many ways.

A card is being sent to the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. The card has all the signatures of the leaders of our Durham MU Branches, representing all the members. Best wishes to the Queen at this very special time.

Our next meeting will be held on June 13th when we can celebrate with a little tea party – we could all make crowns! It was lovely to see Sally Clarke and Linda Cartwright at our last meeting.

Please pray for MU sisters in Christ and let me know of any news so I keep everyone aware of any prayer requests or change in circumstances.

Looking forward to our next meeting.

Love from
Ann Courtenay



From the Home Front

Starting the day with two boisterous noisy grandsons has taken its toll over the last few months but I have managed to find a way to counteract the stress and tension which leads up to school drop off! Once the boys are safely ensconced in Ward Jackson Primary I drive to Newburn Bridge car park and walk briskly along the promenade at Seaton towards the Marina for 20 - 30 minutes. I either go into sensory overload or inform my mind....

Today the weather was glorious so it was a sensory morning. The sun was shimmering on the sea and reflecting off the wet sands and gulls were wheeling above. The distant wind turbines and Redcar steelworks were shrouded in a low haze. A gentle breeze ruffled my hair and kept me pleasantly cool. I could hear trains and sirens, but beyond that I heard the skylarks singing high above the grassy wasteland and the waves rolling onto the shore. I exchanged 'Good mornings' and pleasantries with walkers, dog owners and cyclists. The air smelt clean and fresh. I was able to enjoy the wonder of God's creation and as my mind calmed I was able to engage in worship and a conversation with my heavenly Father. As I climbed back into the car I felt able to face the day with a degree of tranquillity.

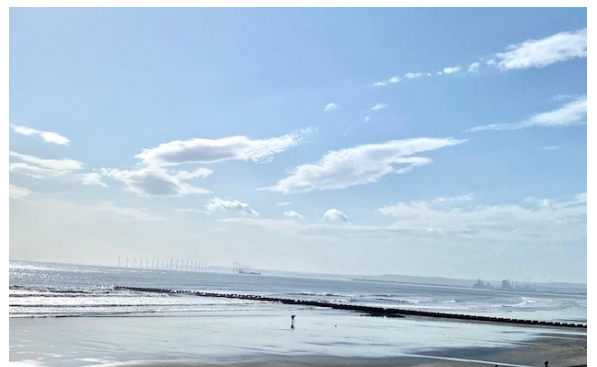
On other days when it is cold or windy or wet I tend to plug in my earphones and listen to a podcast as I walk. Taking in the information I am hearing and thinking through the situations in other people's lives helps me to put my daily grind into perspective and to appreciate the positives in my life and to give thanks. I concentrate on the physical act of walking and that relaxes my muscles and joints. I feel more energised and less stressed.

Giving God a chance to come into my daily life does help tremendously – it is grounding me in His love and creation. It enables me to meet with others albeit just in greeting – but I know how that simple 'Good morning' can lift my spirit and also enable me to send up arrow prayers for the unknown and known people I meet.

I give thanks that I have such a wonderful place to walk, plus the opportunity and health to do so.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.



FINANCE REPORT

Once again God has been faithful to us in our finances for 2021. The Church had an overall net surplus of **£1,814** in 2021 (2020 - £5,689): This small net surplus for the year is a however combination of a deficit of **£6,085** on the church General fund - after charging half the cost of the audio visual equipment as depreciation (2020 - £9,762 surplus on General Fund) offset by a surplus of £7,899 on St Matthews Community Centre account (reversing the 2020 Community Centre deficit of £4,073).

As reported last year the bequest of the late Margaret Lumley, received in the 2020 financial year, substantially enabled us to fund the “accessible” capital works and new servery in the previous year and to generate £9,500 of the surplus brought forward for 2021 to offset the expected deficit for that year. The out-turn for 2021 was in fact slightly better than expected, taking into consideration the large increase in depreciation arising from the investment in audio visual equipment.

The Covid 19 pandemic continues to affect some aspects of our revenues. St Matthew’s Community Centre recovered very substantially but not yet fully, mainly because the Centre Management were able to secure some public sector contracts as part of the pandemic response. These contracts are not being renewed and the Centre Management are aware of the financial need to attract new and returning users. In the church General fund, net Fees and Occasional Services income continue to be depressed and the Burbank Community Church has ceased meeting. Again we have lost some of our regular faithful members who have died, and not been replaced in our giving and loyalty schemes, leading to some concerns over the future of regular giving. We have for the time being continued to benefit through some generous “one-off” donations, a large part of which was earmarked to meet the costs of employment of our lay staff.

