

**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**

July 2022

# What do you want?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:- wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. (These are listed in 1 Corinthians 12). This chapter finishes with verse 31 *Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.*

God clearly says – “What is your desire?”. If we are growing in our relationship with God, if we are starting to work out ‘He wants me to change, He wants me to mature, and He wants to give me gifts and abilities that will make a difference in my life!’, Then God will give us the tools to do just that.

If God said to you today “What do you want from Me? Or, What can I give to you today?” - what would your answer be? This is not such a silly question because in Mark 10 we see that Jesus says;

*<sup>51</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.’*

You might even think that is a silly question to ask a blind man! But the question then reveals how this blind man had faith that Jesus could give him his desire. The faith is a part of the healing in itself. The blind man then chooses to follow Jesus.

So I ask again, “What would you like God to give to you?”

Stop and think about this question and then ask God what **you** desire. I have had time to dwell on this for myself and my answer is – ‘I want to see into the spiritual realm.’ At Jesus’ baptism the heavens opened and God’s voice was heard, the Holy Spirit was seen. People got a glimpse into the spiritual realm. Another example is when Elisha saw the angels and chariots protecting him from the army which was there to kill him. He prayed for his servant’s eyes to be opened and they were and the servant saw the chariots. I too want to see the chariots and angels in the spiritual realm, this is my desire.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” ... “Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.” 1 Kings 3.

Our third example is well known, and we know that God gave Solomon wisdom beyond anyone else! This example also reminds us that God did say to Solomon, “Because you didn’t ask for wealth or health or death to your enemies (Paraphrasing), I will give you what you want.” This highlights the motivation behind what we are asking for? This is a challenging question, which we may need ask to ourselves?

And Finally – I pray that God will give you the desire of your heart. Once you have received it, the next part of your homework is to ask God, “What do you want from me God?”

Be Blessed  
**Rev Clive**

# Mothers Union

At our June meeting we were able to say 'Happy Retirement' and Farewell' to Julie Shave – Julie has played her guitar at our gatherings for many years now and will be much missed. We had a shorter meeting than usual in order to eat cake, drink tea and chat. Julie was presented with an indoor plant and a card filled with many good wishes and thanks for being so much a part of our meetings.

I was unable to get to Durham Cathedral for the June Festival Service, but will be sent the highlights of our speaker the MU Chief Executive Bev Julien and then I can share them with you.

Looking back to last autumn's MU Connected magazine – I found it so helpful during the time of Covid - that I decided to reread it. The pre-Christmas edition is still valid today with items on being stewards of creation and being more aware of how we use our resources.

Katie Piper writes on how her faith helped her recovery from the abuse she faced in her life. Another item tells of how MU groups helped prisoners' families during the Covid time plus a lovely piece on MU members in Cornwall who knitted teddies to show children that while every human being is different, God values us and loves each one of us the same.

In Mothers Union and in our Christian lives we are all different, but loved equally by our heavenly Father.

Happy retirement Julie and Norman. Best wishes from all of us at MU.

God Bless  
**Ann Courtenay.**



# From the Home Front



Coming



and going

June has been quite a month really... it started with celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee – tea and street parties, parades, bells, church services, beacons, prayers. Meeting with neighbours to celebrate was a fantastic event in my street – despite the cold weather! The organising and fund raising around the street enabled contact we have never had before, it was wonderful to chat and eat together.

We bade farewell to Rachel and Seth Price who had been with us in Stranton for almost 2 years as part of Rachel's ordinand training within a parish. They have been a real blessing to many in services, forest church and numerous other areas of church life. We have felt the loss of their leaving.

June is ending with another farewell on Norman and Julie's retirement after ten years with us – this time with tea and cake, ceilidh and supper, a joint church service, speeches, gifts plus tears and sadness.

During the month there has been a birth and a death, illness, hospital stays and recovery within my circle of friends. My other half went to Spain to celebrate a friend's significant birthday, and he went without me – he had not been on holiday without me since before our wedding! He still managed to enjoy himself....

