

Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

March 2025

A new start

I am sure many of you know what it is like when you start a new job, find this, where's that, learn all of the new names, how many passwords, make connections, understand the processes etc and with this comes a bucket load of anxiety and stress.

I started my new role as the Mission Enabler for the Central Hartlepool Group Mission Project (this was formerly 'Communities of Hope') in the middle of January and strangely, I am not feeling any anxiety or stress, I'm actually feeling totally energised. Why?

When I took this job, the main remit was to start up new worshipping communities and to do this in the unfolding new media backdrop of the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, calls for more resignations, several historically mishandled safeguarding cases, a backdrop of church closures and falling church attendance and arguments between different groups within the churches. So how can I be buzzing with excitement about mission?

Firstly, I think of Malachi 3:2 "... for He is like refiner's fire and like fuller's? soap". I really feel like God is in the process of taking all Church denominations through the refiner's fire to get us all back to building His Kingdom on Earth as He wants it. Each day I try to start by saying the Our Father and I especially focus on the "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done" and just simply ask God to take over and work through me, or to put that another way, ask that I don't get in the way of who He wants to speak to, and amazing things seem to happen. It's like the Holy Spirit is shouting "Over here, this way!".

Christ's ministry was very much for the religious outsiders of his time. Many churches are doing great things helping those in society who are in trouble and are often on the outside, but the leap for them directly into church is a massive one, tainted by society's image of Church and God. However, what I have found, against what we might expect, this is a time of massive opportunity for Christ's love to reach those who are becoming aware that their lives are missing something which our modern society isn't giving them. They are looking for wellbeing. They are sensing there is something else. It's the call of the soul to find the Creator.

My job is to put in the stepping stones from this confused awareness that there is something else, into a relationship with their Creator and the benefits of being a loved and valued part of His family, which we call church.

Please pray that God's kingdom comes and His will is done His way.

Patrick

From the Home Front

It has been an unusual few days where I have seen God at work.

We have an elderly family 'Aunt' who at 103 had still been living in Cumbria in her own home, only recently as her mobility deteriorated, requiring carers. After Christmas we suddenly realised we had not spoken to her and on calling her landline repeatedly we found there was no reply! My sister had asked her for a contact number of someone local in case a problem arose as she was a widow, had no children or close relatives who lived nearby, and thinking about her age... We were left working with three possibilities of what may have happened – she could be ill in hospital, in a care home, or deceased! So we prepared to drive over to Cumbria to look for her.

I prayed about how we should approach tracing her whereabouts. Before setting off I felt that the initial route I should take was to telephone the local Registrar's office to see if her death had been registered recently. The lady who answered my call was definitely sent by God. She knew of our 'Aunt' and called me back within ten minutes. Using her local people knowledge she had discovered our 'Aunt' had recently become a resident in a Care Home in the nearby town, she even supplied me with their contact number! Further enquiries discovered our 'Aunt' was at that point in the nearest hospital receiving treatment and that we would need to speak to her official 'next of kin'. The Care Home kindly passed on my details to this person – who it turned out was the daughter of the late John and Mary Baines of Stranton Church, she now resides in the North West too! Within the hour the hospital had told me our 'Aunt' was to be discharged that day back to the Care Home and the 'next of kin' had phoned me. She and I established our common ground of her parents, Stranton Church and how our 'Aunt' was our Mum's school friend and who were friends until our Mum's death, she was also Godparent to our sibling, and had been known as 'Auntie' all our lives and with whom we had ongoing contact. I certainly felt that God's hand was on us every step of the way.

So my sister and I visited our 'Aunt' in Cumbria where we unfortunately found that since her return to the Care Home she had deteriorated and was on end of life care and no longer conscious. However the care she was receiving and the stream of visitors to sit at her bedside was astounding. Such love and respect was heartwarming. We spent two days there, which gave us opportunities to talk to her, show our love for her and to say our goodbyes in this earthly life. But also for me to have the opportunity to pray over her, give thanks for her long life and to commit her back into God's eternal care, when He is ready to receive her.

It is wonderful how God provides for us throughout our lives from conception to death. He puts people our way to implement His love, even when we are no longer aware and able to make conscious choices. How amazing is our Heavenly Father – our faith and trust is repaid more than we could ever expect... How blessed are we?

An update on Durham Crown Nominations Commission process

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

As a diocesan family we have received difficult news today (Monday 17 February) concerning the appointment of the next Bishop of Durham. The National Church has released the following statement:

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for Durham met and nominated a candidate for the See of Durham, with interviews taking place in November 2024. However, the candidate has decided to withdraw from the nomination.