In our expenditures, we met our agreed Parish share to the Diocese in full at £34,033: we were asked for a further 10% increase for 2022 but have in fact committed to a lower but achievable £35,250: this is still a challenge at nearly £3,000 a month but as we seek the appointment of a new incumbent and continue to benefit in many ways from Diocesan services and support, we must recognise the need to “pay our way” in meeting the costs of stipends pensions and ministry support. We will have to be super-efficient and exercise careful stewardship of our resources in the light of rapidly rising costs especially in the areas of energy and office supplies.

The Hartlepool Communities of Hope team, which Stranton PCC “Hosts” on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group in the largest of our restricted

funds, which creates neither deficit nor surplus as it passes through our accounts as “ring fenced” resources. We will shortly be required to consider its longer term sustainability as one of the main project outcomes. The other major restricted effort of the year was in the direct fundraising of over £51,000 with gift aid and grant income promised for the refurbishment of our bells, which have not had a major overhaul for 70 years. We were supported financially by Grant funding in other ways too – for the Olive Branch allotment, for the living costs of our Ministry Experience Volunteer Lizelke Klindt (who will be returning to the UK in September 2022 to undertake Theological training), for costs of repairs, and for many small but necessary items of kit to complete our audio visual project and enable video mixing and live streaming of services and other events.

I would particularly like to thank those who have continued to give in a planned and prayerful manner through Bank Standing orders and the Parish Giving scheme (PGS) and to those who continue to use their weekly envelopes too. I encourage all who are not already members to consider joining the PGS – it can be done entirely confidentially and online!

To close my report I would like to thank you for all your generosity, especially for the wise support and encouragement of Maureen Anderson as Assistant Treasurer, the Churchwardens Peter and Rohan and to Ken Shepherd and the counting team for their unseen but unstinting support.

David Craig
Hon Treasurer, April 2022

Norman & Julie Quiz

- N** Which **N** owned a vineyard?
- O** Gerolamo Emiliani, Thérèse of Lisieux, Ursula. are all patron saints of **O**?
- R** Which **R** fed Elijah two times a day?
- M** Which **M** is an archangel?
- A** Which **A** died because he lied to God?
- N** Which **N** was an apostle?
- &**
- J** Which **J** seized a vineyard?
- U** Was **U** home to Abraham?
- L** Which **L** wrote Acts?
- I** Which **I** is a rainbow colour?
- E** Which **E** wrote about dry bones?

A Crabbit Old Woman

This is a poem found among the possessions of an old lady who died in a Dundee hospital. The hospital authorities decided to distribute it to all the nurses in the hospital.

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
Are you thinking, when you are looking at me -
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply,
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try?"
Who seems not to notice the things that you do
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe,
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're looking at ME.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I am a small child of ten with father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another,
A young girl of sixteen with wings at her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet,
A bride soon at twenty – my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now, I have young of my own,
Who'll need me to build a secure, happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young grow fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty, once more babies play round my knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Now dark days are upon me; my husband is dead.
I look at the future and shudder with dread,
For my young are all rearing young of their own
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel –
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles; grace and vigour depart.
There is now a stone where there once was a heart,
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys and I remember the pain
And I am loving and living all over again.
I think of the years all too few – gone too fast –
And I accept the stark fact that nothing can last,
So open your eyes, nurses, open and see
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer, see ME.

Communities of Hope



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Hayley Liversage who will start as the Children and Families Worker from 8th June.

Hello, I'm Hayley, I'm very much looking forward to joining you as the new Children and Family Worker in June.

Previously I worked as a teacher before feeling called to children's and families work in the Methodist Church. During this time I also trained to be a local preacher and qualified in 2012. Since

then I have regularly led various types of worship from traditional to intergenerational and messy church.

However I was brought up and confirmed in the Anglican Church which is my 'home.' So I'm very pleased to be returning to it.

I am married to Bob, who you may well see at services from time to time. We both enjoy visiting Hartlepool Marina and taking a stroll on the promenade. Our joint hobby is walking. We have even been known to complete the St Cuthbert's Way amongst other challenges.

