

Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

June 2024

Keeping in Step with the Holy Spirit'

I was reminded this week of the power of positivity, the power behind building each other up, of speaking kind words over one another, encouraging our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to be all that they (and we) can be. It's something I try to do, it's something I encourage others to do – I even draw on this in my baptism talks because there are plenty of people out there who at best can be quite critical, and at worst downright awful and abusive towards us, doing whatever they can to knock us down, trying to make sure we don't get back up again. So, we need to do as much as we can to build each other up, to equip each other, and to encourage others to do the same.

But it's also something that I don't always get right.

We've just celebrated Pentecost. The birthday of the church when the Holy Spirit (in Acts 2) came down on the believers, the 12 disciples (including Matthias who had replaced Judas as one of the twelve) and the 100 or so other believers that were gathered with them. As they were filled with the Holy Spirit, these believers began speaking in all sorts of different languages and tongues, a great cacophony of sound. It drew people in, eager to know what was going on.

There was a great number of witnesses, and the first thing some of these witnesses said was that the believers must be drunk, acting the way they were. The first thing these people did was to jump to conclusions about what they were witnessing, rather than thinking about what they were seeing, and then saying. They didn't THINK. And that's something we should all do when we are speaking to others. Is what we are saying True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind? Note it's an 'and' in there, not an 'or'. We shouldn't say something just because we think it's true or necessary, forgetting about whether it's helpful, inspiring or kind. We should be thinking whether it's all of these things. Because only when it's all of these things will it be in step with the Holy Spirit.

'But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23a, 25). When we THINK about what we say to one another, the fruit of the Spirit will come through in what we say, how we say it, and even whether we say it at all. Something might be true and necessary, but if we don't say it in a helpful or inspiring or kind way, then it isn't constructive, and can be quite damaging in our relationships with others. Sometimes it may not be helpful or kind to say it at all.

When we THINK about what we are saying (or about to say), and we allow the Spirit to move through us, through our thoughts, our words, our actions, then we will see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. We will see ourselves keeping in step with the Holy Spirit, one day, one week, one month at a time.

Grace and Peace,
Revd John

From the Home Front

When I was away in New Zealand I was not able to attend church as I am not insured to drive there and was usually staying out of towns and with non-church goers. I missed the fellowship and worship, but I felt a heightened awareness of God being with me through all my travels, revealing Himself in all I saw and did and through the people we met.



This was the only church I visited in a village called Duntroon. The only congregation comprised of cluster flies and pigeons! No services have been held here since 2020. However the building is kept clean by volunteers from a town 30 miles away.

I covered my flights and travelling in prayer from before my journeying even began and I am so grateful to my praying friends who kept my whole trip in their prayers too.

Just as we boarded our flight on route from North Island to South Island in New Zealand I felt prompted to remind my sister to put her mobile phone onto flight mode (something we normally did as the plane was taxing on the runway), only for her to discover her phone was not in her handbag - in the phone case were all her credit and debit cards. PANIC! As the passengers were still embarking onto the flight my sister was able to leave the plane and return to the seating area and café where we had been. I sent up arrow prayers for its safe return while she was away. As she started searching in the café at the table at which we had been sitting, the waitress came rushing up to her with the phone in hand, it had been found on the floor (it had fallen from my sister's bag when it tipped over on her knee!).

After a 3 day visit to a friend in Invercargill, just as we were leaving I could not find my contactless debit card. My purse and handbag were thoroughly searched, but to no avail! We sat quietly and went through