Having decided in November not to nominate a reserve candidate, the CNC has agreed to reconvene later in the year to continue the process of discernment.

A further update on the timescale for the Durham CNC will be offered in due course.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "I want to thank The Bishop of Jarrow, Sarah Clark, for her ongoing service as acting Bishop of Durham, and everyone in the Diocese who is undertaking additional responsibilities during the vacancy. I will be praying for them, and please pray for the CNC as they reconvene to seek God's discernment for the next Bishop of Durham, and for everyone served by the Church in the Diocese."

Clearly this is both unexpected and disappointing news. As the statement makes clear, this is the nominated candidate's decision. Even though the candidate's identity will remain unknown please do pray for that person and all those affected by this decision. The CNC process for the appointment of the next Bishop of Durham has now recommenced and a timetable for the appointment process will be given in due course. These are unusual circumstances so please pray for the whole CNC and especially for the six members from our Diocese representing us – Val Barron, Jamie Harrison, Mark Miller, Rick Simpson, Frances Stenlake, Mags Vaughan. They have already invested themselves in giving their time and energy to this process and now they have this fresh responsibility that has come so unexpectedly. Please do not ask them to comment as they are under strict obligation to keep confidentiality. We must trust them, the process and the Holy Spirit in this matter.

Throughout the Vacancy in See process and especially during the period of interviews last November we have prayed together. It therefore is right that we turn intentionally to the Lord Jesus in prayer at this difficult moment in our journey.

The scripture that has particularly come to me, +Sarah, at this time has been Matthew 14: 22-32, when the disciples are afraid, Jesus shouts to them though the strong winds across the water, 'Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid'. Taking heart is a call to courage and hope; to take courage because Jesus is with us even in the most unlikely situations when we cannot see clearly. In such stormy conditions we look to Christ who calls us on in faith and trust. Please be assured that the Bishop's Leadership Team and all who serve the parishes and diocese will continue stewarding our diocese through this unexpected situation with the steadfast hope and purpose that we have worked with throughout these past twelve months. God is faithful and the future will become clearer in time.

An update on Durham Crown Nominations Commission process from Bishop Sarah and Diocesan Secretary, James Morgan on Monday 17th February 2025.

.Shrove Tuesday Quiz

Best done whilst enjoying pancakes!

- S** Which **S** carried off the gates of Gaza?
H Which **H** is an old testament Prophet?
R What **R** fed Elijah?
O Which **O** is St Ceilia patron of?
V What **V** is mentioned in Psalm 23?
E Which **E** went up to heaven in a chariot of fire (two answers)
- T** Which **T** first took the gospel to India?
U Saint Barbara is the patron saint of which **U**?
E Which **E** was the first garden?
S Which **S** was the first martyr?
D Which **D** threw Daniel into the Lion's den?
A Which **A** was thrown into the fiery furnace?
Y Which **Y** was a Northumbria saint who took his faith to Brittany?

Easter Eggheads 2025

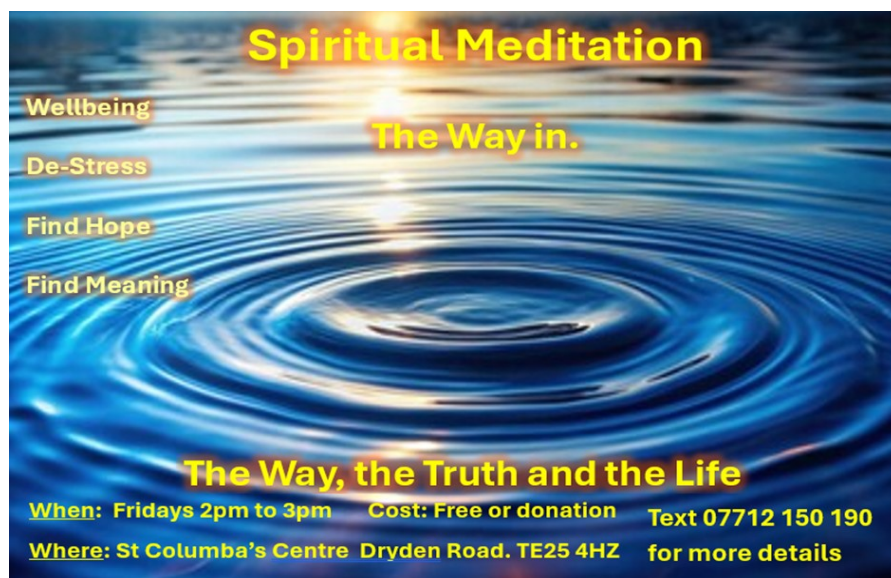
Easter Eggheads is all about letting youngsters (5 - 11years old) learn about the first Easter and what it means in Hartlepool 2025.