My prayer is that God would bless the outreach to children and young families in Hartlepool building on the work already done. I look forward to being part of that.

Hayley Liversidge

**St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road**



Please come and join us
As we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Saturday 4th June 2022

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

Afternoon Tea and Company

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

Burn Valley North Residents' Association



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA PARTY
On THURSDAY 2nd JUNE 2022

From 1pm until 4pm

At St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick Road



Tickets - Adults £3, Children £2
Includes Food and Refreshments

Plus

Entertainment, Blackberry Donkeys, Games, Quiz, Raffle

Tickets are available from: Anne Saunders Tel: 0794 7319261

Dawn Robinson Tel: 01429 244070

Carol Laud Tel: 01429 290290

Or e-mail: bvnra.secretary@gmail.com

Everyone Welcome

All Saints Stranton Church

Ceilidh Social

Live Music by

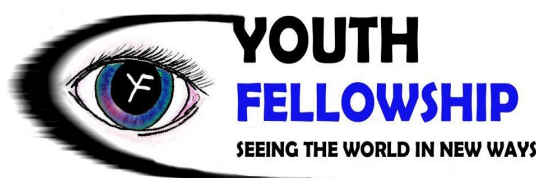
Sunniside-up

Ceilidh Band

Saturday 18th June 6.30-10pm at
St Matthew's Community Centre
Elwick Road.

Tickets £2 for Adults, £1 for Child & £5 for Family

It will be a Faith Supper, please bring any drinks you wish. Tea, Coffee and Juice will be provided. Please call the office for tickets or more information 01429 894006 or see Trish Playfor, Norman Shave, Michelle Delves, Clive Hall or Maureen



YF continued by using Skype during Covid, so we were very grateful to be able to be together in person and do games plus talking about God where it is easier to communicate.

YF continues to grow and in changes this year to our team we have added Rachel to Clive, Michaela and Peter and have been blessed by her contributions to the running of YF and pray for her as she moves on in her ministry. Beth has become our junior leader and is taking responsibility for games and offering a youth perspective to our discussions.

We have been to Pulse, the Durham Diocese Youth Meetings, at Durham Cathedral and have enjoyed our trips there to worship with other young Christian people.

We have been using material which combines talking points with games around the themes such as Easter or self-image to talk about our faith. The young people vocalise well what they feel and have safe space to do so. We have created a cosy area in the vestry for when we do our God talks and we find this works well for getting into the right space to talk about God.

Thank you for your continued prayers

YF Leadership Team



Ward Jackson Primary School



1 h • 🌐

Blanchland Class have had a great at the beach after a busy week completing SATs.



It's been a busy few days for KS2 who have competed in the boys cricket and the athletics tournaments. All the children were amazing and tried their absolute hardest. A huge well done to those who have secured a place in the town finals next month. We will be cheering you along all the way!

Norman & Julie Quiz Answers

N	Which N owned a vineyard?	Naboth
O	Gerolamo Emiliani, Thérèse of Lisieux, Ursula. are all patron saints of O ?	Orphans
R	Which R fed Elijah two times a day?	Ravens
M	Which M is an archangel?	Michael
A	Which A died because he lied to God?	Annias
N	Which N was an apostle?	Nathaniel
&		
J	Which J seized a vineyard?	Jezebel
U	Was U home to Abraham?	Ur
L	Which L wrote Acts?	Luke
I	Which I is a rainbow colour?	Indigo
E	Which E wrote about dry bones?	Ezekiel

The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II Supreme Governor of the Church of England



On 6th February 2022, the Queen marked 70 years on the British throne - a feat which will be celebrated with a four-day Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will see several events take place from the 2nd - 5th of June, including the annual Trooping the Colour parade, a pageant; plus street and indoor parties and celebrations, bellringing and lighting of beacons.

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.' On her twenty-first birthday, in a speech broadcast on the radio from Cape Town, The Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth.

The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change.

Her Majesty continues to carry out a full programme of engagements, from visits to charities and schools, to hosting visiting Heads of State, to leading the nation in Remembrance and celebratory events - all supported by other members of the Royal Family. Her public workload has only been curtailed recently due to covid and mobility issues.