Life is full of comings and goings. Some are every-day, temporary - even if unexpected. Others are life changing, requiring adjustments or complete changes, as people move into or out of our lives, whether it's retirement, moving, birth or death. Comings and goings cannot be avoided, they will happen. But when God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit come into our life we can be sure they never go! We can ignore them, turn away from them, pretend they have left – but they are still there. Maybe on the edge or in a shadow, but no matter where you go, what you do or say, how you behave they will not leave you and they are never far away. They are with you because they love you unconditionally and they are waiting for the time you invite them back to be your Father, Saviour Friend and Guide. I am so grateful that the Trinity comes and never goes....

**J.A.R.**

# Farewell Ceilidh Evening on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June

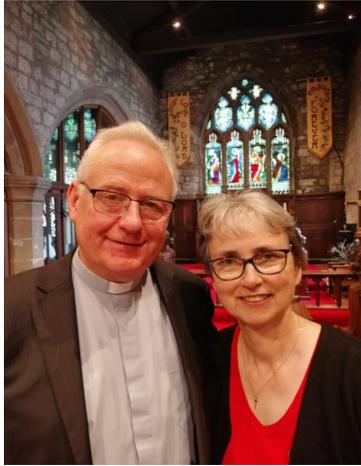
After a long wait, due to Covid, we managed a Ceilidh led once again by Sunnyside Up Ceilidh Band. It was a fun evening for young and old, regulars and new comers. A bring and share supper was enjoyed as we certainly burnt off some calories!

The photos tell it all....





# Central Churches Group Farewell Service for Rev Norman and Julie Shave on their retirement – 19<sup>th</sup> June



Congregations from Stranton, St Aidan's and St Columba's and St Luke's gathered for Norman and Julie's farewell service in Stranton Church. After ten years in All Saints Stranton and latterly in The Central Group of Churches Norman, with Julie by his side, has led his flocks to fulfill the Lord's work.



Norman preached about Barnabas – the encourager, and he reminded us throughout the sermon to remember the poor.

One last Norman action song with the children leading.



Norman and Julie's ten years here have been 'interesting times'! Stranton has had physical changes – new servery and accessible facilities built, new hand rails, ongoing repairs, new lighting, an audio visual system installed, Not forgetting a new vicarage too.



Leaving gifts included a pair of garden seats with joining table and bird feeding stations, plus a picture of Stranton Church, also a cheque for them to spend on what ever they may need in their new home.



A book of memories was presented including photographs of events and people over the years. So many asylum seekers, baptisms, Ward Jackson School occasions and ceilidhs....



Sunflowers from Sunday Club to brighten the garden in their new home.



Church wardens from all three churches say farewell.

# A full church in full voice...



# A retirement liturgy to end the service.

# Coffee Cake & Company Jubilee Afternoon Tea On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June in St Matthew's Community Centre

A personal appearance by HM Queen Elizabeth!



A wonderful array of food for all the guests



Anticipating what was to come – Cheryl, Doreen and Sue



A tricky royal quiz helped to get everyone talking. Thora, Richard and Mike thinking hard!



Even the St Luke's quiz setters had to think hard – we really had to know our royal family in detail!



Huge thanks to all those who helped prepare the food, set up the hall, serve and clear away – you did an amazing job....

# St Luke's Jubilee Tea Party



Held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June the afternoon was well attended.



A Queen Elizabeth II rose was planted in the church garden by the eldest and youngest guests at the tea party.



A delicious tea was followed by a royal quiz.



Thanks to all who provided this fantastic spread and Union Jack cake. A fun afternoon celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style.

## Lighting the Jubilee Beacon at Seaton Carew 2<sup>nd</sup> June



### Summer Holiday Quiz

- S** Which **S** was a Zealot?
- U** Which **U** an English saint evangelised Sweden? (It will take all summer to work this one out!)
- M** Which **M** a queen of Scotland is a saint?
- M** Which **M** linked to Stranton Church!! is the patron saints of midwifery?
- E** Which **E** a King of East Anglia is a saint and has an English town named after him?
- R** Which **R** was Joseph's older brother?
  