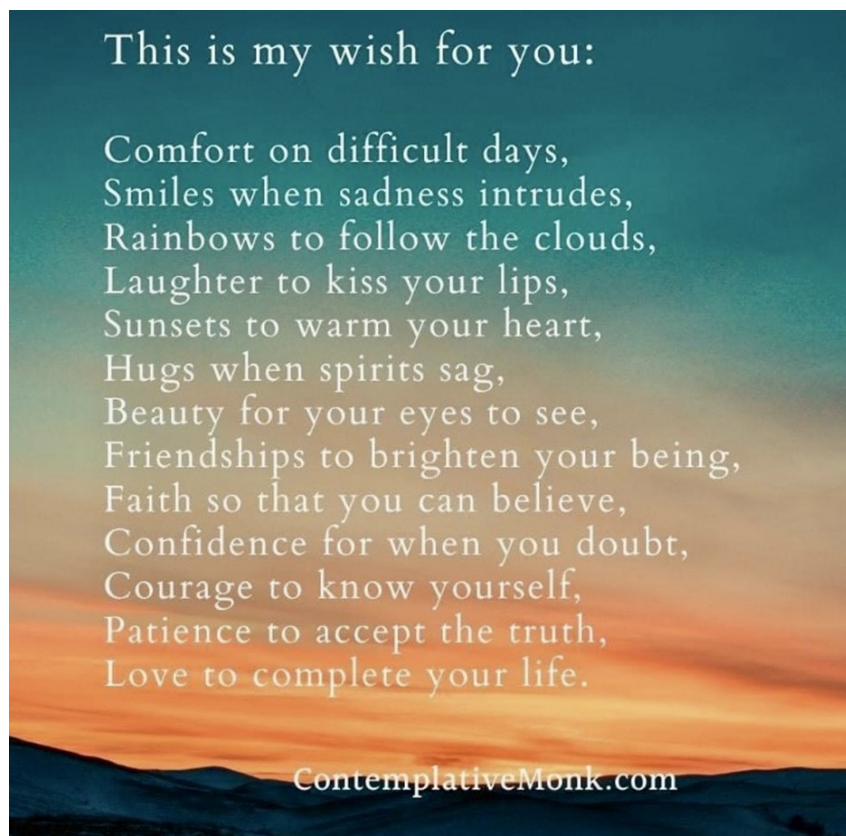
where we had been and when I had used my card. We contacted the restaurant I had paid for lunch the previous day – but it was not there. I tried to ring the bank to stop the card, but it wouldn't ring through. So we set off to the main highway east to return to my nephew's house (a four hour drive away). When suddenly, as I replayed the previous 24 hours in my head, I could see me, on my own in a museum giftshop buying presents for grandsons and putting my card on the counter as I put the gifts into a bag! We drove back across town to the museum where as I explained my lose to the counter assistant, she instantly produced a bag containing my debit card with a note attached saying "English lady, travelling with her sister and friend". She was as delighted as I was to have it returned.

The fact that God put good people along our paths - honest, caring, thoughtful - made such a difference to our travels.

We stayed with a variety of family, friends and 'friends of friends', plus BnB owners during our seven weeks away and we were met with hospitality and kindness in every home. Not all those we met were active Christians, but they all adhered to the principles of Christianity – to treat others as they would wish to be treated.

I give thanks for answered prayers and a blessing on all those who prayed for us and who we encountered along the way.

J.A.R.



Lines in the Sand

Over several months, the Communities of Hope Steering Group have been working with the diocese to find the best way forward for the project and all the great work the team have been doing.

After a lot of deliberation, reflection and prayer, we have come to the point where we need to draw a line in the sand to enable us to move forward effectively. We have decided that now is the time to put Communities of Hope behind us, while continuing to use National Church Funding to enable mission across the Central Hartlepool Group over the next two years and beyond. We will be shortly looking to recruit someone to support this as a Mission Enabler for the Central Group, supporting Emma and Hayley with renewed focus in their current roles. Please pray for us as we seek the right person for this role, and if you know anyone who might be a good fit then do let them know the advert is coming.

If you want to find out more then please contact a member of the 'Central Hartlepool Group Mission Committee'.

Revd John, Kathrine Batty, Jane Spears, Jacqui Rogers, & Natasha Shirvani

Becky and Patrick Reeve



This is just a quick Hello from Becky and Patrick as we wait for all the official things which need to happen, before we start in the parish, to be done. We are both really looking forward to joining you in Hartlepool and getting to know you all. For the last three years we have been living in Derby while Becky has been a curate, following her time training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. Before that we lived on the South Coast in Littlehampton, where Becky worked as a SENCO (special needs teacher) and Patrick was a site manager in a school. Having missed the sea during our time in the Midlands it will be great to be back on the coast.

We both enjoy walking and walking pilgrimages- we met in 2010 on a walking pilgrimage in Wales, and we are looking forward to exploring the North East which is new to both of us. Accompanying us to Hartlepool will be Wulfstan the dog and 6 cats. Hope to see you all soon!

Listening to the Good Shepherd



This picture of the sheep, she is my new friend!! The other day this sheep was grazing across the field and meandered up to the fence which I was looking over. She looked at me intently. I began to talk to her! I told her how beautiful she was, we chatted for a while! Well I did all the talking, she just kept staring at me as if she understood every word that I was saying.

Suddenly she dropped her head down. I thought she was bored of my chit chat and was about to start eating the luscious grass that was on offer! Instead she was looking from side to side under the hedge. She almost looked scared. I kept talking to her and telling her not to be afraid, but she kept looking intently. Then she abruptly turned away from me and wandered back to the rest of the flock.

I did some research on sheep, for those who know me well, I absolutely adore sheep. I found out that they have rectangular eyes and this enables them to have 270 to 320 degree field of vision. That's why you can never creep up on a sheep without them knowing that you're there.

My encounter with my friend got me thinking that I am like sheep, easily distracted. I know that I love to hear Jesus, my good shepherd's voice and that I long for intimacy with Him. I know that He's always there.