The Queen sees public and voluntary service as one of the most important elements of her work. The Queen has links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations. These vary from well-established

international charities to smaller bodies working in a specialist area or on a local basis only.

Not all British monarchs have taken religion as seriously as Elizabeth II. Because so few of us remember a time before the Second Elizabethan Age, few realise what a particularly religious queen we have. We think it the norm. But this queen takes her faith especially seriously. She made this plain in 2016 when she wrote in the foreword to the Bible Society's booklet *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves* to mark her 90th birthday: "I have — and remain — very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness."

The bond between monarch, church and the nation has been reinforced on hundreds if not thousands of occasions during the Queen's reign by her attendance at formal church services: thanksgivings and memorials, Maundy services around the country, services at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, and appearances at Christmas and Easter. Archbishops, bishops, cathedral deans, vicars, rectors and chaplains have all been photographed alongside her on countless occasions. Prayers are said for her regularly at Church of England services.

Then there is the work that goes on as part of her role as supreme governor, particularly formally appointing bishops, on the advice of the prime minister. This role of supreme governor has also been expressed more overtly since 1970 due to reforms made 50 years ago in the Church of England with the creation of the General Synod. Since then, she has inaugurated and addressed the opening session every five years after diocesan elections, until last year when she was unwell and sent Prince Edward to represent her.

The Queen's presence at synod, with its three houses of bishops, clergy and laity, is a reminder that in the Church of England, laity play a key role: after all, the sovereign, while a particular individual, is a lay person, not a cleric and she as supreme governor is a layperson at the apex of the church.

During the covid pandemic the person who spoke about faith — at a time when churches were shut, when you couldn't go to an Easter service — was the Queen.

"She has become a rare voice. The Queen's witness is increasingly countercultural."

(Parts of text are from Defenders of the Faith, by Catherine Pepinster, about the monarchy and religion, will be published by Hodder Faith this year - Religion Media Centre online)

**Are you planning a special celebration or party
and looking for a venue?**

**Have you thought about
St Matthew's Community Centre?**

**We have 2 large halls which can accommodate up to 140 persons
as well as 1 large and 2 small kitchens for your catering needs.**

**One hall is even big enough to house a bouncy castle –
ideal for children's parties.**

**We also have our own private car park and some outdoor space if you fancy
al fresco fun for your guests.**

**If you would like further information please call:
Trish Playfor (01429 894006) during office hours,
or Carol Laud (01429 290290)
and we will be happy to help.**

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



Helping Hands
Est. 1989

**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

God shrinks himself for our minds to comprehend Him!

Since the beginning of time, God has made Himself smaller, so we in our humanness can relate to Him.

In the Old Testament we read how the Israelites made a tabernacle for God. The Israelites called it the 'tent of meeting'. They would bring their sacrifices, their sin offerings. As that was the only way their sins could be atoned for.

God came to them in a cloud, only the priest could enter the Holy of Holies where God would meet with them.

Then in 2 Chronicles we read how Solomon wanted to build God a temple and he did.

He made it out of the best jewels, everything was made of gold.

In chapter 2 Solomon dedicated the temple and God sent fire, it came down and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

The priests couldn't enter the temple because it was filled with His presence, the Glory of God.

We read in Isaiah ch 6 v 1

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. (God is almost busting out of heaven)

"And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'"

Isaiah 6:3 NIV

GOD IS SO BIG our human brains cannot comprehend His greatness.

We go to church to meet God.

He is so much bigger than the buildings in which we worship Him!

If He chose to reveal his magnitude to us, He would burst out of the building.

His glory fills the whole earth.

Everywhere we look in creation He is there showing us a minute part of His glory.

You only have to look at fields of bright yellow flowers or look out at the vastness of the sea. He is showing His glory.

All through the bible when we think 'Wow God showed up there.'
He really was making himself small.

The burning bush.
Parting of the Red Sea.
A talking donkey etc.

All pretty amazing signs of God but He is still so much bigger than those things.

He created the heavens and earth.
He stills storms.
He raises people from the dead
Yes He is bigger than all those things too!

He wants to show us His greatness and His glory.

Are we ready for that?

Are you asking God to open your spiritual eyes to see all that He is doing?

I am hungry for his glory, are you?

Lord God

Forgive me for making you so small.

Show us your glory.