- H** Which **H** was an abbess of Whitby
- O** Which **O** is a mount?
- L** Jesus healed ten men with **L**?
- I** Which **I** are images of sacred figures or Holy events?
- D** Which **D** ordered Daniel into the lion's den?
- A** Which **A** originally a disciple of John was the brother of Simon Peter?
- Y** Was the prodigal son?



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and looking for a venue?**

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# Pentecost – 5<sup>th</sup> June Rachel and Seth's Farewell



After two years working in Stranton Parish whilst studying in Durham towards ordination Rachel preached her final sermon before they moved to Doncaster area for her curacy after ordination.



As token of our thanks and appreciation for all their hard work in the Parish and helping with Forest Church Rachel and Seth were presented with pictures of Hartlepool and a cheque to go towards setting up their new home.



Norman led a commissioning, blessing and dismissal prayer to cover this new phase of their lives. They found a place in our hearts and they will be greatly missed.

St Matthew's  
Community Centre  
Elwick Road



Please come and join us

Saturday 2nd July 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

“through the praise  
of children and  
infants you have  
established a stronghold  
against your enemies,  
to silence the foe  
and the avenger.”  
psalms 8:2 niv

## Answers Summer Holiday Quiz

S	Which S was a Zealot?	Simon
U	Which U an English saint evangelised Sweden? (It will take all summer to work this one out!)	Ulfrid
M	Which M a queen of Scotland is a saint?	Margaret
M	Which M linked to Stranton Church!! is the patron saints of midwifery?	Margaret of Antioch
E	Which E a king of East Anglia is a saint and has an English town named after him?	Edmund (Bury St Edmund)
R	Which R was Joseph's older brother?	Reuben
H	Which H was an abbess of Whitby?	Hilda
O	Which O is a mount?	Olive
L	Jesus healed ten men with L?	Leprosy
I	Which I are images of sacred figures or Holy events?	Icons
D	Which D ordered Daniel into the lion's den?	Darius the Mede
A	Which A originally a disciple of John was the brother of Simon Peter?	Andrew
Y	Was the prodigal son?	Youngest



Ward Jackson Primary School

4 h · 🌐

Some of our year 6 girls had a great afternoon at their netball workshop. They learned lots of new skills and are super excited to play more netball.



Ward Jackson Primary School

5 h · 🌐

We had a great morning at the football. A huge thank you to Tracy, Dean and 'Angus for having us!



Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation · [Follow](#)

10 h · 🌐

As part of our Premier League Primary Stars Programme we welcomed Year 6 Students and staff from Ward Jackson Primary School for an exciting and fun filled morning of activities at the Hartlepool United stadium.

Pupils completed a quiz and had the opportunity to visit the dressing rooms and have photographs pitch side.

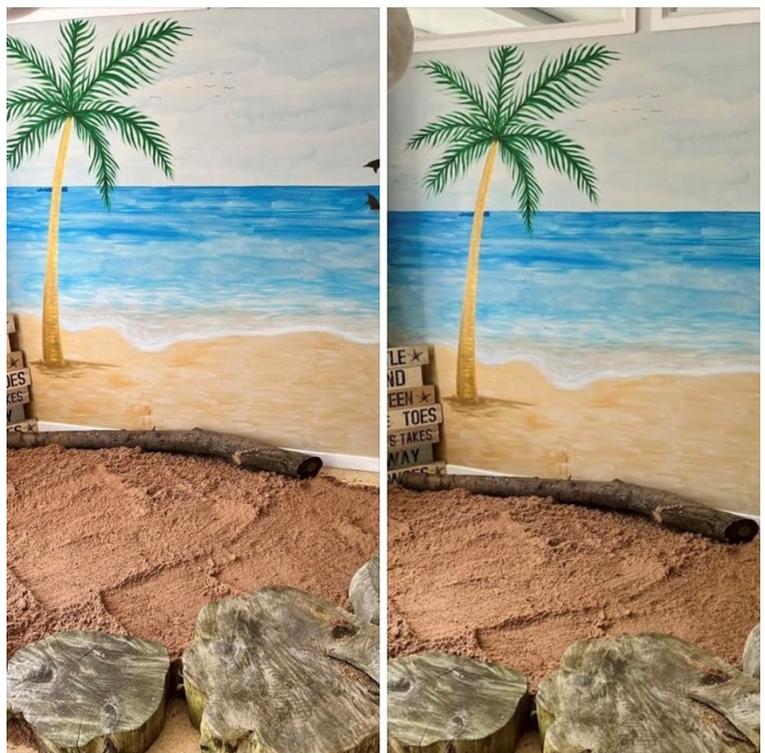
This was a welcomed reward for all their hard work this year!