Activities include games, crafts, movie clips telling the story of Easter and lots of FUN

**It is on at St Matthew's Community Centre, Elwick Rd
from Monday 7th April to Friday 11th April from 6.00 -7.15pm.**

All children from the Hartlepool Central Group of Churches are welcome to come along.

George Bainbridge



Thoughts from Withernsea

I was reading the conversation that Simon Peter had with Jesus in Luke Ch 5.3-7

Jesus had borrowed Simon's boat so he could speak to the crowds that had gathered around him. Maybe Jesus needed a bit of space from everyone as they pushed closer to him! After Jesus had talked with the gathered crowd, he turned his attention to the owner of the boat.

He told Simon *"Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch"* Simon was the fisherman; Jesus was a carpenter! and yet surprisingly Simon responded

"Master we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets"

When he had done this, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them and they filled both boats so full they began to sink."

I thought, Simon showed great humility with his response. He could have easily reacted grumpily with "What do you know?" "I've been brought up in these waters, I'm done for the day".

Instead, he swallowed his pride and took Jesus advice.

What followed was an incredible miracle. Such an abundant catch of fish that they never would have caught if he hadn't listened to Jesus.

Pride can stop us from receiving or experiencing so much.

Pride says "I know best, what do you know?" - Humility says "We can learn something from everybody."

Pride says "I can do this on my own, I don't need your help." - Humility says "It would be better if I had help."

Pride is like a brick wall with no door. - Humility creates a door and opens it and lets people in.

Pride pushes people away. - Humility encourages connection.

Pride says "I have to get it right all the time." - Humility says "It's ok to try and to get it wrong."

Pride says I need to help, I should help - Humility makes space for others to help, humility encourages team work.

I want to be like Simon who became Peter and became one of Jesus disciples.

He listened and obeyed...

Ang Hall

Durham Ministry Experience Volunteers join national conference on leadership



Inside St Mary's, Marylebone

Last week, six Durham Ministry Experience Volunteers (MEVs) attended the Ministry Experience Scheme National Conference at St Mary's Church, Marylebone. The event brought together MEVs from dioceses across the UK and the Diocese of Europe to connect, worship, and explore the theme of leadership through inspiring keynote talks and discussions.

Eloise, placed at St Cuthbert's, Darlington, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I loved that I was able to meet and see the global Anglican communion of MEVs in action at the conference."

The conference featured sessions by Liz and John Grier (+Plymouth), who explored leadership through the lens of Biblical examples. Their thought-provoking talk invited attendees to reflect on the strengths and flaws of leaders in scripture.

Abi, currently based at St Nics, Durham, shared, "Liz and John's talk about leadership and recognising that leaders can also be broken people really opened my eyes to a new way of thinking about my role in the church as a future leader, and how that works alongside my own human nature."

For Hannah, who is placed at House of Hope, Thornley, the conference was an uplifting experience. "It's great to be amongst other young people to worship and celebrate the ways that we can serve the church in our communities," she said.

The conference also provided a valuable networking opportunity for young Christians to share their journeys and learn from one another's experiences. The Durham MEVs highlighted the joy of witnessing so many peers dedicating a year of their lives to ministry and service.

The Ministry Experience Scheme, open to individuals aged 18–30, offers participants the chance to discover their unique gifts and skills through Christian ministry and leadership. Volunteers gain hands-on experience across a variety of church settings, developing their faith and exploring potential vocations.

This event was a significant milestone for the MEVs, reaffirming their commitment to serving God and growing as leaders in the church.

If you know a young person who might be interested in this life-changing opportunity, or if someone in your church community is considering exploring ministry for a year, Durham Diocese would love to hear from you.

Contact Linda Ransom, Growing Churches Enabler,
at Linda.Ransom@durham.anglican.org
for more information.



Ward Jackson CE Primary Update

It's Multi Faith Week! A week where we set aside time each day to explore the different faiths in the world, looking for similarities and making connections. Our Multi Faith week will end with a celebration of prayer on Friday with our annual Prayer Space Day. We are all looking forward to sharing in all the experiences this special week will bring. [#wardjacksonway](#)



What a great Prayer Space Day! All the children accessed the prayer spaces for moments of reflection. There was a beautiful, calm atmosphere around school today. A superb ending to our Multi Faith Week.

[#wardjacksonway](#)



after welcoming [Jonathan Brash MP for Hartlepool](#) in to meet them for the first time. We discussed the role of an MP and how having a voice can be important for change!