Show us your power

Show us your majesty

So that we can in turn introduce others to you our King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Amen

Ang Hall

PCC Members LIST 2022/2023

Name	Post
Maureen Anderson	Secretary
Paul Anderson	
Peter Anderson	
Angela Craig	Churchwarden
David Craig	Treasurer
Michelle Delves	Curate
Diane Greenwood	
Clive Hall	Staff
David House	
Cheryl Mills	
Andrew Rogers	DS/Lay chair
Jacqui Rogers	
Norman Shave	Vicar/Chair
Sylvia Shepherd	DS
Mary Tones	Reader
Rohan Wanduragala	Churchwarden

Birds of a Feather

The tamarisk tree is now ablaze with pink blossom. The nesting battle was won by the wood pigeons! I felt sure the magpies would conquer all the other interested parties, but no, the bulk of the pigeons overcame all the opposition!

The nest is well hidden now and I am able to keep a check on the nesting bird, who does seem to overflow the edges of the nest.

Two swifts turned up two days ago but I'm not sure if they have managed to get into the loft after the roof repairs following the winter storms. Yesterday I was woken by swift shadows flying outside but I haven't seen any entering yet. We will see what happens. Also I have had the gable end of the house painted and once that is finished we may get back to normality.

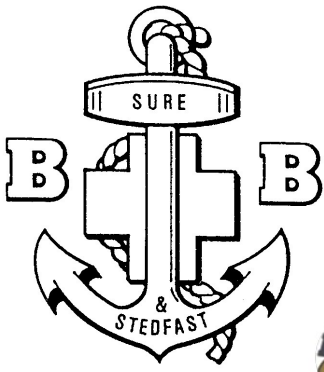
I am still feeding all the birds, as one day is cold and the next very warm. The young birds are now starting to feed boldly with no raptors around yet! It is lovely to see how some are bold and others patiently wait until I go back into the house. In fact I am waiting for a new bird feeder especially for little birds as the big birds try to steal from the much smaller feeders and break them!

The side garden is now in need of a good tidy up – previously it wasn't too bad, but following the painting it now looks dowdy – lots of weeds and pots which need the summer planting put in. This reminds me how we sometimes neglect our Christian lives and are pulled up when we are so busy with other things. We are sometimes so overtaken by the interest and the beauty that we neglect the messages. The birds feed not only for themselves, but also for their fledglings and care for their upbringing. So take care to find the message for yourself.

PS The swifts have started to nest in the loft again!

Ann Courtenay

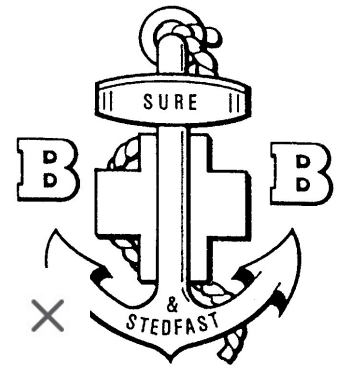




4th Hartlepool Boys' Brigade

18 h · 🌐

...



Not quite the glorious sunshine we were hoping for, but still an excellent night at Crimdon Dene with our Juniors Section tonight.



Open Night

Our open Night was held on Friday 20th May with our special guests Rev Clive Hall, Mrs Angela Hall and Mrs Cheryl Mills, the Captain of Stranton Guides. Clive led the devotions, he joined in the parachute game, gave out the awards and made a few observations at the end of the night.

Every Boy was inspected and each section took part in games, drill, band and hurdling (Only one faller!!!).

The Anchor Boys were presented with a Boys Brigade Jubilee Badge and pen. The Junior and Company Lads received the same plus the awards they had earned through this Boys Brigade Session.

The Junior Boy and Company Champion trophies which are awarded for attendance, uniform, marching and conduct were awarded to Nathan Holmes and L/Cpl Michael Downing.

Two special awards, The Founders Certificate - the highest award in our Company and a Founders Medal were awarded to Staff Sergeants Ellis Swales and Austin Turner for over 10 years outstanding service, loyalty and assisting in running events, they are both going to university in September.

Refreshments were shared and BB memorabilia were viewed at the end of the night



Rev Clive turned kernels of corn into popcorn using magic to remind us how Jesus died so many could live.



Brilliant drumming display



Parachute fun...

The Lads and Junior boys are in the parachute!