Ward Jackson Primary School

2 h · 🌐

A little half term project complete in our Early Years classroom. Huge thank you to one of our very talented nursery parents who painted this beautiful beach scene! 🌴☀️





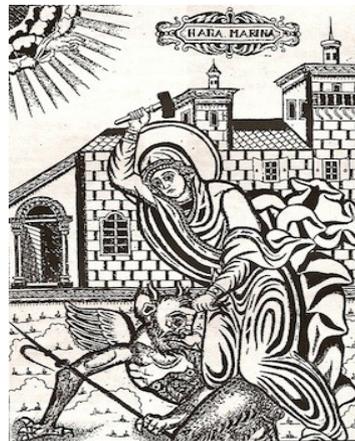
# Boys Brigade



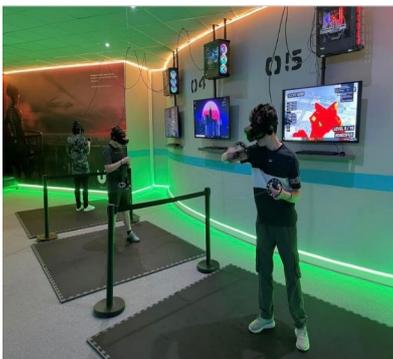
## Visits to Church

Our Juniors visited church and enjoyed grave rubbing and a tour of the church followed by a map quiz around the church.

The Anchor Boys visited church and were given a difficult choice, They were told about the broken statue above the entrance door, which is broken thanks to Oliver Cromwell and informed about the two saints the Crusaders followed in the Holy Land: St George - who killed a dragon and St Margaret of Antioch who was swallowed by a dragon. They then coloured in the choice they had made (See pictures).



## 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade Company Section having a great time at NEVRlabs tonight.



The Older Lads will be selling goods to our customers at the Summer Fayre on June 25<sup>th</sup> at St Matthew's CC from 09.30 -12noon.

Twelve lads are looking forward to our Summer Camp near Pickering.

If you would like to see more of our activities please visit our Facebook page.

**George Bainbridge**

## 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade Summer activities

The Anchors have also visited Seaton for a sand castle competition followed by an ice cream, They are looking forward to a night playing dominoes and 'Fivesy' (a dice game), a Superheroes night in fancy dress, plus our Summer Fayre.

The Juniors have had beach Olympics, visited Crimdon Dene and are looking forward to trips to the beach followed by a bag of chips, a BBQ at the Blue Lagoon, sand castle building and a visit to our Summer Fayre - where there are bargains galore!

The Company Lads have visited the Blue Lagoon, Castle Eden Dene and will travel to a games venue and also to the Blue lagoon (so good we went twice!).



### Dallas Willard's take on the Lord's Prayer

*Dear Father always near us, may your name be treasured and loved, may your rule be completed in us— may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven. Give us today the things we need today, and forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us. Please don't put us through trials, but deliver us from everything bad. Because you are the one in charge, and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours—forever—which is just the way we want it! Whoopee!\**

**"PEOPLE GROW WHEN THEY ARE LOVED WELL. IF YOU WANT TO HELP OTHERS HEAL, LOVE THEM WITHOUT AN AGENDA."**



# Acceptance

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, walked and talked with God. They didn't have to strive to get His acceptance or attention, they knew they already had it.

They didn't have to earn His love, they walked in it.

When they sinned that's when everything changed. They hid from their creator, their protector, their father.