He promises us in Hebrews 13 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.'

I want to spend time in the good shepherd's presence, but I get so easily distracted, my phone is the biggest problem! I can scroll and scroll and scroll and it doesn't fulfil me. I get frustrated that I have wasted time on it! I know that when I spend time with Jesus it's fulfilling and He feeds me through His word and presence.

The other morning, I decided to sit and listen to what He had to say to me. In my prayers I walked into His presence and saw bright golden light

coming from Him and immediately everything else seemed insignificant. His voiced almost boomed out of Him. 'BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM YOUR GOD.'

I knew He was telling me to be still in my mind as my mind was so full of stuff! After being in His company, I felt at peace. I now know that this needs to a be a daily practice of listening to what God is saying to me.

I want to be a sheep that keeps looking at the shepherd intently, listening for instruction, not running off in fear or looking around me or looking to the world for affirmation.

Thank you Jesus that you are always good.

Thank you that you patiently wait for us to come to you.

You always have good things to say to us.

You are always loving and always kind.

Thank you that your presence is all that we need.

It brings comfort, peace, hope and guidance.

Amen

Ang Hall

Flaming June Quiz

- F** Which **F** was a Roman Governor who met Paul?
- L** Which **L** was flowing of milk and honey?
- A** Which **A** is a heavenly messenger?
- M** Which **M** an apostle won a lottery?
- I** Which **I** means men of Keriath?
- N** Which **N** a Captain had his leprosy healed?
- G** Which **G** fought the Midianites with 300 men?

- J** Which **J** was Moses father in law?
- U** In which **U** was Abraham born?
- N** Which **N** built the Ark?
- E** Which **E** is the father of Samuel?



The worship music at Burn 24-7 was a mixture of styles which encouraged all those attending to come before God in humble adoration, to sing, to reflect, to meditate and to pray. A huge thank you to the 24-7 Team, the technicians and all the musicians. A wonderful opportunity to spend time in the presence of God and to feel the movement of the Holy Spirit.



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

**Sunday
9th June 2024
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Games

Bible story

Singing

Food

**Messy
Church**

crafts

Lots of Fun for
all the Family

News from Ken and Corinne Cornforth

We were privileged in May to be able to visit Ken and Corinne in their home in L'Olleria, a small town near Valencia in Spain. They were members of Stranton Church before retiring to Spain quite a few years ago, but keep in touch with friends and Church family here. They were married at Stranton Church in 1980, and Ken was Lay Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers (North Tees), and occasional Organist at Stranton, while Corinne taught at St Aidan's School. Their daughter Vikki also now lives and works in Spain, and recently celebrated her 40th Birthday.

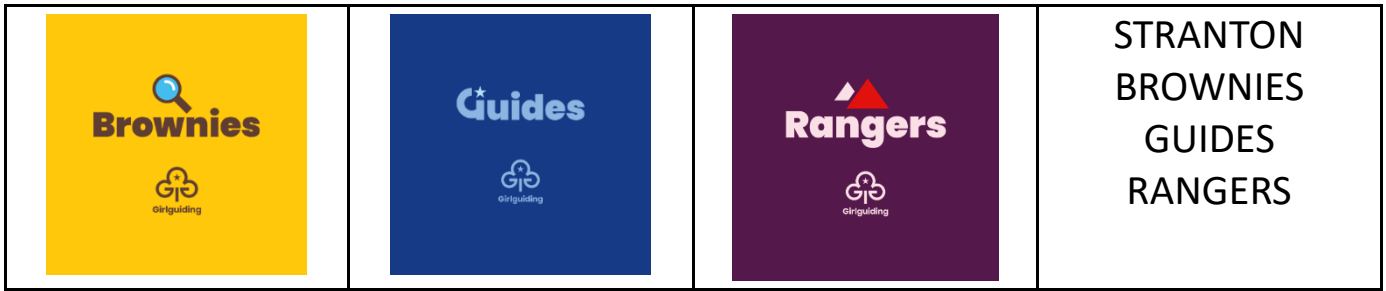


Ken and Corinne have embraced life in Spain and while they have good formal and informal connections with the British “Expat” Community, including support for the British Legion and the Anglican Diocese in Spain, they have also taken permanent Spanish residency and take a full part in the life of the town, having learned both Spanish and the local “Valenciana” Dialect.