Nathan Holmes and L/Cpl Michael Downing



Special award for BB Leader George



Memorabilia

Future Events - We are holding a summer programme (fingers crossed for the weather!), for each section activities we hope to include Church visits, sand castles, beach Olympics, trips to Crimdon and Castle Eden Denes and the Blue Lagoon plus a Super Heroes night.

Fund Raising

On Saturday 25th June we are holding our Summer Fayre at St Matthew's Community Centre from 9:30 -12noon

Admission is only £1.00 and children go free plus there will be bargains galore **GUARANTEED!!!!**

We are collecting Bric a Brac (No clothing) and if you need any collecting please ring George Bainbridge on 07816 445829

You can find out more by following us on Facebook

George Bainbridge

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.

Last month saw the final alphabetical gardening tips and advice but there are a couple of pages of 'wise words' to finish off the booklet!

We have all got our rows to hoe.
Stay away from seedy characters.
Always call a spade a spade.
It is okay to be a late bloomer.
You always reap what you sow.
The plot always thickens when it rains!
Weeds never sleep.
Some people are naturally corny.
Always try to be outstanding in your field.
Some problems are perennial.
It is best to keep mum about certain subjects.
A little manure goes along way.
People with lawns have mow fun.
It is important to branch out.
There is nothing more refreshing than a morning shower.
One man's garbage is another's compost.
There are some things best left unfertilised.



Via Rev Michelle

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

We would like to thank the many in the congregation who have helped and continue to help with all the work that goes to make the church a house of prayer, a place for worship and welcome (the readers, intercessors, cleaners, those decorating the church for services, greeting people, making tea and coffee etc). A big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens.

Just as importantly, we would like to thank Norman and Julie on behalf of the congregation for their service in Stranton over the past 10 years. Likewise we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Clive and Michelle and all of the ministry team for all their work.

Thanks to Angela Craig and David House as assistant churchwardens for their help and guidance.

Buildings

Quinquennial Inspection: The inspection was carried out on 15th November 2021. It was due in 2022 but was brought forward as the architect was involved in surveys associated with the bell project and it was felt that combining the two inspections/surveys would be of benefit to us. We are awaiting his report. This should be with us soon.

Heating: Annual boiler service completed on 1st October 2021. Repair of leaking pipe in Fulthorpe Chapel has been completed after a few attempts; the steps will be re-instated shortly.

Routine Inspections/service:

Fire: Inspection of the fire extinguishers completed - 18th March 2021 and 31st March 2022

Asbestos: Survey carried out as part of the requirement for the bell project (tower) and extended to cover the whole church. Church building is clear of asbestos. Church Organ's sealed blower unit may contain asbestos; any maintenance of this unit will need to take this into consideration. Compliant warning signage has been attached.

ADT Alarm - routine inspection and service 9th July 2021

Lightning Protection System - inspected and tested on 31st August 2021

Clock - annual service - 25th November 2021

Archdeacons visit: This was completed on 19th August 2021 - no issues.

An inspection of articles belonging to the church (terrier) was satisfactorily completed in March 2022.

other minor maintenance tasks are scheduled and monitored by the Churchwardens who maintain a record in the Church log book

Visual & Sound System: Paul Anderson and Mark Rattigan have done a great deal of work and spent a lot of time overseeing the installation and ensuring the system works. Thanks to them for their hard work and commitment.

Gardening Thanks to Pam Stockton for doing the flower beds which look lovely. Also the Council have been very helpful in maintaining the church yard. *Hartlepool Borough Council has accepted responsibility for dealing with this .*

Brewery Parking - Working well / good relationship with the brewery. Regular checks made to ensure sufficient parking places are available.

Church Bell refurbishment

We are immensely grateful to Andy Kaye and Andrew Frost for their work in overseeing the whole project; obtaining quotes, organising meetings with contractors etc, and most importantly in raising funds. Thanks also to Maureen Anderson for the considerable amount of administrative work connected with this project, not least in 'chasing up' the Faculty application. The progress of this project is reported by the bellringers.

Vicar appointment

The advertisement has been placed with the interview date set for 1st June 2022. Two reps from each of the 3 churches making up the CHGC (Central Hartlepool Group of Churches) will be on the interview panel, which will also include Bishop Sarah (Bishop of Jarrow) and Archdeacon Rick Simpson, a total of 8.