They then made clothes and had to start working the ground.

Then throughout the Old Testament people had to sacrifice animals for atonement and acceptance of God.

That was never God's intention.

He wanted us to have a continuous walking and talking, intimate relationship with Him.

When Jesus died and rose again God made a way for us to have that beautiful relationship with Him again.

No more earning or striving to find God's love or acceptance. Through Jesus' ultimate sacrifice we have that acceptance.

What does intimacy with God look like?

When I think of intimacy, I think of Oneness, Unity, Closeness.

Intimacy with God is knowing His heart, feeling His heartbeat, knowing what hurts Him and what makes Him happy.

That's what God desires of us and that's what He created us for. He made us so we could have an intimate relationship with Him.

I invite you now to sit still and ask the Holy spirit to come to sit with you, be still in His presence. Don't talk, just be.

God through His Holy Spirit wants your company, He wants your attention.

Let Him pour His love on you in the silence.

**Ang Hall**



## The Bear Ladies

An amazing array of handmade, knitted and donated items are shown by Jill Barrett. These are all sold to raise funds for the Kilimatinde Trust in Tanzania.



### **YF (Youth Fellowship) Leaders required Do you want to develop the faith of young Christians? Is this God calling you...?**

We are seeking New Youth Leaders for YF.

We meet as a group every Sunday evening in Stranton Church from 7:00pm till 8:30pm. The youngsters are aged from 11 years (Y7) up to 18 years.

We presently have 8 young people attending the group.

The leader would be part of a team of leaders working on a rota, so you would not be expected to attend every week, but every other week at the moment.

Two new leaders would mean that could extend attendance to once a month!

Each week one leader is in charge of the session. They would use material from Rock Solid resource, which provides a list of games and a short talk on a theme for each session. The other leader in each session is there to provide support.

Presently each leader would lead a whole session once every three weeks.

We do have a tuck shop with chat slot at the start of each evening. The games and talk are followed by more games of the group's choosing. There are also film nights, cooking nights plus a trip to The Pulse in Durham Cathedral. All sessions are in term times, and we work around school holidays.

There will be a requirement to apply for a Church DBS and some Safe Guarding Training is necessary. These are a legal requirement to guard and protect the youth in our care.

If you are interested in the position or would like further information about it please contact **Rev Clive Hall on 07804530120.**

# 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.*

*May saw the final alphabetical gardening tips and advice but there are a couple of pages of ‘wise words’ to finish off the booklet!*

When you hammer your finger instead of the nail, put it immediately into an eggcup of vinegar for a minute or two.

Coat the handles of small garden towels and forks with red paint – they will show up well and less likely to go astray.

Grow a few seeds of sage, thyme and other herbs and plant them at intervals among your flowering plants. The strong smell seems to keep the bugs away – and the fresh herbs are always useful in the kitchen.

To keep hands warm while gardening in winter wear a pair of large size rubber gloves over your woollen gloves.

Cool the water in which eggs have been boiled and put it on your indoor plants – the water is full of minerals.

Old gardens never die – they just spade away.

If after gardening you have muddy hands, make them wet and soapy, sprinkle them with a teaspoon of sugar and wash them.

Troubled with dogs in the garden? – sprinkle a few mothballs around.

The right time to do any job in the garden is when you think of it!

Spend 20 minutes a day on garden tasks – if it is wet, clean your tools.

**Before you put these tips away  
Promise me you’ll never say  
You should have seen my garden yesterday!**

# Sunday Club News!

The Sunday Club has been very busy this month thinking about the 'Fruits of the Spirit'. We began by thinking of love and peace. We then had a Jubilee Party on the 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate and think about joy and faithfulness. We had sandwiches and jubilee cupcakes!



Next, we looked at patience and kindness and had some great discussions about how hard it can be to be patient. The children enjoyed making fruit kebabs – they had to be very patient and careful to thread the fruit onto the kebab sticks.