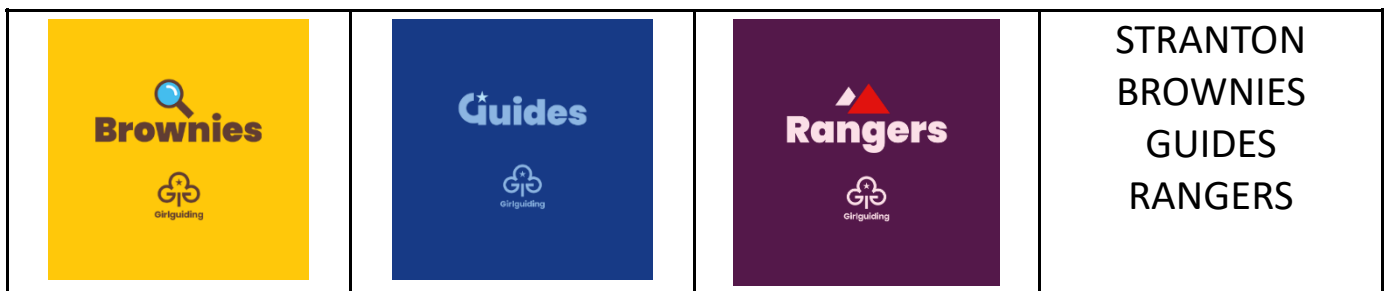
While there we were delighted to be taken to see one of the local street festivals – processions of “Moors and Christians”, a four-hour evening procession with dancers, music bands, floats and horses, celebrating the North African Islamic heritage of the area as well as its Christianisation. We went to the local Roman Catholic Church with them on the Sunday morning – the service was in Spanish but nevertheless it felt strangely like the 9:00am service at Stranton.

Ken and Corinne send their greetings to all their Hartlepool friends and hope to see us again in September when they next plan to be in the UK.

David Craig



The Brownies Guides and Rangers visited Alice House on the 29th May, a follow up to the Fundraising event that the three Guides organised for their GOLD Award Challenge last summer term, raising over £600. The girls enjoyed the visit, being able to see where the money they helped to raise was used by the hospice. At the end of the visit, after a drink and cake, we had an enrolment ceremony. We enrolled three Brownies and one Guide; but what made this night special – we enrolled our first Rangers – we have just opened the unit for 14 – 18 year olds.



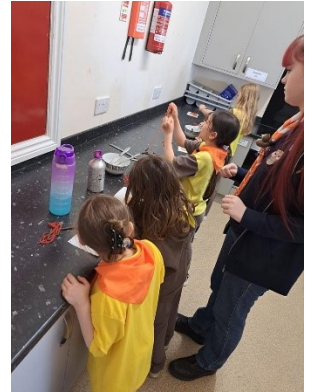
We held our 4th FUN Day on Monday 6th May at St Matthew's Community Centre from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

We thought we would try the Bank Holiday, not our best idea as this was the lowest number attending. We invite 4th Norton Brownies and Guides to join us as we have been joining them on activities that they organise. On the day, Brownies and Guides did a Skill Builder Badge and Interest Badge, Rangers doing an Interest Badge joined with the Guides on their

Interest Badge, as it wasn't one they had done as a Guide; plus lots of fun activities.

We all ate lunch together and ate again towards the end, making their own 's'mores' and eating sausages, as they sat around the 'campfire' singing Guiding songs.

All too soon the day was over, we finished with Brownie Bells and Taps.



Flaming June Quiz Answers

F	Which F was a Roman Governor who met Paul?	Felix
L	Which L was flowing of milk and honey?	Land
A	Which A is a heavenly messenger?	Angel
M	Which M an apostle won a lottery?	Matthias
I	Which I means men of Keriath?	Iscariot
N	Which N a Captain had his leprosy healed?	Naaman
G	Which G fought the Midianites with 300 men?	Gideon
J	Which J was Moses' father in law?	Jethro
U	In which U was Abraham born?	Ur
N	Which N built the Ark?	Noah
E	Which E is the father of Samuel ?	Elkanah

Training Opportunities

If anyone would be interested in doing the Wings of Worship training course, which prepares people to lead worship and deliver the occasional sermon/talk, please have a chat with Revd John. It runs over 5 evenings (with a possible 6th covering communion by extension).

Also, if anyone is interested in training for Lay Ministry as Licensed Lay Readers (initial 2 years plus 2 years further training/experience to gain full licence), Authorised Lay Ministers of the Word (ALMOW) (1 year), Lay Chaplaincy (1 year), and Lay Pastoral Ministry (1 year), please contact Revd John to arrange an initial conversation about this.

Prayers of Love and Faith

Following our Lent Course, Revd John is keen for anyone with views about the Prayers of Love and Faith to get in touch with him, before a decision is made on whether to offer these prayers within our services.

Opportunities to Serve

If you would like to help with our Children's and Youth work, with our Music Group, or in any other way, please have a chat with Revd John as we look to grow these and other areas of our ministry.