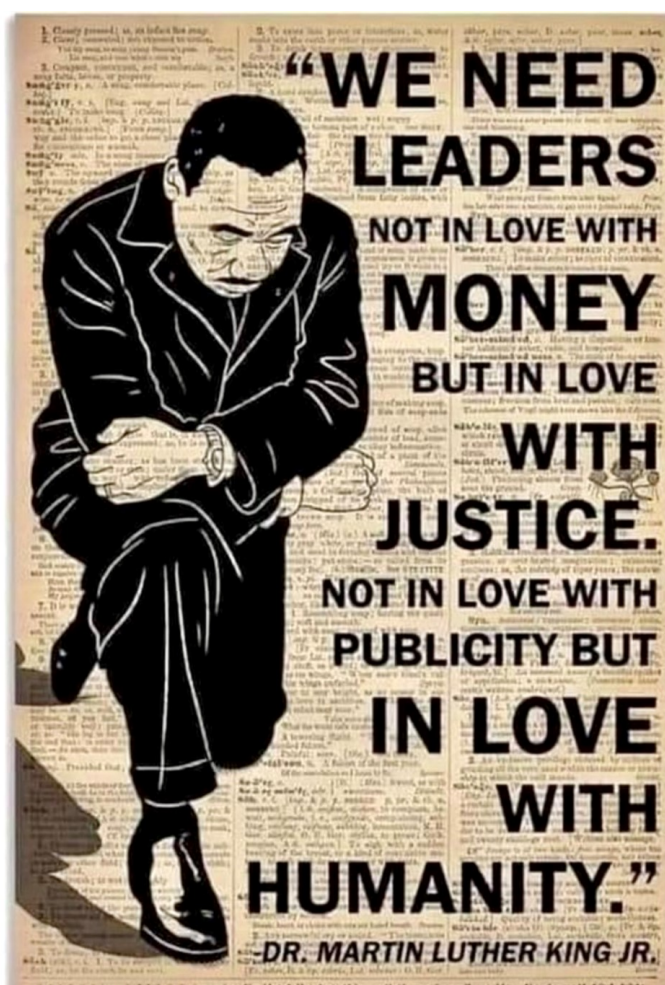
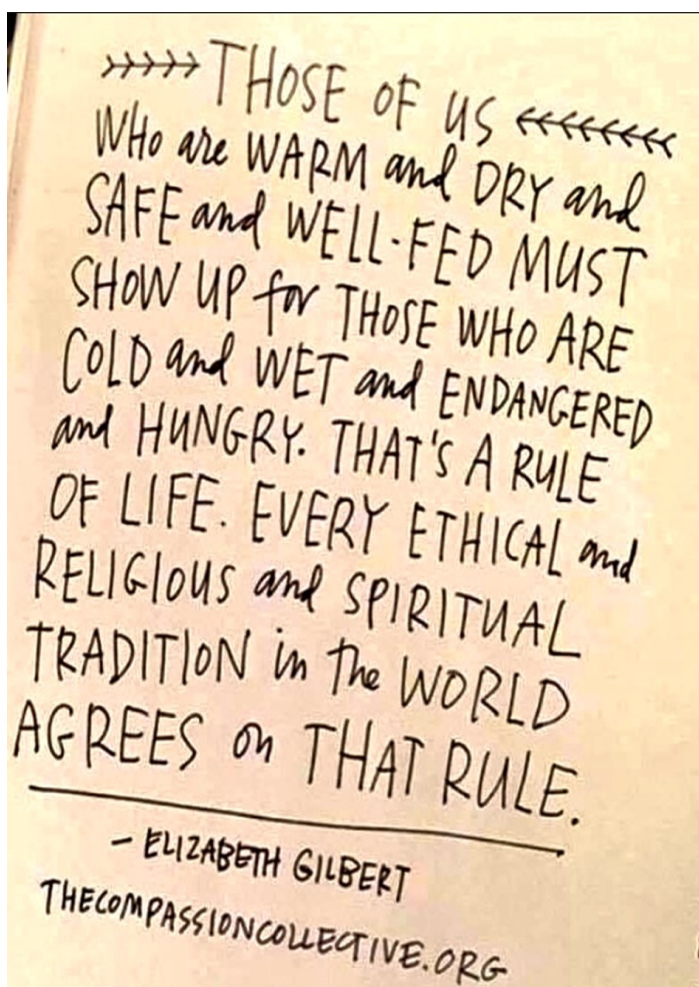
The two reps from Stranton are Andrew Rogers (Lay Chair PCC) and Rohan Wanduragala (Churchwarden) with Mary Tones as a standby in case either Andrew or Rohan are unable to attend.