Finally, we recapped the fruits of the spirit and thought about which were the most important to us and which we maybe needed to focus on more. We then planted some cress seeds in some decorated pots. Our pots were decorated with which spirit we thought was the most important or which we felt that we needed to try and grow more. We definitely had some gardening experts!

**Kate**



# Birds of a Feather

A couple of weeks ago while walking my dog on the beach she came across a rather large seabird partially hidden behind a rock. I managed to bring her to heel and we both gazed at an adult gannet. I had never been so close to one before (not very near because of the dog.) The white plumage was whiter than any special soap powder and the black wing tips glistened in the sun. The golden buff head and the body with black patches was clean with no wounds. We retraced our steps on our way home and the bird had fallen asleep, its head resting on its back.

Talking to my neighbour, who had rang the bird sanctuary, we felt that a strong gale the day before had pushed the gannet off course and onto our beach along with many other birds.

This week the focus is on whether these birds – they were a mixture of varieties – had been infected with avian flu and we are warned to keep our dogs away. It seems a little bit odd that this is happening after the beach early in the year was covered in dead crustacea (both large and small crabs and also lobsters).

It reminded me of the plagues of Egypt that God sent to help Moses gain release from slavery for the Jewish captives.

I am awaiting the next high tide, wondering what else will appear! We also have a lot of sea-coal as the collectors have seemingly disappeared during the Covid outbreak, but hopefully no more ill seabirds.

**Ann Courtenay**

(PS I have observed eider ducks along near the Marina – never seen them here before. J.A.R.)

# CELEBRATE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**to**

**July**

Maureen Anderson

Faith Barton

Ronnie Barton

Josh Bruce

Barbara Butcher

Jean Connell

Natalie Proffitt

Mary Robinson

Norman Shave

Max Spoons

Jenny Tones

Geoffrey Webster

Diana Wanduragala



## **Wedding Anniversary**

**July**

Faith & Adam Barton

Malinee & Aga

Andrew & Elspeth Craig

Ken & Sylvia Shepherd

Congratulations on

Julie & Norman Shave's

**Ruby Wedding Anniversary**

**Birth Congratulations to Malinee and Aga  
on the safe arrival on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June of Nya Ruby**

**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 July

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Coffee, Cake & Company	2.00-4.00pm	St Matthew's CC
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Ordination of Anita Burke	10.00am	Durham Cathedral
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Standing Committee	7.00pm	19 Trentbrooke Ave
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> July	PCC	7.30pm	Fulthorpe Chapel

## Mary Baines Summer Fruit Treats Recipes

### Tipsy Strawberries

Combine ½ cup sugar, 1 cup water, 2 tablespoons lemon juice in a medium pan. Stir over a medium heat until sugar dissolves, then bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes till the mixture becomes syrupy. Remove from the heat stir in ½ cup Grand Marnier or orange liqueur and 500g of halved strawberries.

Serve warm or cool with ice-cream or whipped cream.

Try melting some milk chocolate and dip in fresh strawberries half way up. Leave the hulls on to hold them.

### Ginger Coconut Peaches

Use either halved fresh or tinned peaches (or nectarines)

Heat oven to moderately hot. Place peach halves cut side up on a tray. Combine ½ cup desiccated coconut, ¼ cup soft brown sugar, 8 crushed ginger snaps, 2 teaspoons of grated lemon peel, 1 teaspoon mixed spice and 2½ oz softened butter. Spoon the mixture into the peach halves. Bake for 10 minutes till topping is golden brown. Serve with cream or ice-cream.

### Gooseberry Mould

1 lb gooseberries

4 oz caster sugar

2 eggs separated

½ pint milk

½ oz gelatine

A drop of green colouring (optional)

Whipped cream to decorate

Stew the gooseberries with the sugar in very little water to prevent sticking, sieve to make puree.

Put the egg yolks, milk, gelatine in a heavy based pan and cook very gently, stirring all the time till thick.

Remove from the heat, cool then mix in the gooseberry puree and colouring.

Whisk egg whites till thick and fold into the gooseberry mixture. Spoon into a dampened mould or dish. Chill till set. Decorate with whipped cream and serve with sponge fingers.

# Who's Who

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