Missional Activities

(Help needed in a variety of settings and ways – speak to one of the team to find out how you can support us)

- Stranton Toddlers (Term time only)
Tuesday 9:00 am-11:00 am at St Matthew's
- A Bit of God Time
Tuesday 1:00 pm-2:30 pm at St Aidan's
- Friday Drop-In Café
Friday 10:00 am-12:00 pm at St Aidan's

**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 (07305 550009) during office hours,
Or Email: stmatthews@stranton-church.org.uk
and we will be happy to help.**

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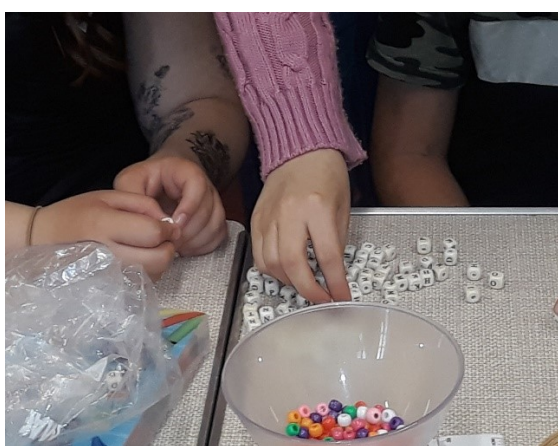
Children and Families Work

The children and families work continues to be busy.

Activities include:

- Assemblies in 5 different schools, taking RE lessons as requested and organising class visits to churches.
- Café Craft over half terms. This is where families come to St Matthew's Community Centre for refreshments, craft activities and to chat.
- At St Aidan's Kitchen making tea and coffee and speaking to the families that go there getting to know them.
- A weekly RE Club at Stranton Primary School including using Godly Play. At the moment we are particularly looking for volunteers to help with Jesmond Gardens Primary School Lunch time RE Club on Thursdays. Please speak to Revd John if you could help.
- Easter and Summer HAF Holiday Clubs for children including a hot meal. At the Easter Holiday Club this year we looked at Holy Week. As I write we are in the process of planning for a 2 week Summer Holiday Club, for 4 hours a day, for 4 days each week. This is a wonderful way to reach out to children and parents in the community. Particularly for those who might struggle with providing lunch for their kids over the school holidays.

So overall the work is busy and fruitful. As always my sincere thanks to all those who help with this important ministry without which it can't happen. Also to all those who uphold it in their prayers.



Blessings,
Hayley
Community Children & Families Worker

BEWARE of Charity scammers/fraud

If you receive notices by regular email circulation, may we pass on a warning and some advice from the Diocese about increasing malicious abuse through false and fraudulent emails that look as though they come from "trusted" people (including parish clergy) and are asking for money or personal details, commonly through seemingly innocuous web links and/or for "good causes".

Stranton Church does sometimes circulate legitimate direct giving links such as for Christian Aid Week (see May notices), but there has been a recent marked increase in fake emails that **appear** to come from Clergy or Church officers, or from administrative email addresses, or from banks or public institutions. These are often "phishing" for access to your money using your personal details, and are not in fact coming from the person you think: they can seem to be an appeal for an apparent good cause or pretending there has been a breach of security to panic you into revealing your login and other private information.

Therefore **good practice** in handling unexpected electronic messages or emails asking you to:

- click on a web link you don't recognise or know
- act on a text from a source you don't recognise
- supply financial or other details online if you have not initiated the transaction yourself with a legitimate payee
- phone a number you don't recognise
- pay for a parcel delivery you're not expecting

means you should...

- ♦ be sceptical and checking directly with the apparent sender
- ♦ if in any doubt calling the named individual or organisations by a published office number or helpline rather than any number quoted in the email or message.
- ♦ Not being panicked or pressurised into taking action before checking.



Boys Brigade



Open Night

We held our Open Night on Friday 17th May, our special guests were Rev John Bell, Rebecca Bell and Cheryl Mills of Stranton Guides.

The night started by singing the Boys Brigade hymn 'We have an Anchor', which was initially played on harmonica by a Junior Boy, Charlie Brackstone, followed up playing on a new keyboard (Funded by Cleveland Police), which was played by Casey Cornforth. After devotions and inspection the Company Lads took part in a drill and band display.

The Anchor Boys entertained us with tower building games, and the Juniors demonstrated their prowess at parachute exercises.

The Company Lads then completed an assault course and a special mention goes to Aiden Mason who showed us his dexterous skills at Rubic Cubes.