The first appointment is for a 'Priest-in-charge' to replace Norman. This will be followed by a second appointment, maybe in two years' time.

The Clergy Role Description and Parish profiles can be viewed on the diocesan web site under vacancies. Please do have a look. VACANCY: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL GROUP MINISTRY (CHGM) - Diocese of Durham (durhamdiocese.org)

**Rohan Wanduragala, Peter Anderson
Churchwardens**

P.S. No applications for new incumbent were received, so the process continues.



Mary Baines Recipes Revisited

Easy Ice Cream

Mix and match from

60g good quality plain chocolate
60g good quality white chocolate
60g good quality milk chocolate

3 different kinds of ice cream of your choice eg strawberry, vanilla, chocolate (or be more adventurous)
18 cocktail sticks

Cover a baking tray with greaseproof paper & leave in fridge to cool.

Melt the 3 types of chocolate gently in 3 separate bowls over 3 pans of boiling water. Take off heat & allow to cool a little.

The ice cream needs to be taken out of the freezer for a few minutes to soften slightly.

Now to assemble ball... Take a round desert spoon of one kind of ice cream, spear it onto a cocktail stick & dip it in melted plain chocolate & place on the cooled baking tray.

Repeat until you have six identical balls, then put the tray in the freezer.

Repeat this process with different types of ice cream and chocolate.

To serve place 3 balls on a plate with a little fruit garnish eg strawberries, sliced orange, grapes, raspberries.

Vegetable Crumble

Crumble topping –

125g margarine or butter

185g wholemeal flour

125g tasty cheese grated

60g chopped mixed nuts

For vegetable base-

700g mixed root vegetable chopped into 2.5 cm cubes.

1 large onion sliced

60g margarine

30g wholemeal flour

250g tomatoes quartered

200g vegetable stock

3 tablespoons parsley

Salt & pepper to taste

To make topping - rub the butter/marg into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the cheese & nuts & optionally some sesame seeds.

To make vegetable base – melt the marg in a large pan & cook the onion until transparent. Add the rest of the vegetables, in batches & cook over a gentle heat, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes.

Stir in the flour.

Add the remaining ingredients & bring to the boil. Simmer for about 15 minutes until vegetables are just tender.

Transfer the vegetables & sauce to a large ovenproof dish.

Press the crumble topping over the vegetable base and bake for 30 minutes in 109C 180C fan Gas 5 until topping is crisp & golden.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

June

Peter Anderson
Paul Anderson
Riley Bruce
Emma Craig
Tim Craig
Millie Dobbin
Mike Dodds
Bill Greenwood
Pam Harkness
Simon Jennett
Tim Jennett
Tyler Lithgo
Doug Macaskill
Kelly Spoors
Ramona Thornhill
Kevin Tones
Pat Vaughan
Stan Vaughan



**Wedding Anniversary
June**

Ann & Andrew Cuthbert
Ray & Paul 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

Dates for June

Thurs 2 nd June	BVNRA Jubilee Party 1.00-4.00pm St Matthew's CC
Thurs 2 nd June	St Luke's Jubilee Afternoon Tea 2pm
Sat 4 th June	Cuppa & Company Jubilee Afternoon Tea 2.00pm St Matthew's CC
Sat 11 th June	Church open 10.00-12.00
Sun 12 th June	Messy Church 4.00pm St Matthew's CC
Sat 18 th June	Church open 10.00-12.00pm
Sat 18 th June	Ceilidh 6.30-10.00pm St Matthew's CC
Sun 19 th June	Norman & Julie's Final Service Joint Churches Holy Communion Stranton Church 10.00am
Sat 25 th June	Church open 10.00-12.00
Sat 25 th June	Boys Brigade Summer Fayre 9.30-12.00pm St Matthew's CC



Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 or 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

Reader

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

Church Wardens	Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279 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	Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road 268007
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.