We've certainly come away with a lot to think about and some action points to work on so watch this space. Each of our councillors had their voice heard which was amazing.

Mr Brash also took the time to come and see some of the activities that were taking place during our Prayer Space Day!

Thank you so much for your time and we look forward to writing to you soon.



☀️ The Best Part of My Job! ☀️

I feel incredibly fortunate to serve as Hartlepool's MP - it's a privilege I cherish every day! But the absolute highlight? Visiting our schools and connecting with the bright minds of our future! 🎓❤️

Just last week, I had the joy of meeting with the School Council at [Ward Jackson Primary School](#). We discussed important topics like funding for play areas, tackling litter, and creating more opportunities for our young people in Hartlepool.

These amazing students are brimming with ideas, and I'm excited to collaborate with them moving forward! Together, we can shape a vibrant future for our town! 💪🌈

[#HartlepoolYouth](#) [#FutureLeaders](#)
[#CommunityEngagement](#)



We're lucky here at Ward Jackson to enjoy a selection of breakfasts each morning, we particularly look forward to our Fancy Fridays where the children will enjoy a banquet of delicious treats.

#wardjacksonway #BEONTIME



It's Wellbeing Week this week and we have a whole host of wellbeing activities each day. Today, we enjoyed a special breakfast as a school. It was lovely to start our day by sharing a meal and chatting with friends.

#wardjacksonway #wellbeingweek



'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' is the theme this year and we have supported the children to learn how they can build and grow resilience by understanding themselves and recognising their emotions.

The week has been non stop with a whole range of activities from water therapy, sharing breakfast together, forest school and learning how being outside is good for us, looking at healthy foods and workshops and parents coffee morning from Alliance plus much more!

🌈 Thank you to our wonderful staff for always providing our children with the best opportunities, support and guidance 💙💛

#wardjacksonway



Thank you to Play Out Hartlepool for a wonderful first sessions of the Cardboard Creation project.

We loved to see so many parents/carers join us to create some wonderful, imaginative models with their children. We can't wait to see what you create next week 🥰



Pantfyfedwen - A hymn tune

I am always on the lookout for new hymn tunes. To that end I am fortunate to have been given recently some fifteen or so hymn books from different collections. One of these was Christian Hymns published by the Evangelical Movement of Wales in 1977. In this wide ranging collection of just over 900 tunes there are quite a number of tunes by Welsh composers.

I am also a lover of the sound of a Welsh Male Voice Choir, singing in their own language , although I cannot speak it I find it attractive to listen to, and if I happen to have the Welsh lyrics to hand, to try and follow these. Poetry in music.

For no other reason one day, other than just browsing through this collection I came across a tune called Pantfyfedwen, and playing it over on the keyboard it did have something familiar about it. But then I find that happens quite often and once again I was mistaken. But I followed up this tune to see what I could find.

Pantfyfedwen was written by Morris Eddie Evans, born at Talysarn, Gwynedd in 1890, he was a hymn writer and composer, as well as church organist and conductor of a number of local choirs. He never studied music formally, but had a natural musical talent. He died in Oldham, Lancashire, in 1984.

The words of the hymn were written by William Rhys Nicholas. He was born in Pembrokeshire in 1914 and was a highly cultured Congregational Minister who made a hugely significant contribution to Welsh literature and hymn writing.

The combination of Pantfyfedwen and Nicholas' words were put to the test at Eisteddfodau in Pantfyfedwen in 1967 (winning words) and 1968 (winning tune). The Eisteddfod was established in Pantfyfedwen, a small village in Cardiganshire, by David James. He was a successful businessman of Pantfyfedwen and owned a cinema chain in the London area.

He was a devout believer and gave large sums to the Non Conformist denominations in the area. His passion for the language and the culture of his native Wales resulted in him establishing many Eisteddfodau and also the Pantfyfedwen Charity Foundation.

Here are the words of the first verse , translated from the Welsh by Peredur Glyn.

This was your miracle, O Lord above, You filled my soul with everlasting love
For you, the bells of all Creation ring, And when I hear, what can I do but sing?

As countless voices joyfully proclaim, Eternal praises to your glorious name ,
The Halleluiah fills my soul anew, And I give, Jesus, all my praise to you.

If you would like to listen to this hymn there are at least two versions which I found on Youtube. One is by the Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir in an arrangement by Tom Buchanan. The other is an arrangement for mixed voices and orchestra by Jeffrey Howard.

References. Notes provided from Curiad, Music Publishers, Talysarn, Caernarfon.