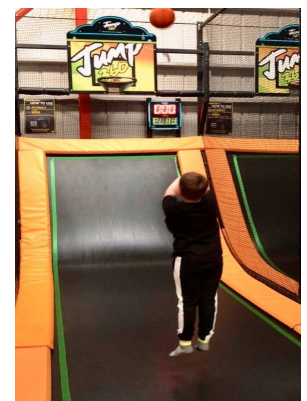
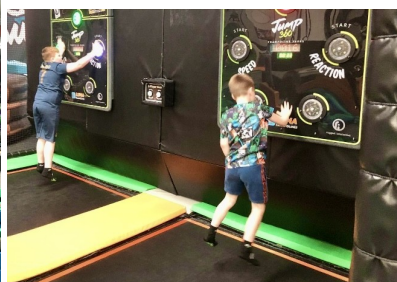
Then all the Boys and Lads were presented with their awards, gained over this Boys Brigade session. The final two awards being the Boy of the Year trophy for Juniors, won by Kayden Middleton and the Company Champion award which went to Sgt Rowan Turner.

The Summer

Now that the official part of the Boys Brigade session is over, our programme changes and planned activities include beach BBQ's, Sand Castle Competition, Beach Olympics, visits to Stranton church and McDonalds, Crimdon Dene & Castle Eden Dene.

Jump 360 visit

Our Juniors had a great time at Jump 360 tonight to kickstart our summer program of activities. We're off next week for the Bank Holiday so we'll see everyone in a fortnight for our next trip out.



Summer Fayre

We are holding our Summer Fayre on Saturday June 15th from 9.30 - 12noon at St Matthew's Community Centre.

We are now collecting Bric a Brac and if you need any picking up please contact me on 07816445829. I know for a fact there will be **bargains galore!!!!** at the Fayre.

St Matthew's Community Centre Outside Tidy Up

On Saturday June 29th we are going to tidy up St Matthew's Community Centre car park and paved areas from 9.30am till 12noon

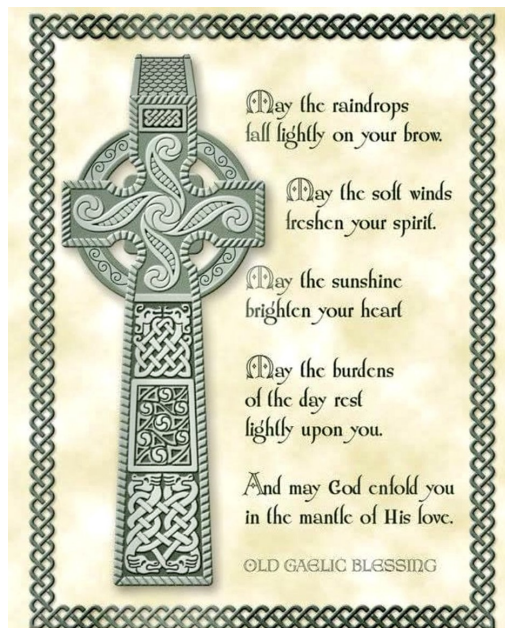
If anyone can spare an hour to help us with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

We have persuaded Mrs Maureen Anderson to provide some refreshments for the workers.

Camp

The preparations for camp at Hesley Wood Scout Centre, South Yorkshire are moving forward and we are all looking forward to July 22nd to the start of camp!

George Bainbridge



Donations Needed

Donations needed for the Stranton Church Bottle Stall 15th June at Boys Brigade Summer Fair, In aid of this year's Ceilidh. If you have any donations or unwanted gifts, please see Maureen Anderson or bring them to Trish at the Church office or call 07305 550009.

Thank you

Ward Jackson CofE Primary Update

Year 4/5 had a fantastic day of learning at Roseberry topping. The children worked together to read a map and navigate their way to the top. They made some mistakes along the way and solved problems together. We met some local walkers along the way who told us about Captain Cook's farm ... So obviously we had to visit! We saw some beautiful lambs and ewes. We learnt the names of different wild flowers including bluebells, wild garlic, horsetails, dock leaves and mushrooms / fungi. We also learnt how to measure in yards as required by the map. When the rain began we made shelters. The children made the adults so proud when they overcame their fears, aches and discomfort to make it to the top. We had fun rolling down a hill and investigating a folly. What a day to remember! [#wardjacksonway](#)



Some of our Y3 and 4 children had a great time competing in a Quad Kids event at Manor school this morning. They took part in several athletic activities including howler throw, sprint race and long jump. They showed great sportsmanship, cheering and offering words of encouragement to each other. Well done everyone!

[#wardjacksonway](#)



This week, the Reception and Year 1 children enjoyed a performance by @thenorthernart about being kind to the environment. They absolutely loved it. "I liked the butterfly and her poems" Samira, aged 5. "I loved the play and the costumes" Aisha, aged 5. "I was so happy when the bee turned human again" Stefan, aged 6. #wardjacksonway



Some of our youngest children had a lovely visit to the local beach at Seaton. They played in the park, built sandcastles and found lots of beach treasure. 🌊 #wardjacksonway



As part of our weekly curriculum, we make time for enriching activities. Here, Year 6 support their younger peers with computing. This builds relationships and strengthens bonds. The younger children develop their computing skills while the older children develop their leadership and communication skills. #wardjacksonway



We had a fantastic time at Raby Castle. We were wowed by the stunning decor and fascinated to learn some of the 700 year history of the castle, including how it would have been protected in a battle and how life in the castle was lived and still is! We then explored the beautiful grounds, taking part in a scavenger hunt and spotted lots of deer throughout. What a lovely day!



St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road



Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company

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

Saturday 8th June 2024

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

From the Editor's email box:

Dear Editor,

I have been attending the early Sunday morning for many years and now hymns are starting to creep into the service which is changing its format from a 'said' one.

This would be great if it was like the end of that fine movie classic Ms Miniver, with a great sermon and the finest hymn ever written - Onward Christians Soldiers.

I do understand that the person taking the service may want to choose themed hymns, but as most of them are sponsored by 'Dirges R Us', they have a negative effect (especially on a small congregation).

To improve the situation may I suggest each member of the congregation could suggest a favourite hymn and these could then be rotated for each early morning service. Then everyone would be familiar with them and they could be sung with gusto.

It could be more be beneficial and make the service even more interesting and enjoyable.

Yours Anonymously

George (Oops!)

(I sometimes wonder where the line between fact and fiction lays! – Editor)

Stranton Toddler Group

I took over the running of Toddlers in June 2022. It continues to be popular and thrive attracting between 27-35 children plus their accompanying adults each session. The large variety of activities on offer continue pretty much as they did before. Both halls are used with a large amount of play equipment and more messy activities in the smaller room. At about 10am everyone comes together for a snack and squash/tea/coffee. Following tidy up time the sessions finish with singing nursery songs. It is busy but there is a lovely atmosphere and it is great to see the youngsters smiling, laughing and having fun. As always, it is heavily dependent upon the help of volunteers to be able to run it. My sincere thanks to all those who help and put in such hard work to ensure it runs smoothly. It is very much appreciated. Currently we could do with at least two more volunteers. One to help on a rota basis with the snack in the kitchen and another to help set up first thing in the morning. Setting up in the morning would particularly be when a volunteer is away so can't help. If you are interested please let me know. I have enjoyed getting to know all the mums, dads, grandparents and child minders that come and look forward to seeing how it develops. Thank you for your time and prayerful support.

Hayley Liversidge

Messy Church

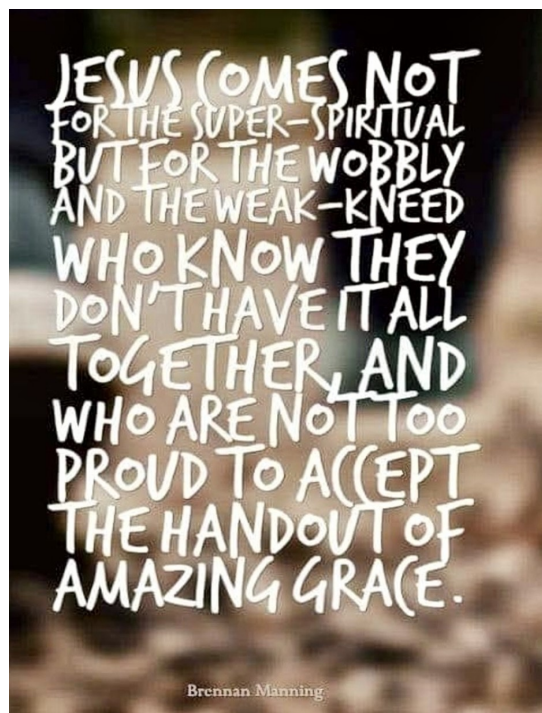
Messy Church for families is on the second Sunday of the month at 4-5.30pm in St Matthew's C.C except for December when we have a Messy Christingle Service in church and on Good Friday morning when we have Messy Easter. The families who attend are a mix of those who attend the 11am service at Stranton, those who only attend Messy Church and those who are invited to attend a service prior to a Welcome or Baptism of children. Attendance varies between thirty to forty plus people in total. Once everyone has arrived we tell a Bible story, say a prayer and sing a song. Then there are activities and crafts to complete based on the story, before we have tea together. This Spring we have told the story of Joseph in three sessions, last Autumn we focused on three of Jesus' parables. The Messy Church team is small but committed, many thanks to Hayley Liversidge, Peter, Maureen and Paul Anderson and Jordan Thornhill. Any help to set up tables, chairs etc from 3pm, help with crafts and activities and socialise with families from 4pm, wash up or tidy away from 4.30pm would be gratefully accepted!

Mary Tones

Sunday Club

Sunday Club takes place on the first three Sundays of the month during the 11am service in the Fulthorpe Chapel, except in school holidays. It is for school age children, although preschool children may attend if accompanied by a parent or carer. There have been two or three new families attending over the last year and we've enjoyed working with up to 16 children in Sunday Club, ages ranging from 2 to 14 years old, which is a challenge in a small space. We aim to provide a friendly, fun session that the children will enjoy while learning about their faith. We usually follow a different theme each term: in the Spring term we've been focusing on Jesus' healing miracles, last Autumn we looked at the Fruit of the Spirit and then the Birth of Jesus leading up to a performance of the Nativity in December. Looking ahead, although the children are usually very patient and help each other with the activities, we would love to be able to run two groups of older and younger children, and have been praying and advertising for more helpers for several months. At the moment we have three leaders and three helpers (with DBS and safeguarding training), so it works out about one Sunday a month on the rota, depending on availability due to holidays etc. We would like to find another children/young person's Bible to use as an alternative to the Beginners Bible, which is not so appropriate for the older children. It would also be good to be able to have a screen available to use; we have used a tablet/iPad from time to time, however they aren't really big enough for a large group of children to watch. Many thanks to all the leaders and helpers: Kate, Pam, Gill, Helen and especially Annika Sanders, our most recent recruit.

Mary Tones



Who is Church for?

"You got hammered at the bar on Saturday but came to church on Sunday...
You can sit with me,
you're right where you need to be.

You're a drug addict but came to church on Sunday...
You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be.

You're divorced and the last church you attended condemned you for it...
You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be.

You've had an abortion and it's slowly eating away at your heart but you came to church on Sunday...
You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be.

You've been unfaithful to your spouse but came to church on Sunday...
You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be.

Here's the thing, people don't come to church on Sunday for you to sit in the pew and quietly judge them because you feel that you're somehow better than them.

People come to church because in their deepest, darkest, most painful moments they heard about a man named Jesus that could save their soul and they'd like to know him."

"John Knox prayed, and the results caused Queen Mary to say that she feared the prayers of John Knox more than she feared all the armies of Scotland.

John Wesley prayed, and revival came to England, sparing that nation the horrors of the French Revolution.

Jonathan Edwards prayed, and revival spread throughout the American colonies. History has been changed time after time because of prayer.

I tell you, history could be changed again if people went to their knees in believing prayer. Even when times are bleak and the world scorns God, He still works through the prayers of His people."



Stephen Bryce

@stephenhdbryce

I am utterly convinced that God will have all kinds of grace if we got the theology wrong. I'm not entirely sure about how God will take it if we got the loving other people, seeking justice, and choosing mercy part of life wrong.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

June

Peter Anderson
Riley Bruce
Emma Craig
Tim Craig
Millie Dobbin
Mike Dodds
Bill Greenwood
Pam Harkness
Kelly Spoors
Ramona Thornhill
Kevin Tones



***A special happy
40th Birthday
to
Paul Anderson***

**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 894006.

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

Dates for the Diary Dates for June

Sat 8 th	Cuppa, Cake & Chat St Matthew's CC	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Sun 9 th	Messy Church St Matthew's CC	4.00pm - 5.30pm
Sat 15 th	BB Summer Fayre at St Matthew's CC	9.30am - 12noon
Sat 29 th	BB St Matthew's CC tidy up	9.30am -12noon
Sun 30 th	Joint Service at St Aidan's	10.45am



CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

Diane Greenwood

YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR

Team Leader/Deputy of the Year

International Day of the Midwife, 5th May 2024

Reason(s) given for nomination:

- Diane is a great leader. She is approachable, fair and kind. Her positive outlook makes you feel safe in her presence when on shift. Community can be an isolating place during busy periods however it's always reassuring to have Diane on shift. The community safety blanket. We are so pleased she retired and returned (hopefully for many years to come.)
- Always helpful especially when locked out of Badgernet good team member and fair with the work
- Fantastic choice for deputy manager. My go to person if I have a question or problem. Always checks in with us to make sure we are doing ok

Lynne Staite

LYNNE STAITE
Head of Midwifery

Ann Moody

ANN MOODY
Deputy Head of Midwifery



Many Congratulations to Diane on her nomination for this award

Who's Who

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Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 07972 342890

Churches Together in Hartlepool

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St Mary's RC

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Rohan Wanduragala 62 Clifton Avenue 223751

PCC Secretary Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Treasurer David Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279
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Loyalty Treasurer Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road 268007

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Signpost Subscription Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

St Matthew's CC Booking Trish Playfor Church Office 07305 550009

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