Jeff Parsons © in conversation with J Cornelius Starbuck, Radstock.

To be a pilgrim

It was 1978, we'd only moved to Hove about 6 months earlier and the Chaplain to Cardinal Newman School, a Father Bill Haynes came to our house to ask me if I wanted to go on a 2 week, 180 mile pilgrimage to Glastonbury, walking about 18 miles a day, starting with a Mass and visiting all of the old churches on route and, as if to really sell this, he said we would be sleeping on hall floors!?! I politely said I'd think about it, but my head was screaming no way.

I spoke to a friend at school the next day about this priestly encounter and to my utter amazement he said enthusiastically, that he'd had a great laugh on the previous year's pilgrimage to Walsingham, there were loads of girls from schools up in Surrey and they all went to the pub at lunchtime and had a laugh in the pubs in the evenings. It was his sales pitch that worked and not necessarily for the right reasons, I signed up.

Still to this day I can clearly remember standing by myself on the pavement corner outside the Arundel Cathedral Hall watching what seemed like a mayhem of people all saying 'hello' to others they had met on the previous year's pilgrimage and me thinking "Patrick, you complete idiot, you've just signed yourself up for two weeks with a bunch of religious nutters. You've got yourself into this, you'll just have to through with it", followed by, "Well God, if you're there, this is your chance to make sense."

Oh yeah, God hears those kinds of prayers! Sleeping together, laughing together, walking together, sharing together, singing together, eating together, getting soaked in the rain together, climbing the hills together, comparing blisters together, drinking together, enjoying the countryside together made the being in church together more meaningful and the Masses more alive. As I now look back, I see that we were in fact walking the road to Emmaus with Christ in each other, being Christ to each other.

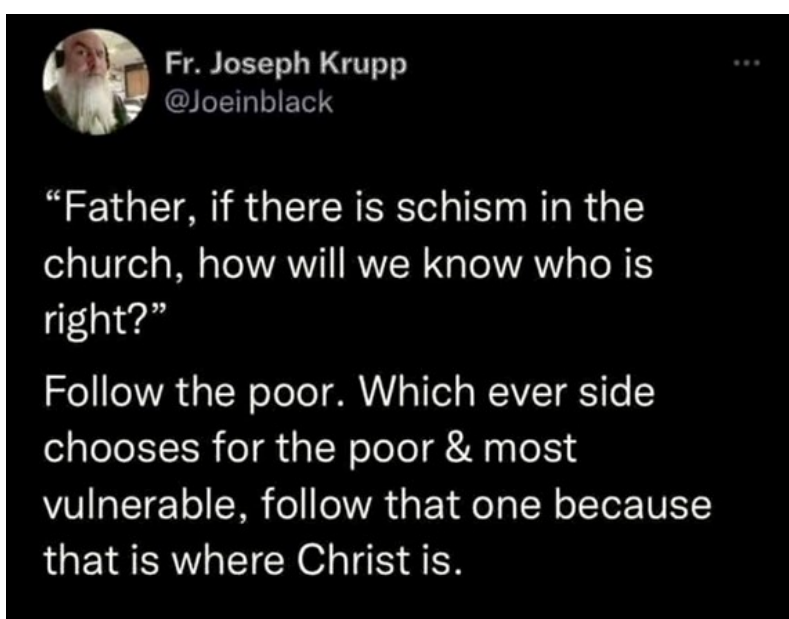
Then, in the second week of this pilgrimage, at Brockenhurst in the New Forest, the new bishop of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton met us in our overnight hall. He was on holiday visiting his brother who was the parish priest there. It was me who said to him that we were all going to the pub and did he want to come with us? To my surprise he said yes, got to the bar first and bought the biggest round of drinks I'd ever witnessed, drinks for all of us!! I sometimes tear up when I think of this moment because in some ways, never was a soul so cheaply bought as that round of drinks. Every negative stereotype I'd had about church melted away.

This new bishop was Cormac Murphy O'Connor who later went on to be Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, but more importantly, a friend. By the end of the pilgrimage, I'd started my own life's spiritual pilgrimage to journey towards the God of perfect love.

I now had the courage to say yes to other church youth events, yes to joining the Young Christian Workers, yes to helping in youth work, yes to setting up a music groups in churches, yes to becoming a catechist, yes to becoming a special minister, yes to eventually becoming the leader of those pilgrimages when they were getting run down in the 1990's, and have consequently walked the length and breadth of England and Wales, I met Becky on one of these pilgrimages (but she wasn't from Surrey) and we have both walked the 500 mile Route Francais Camino de Santiago in Spain together.

So to summarise, I now walk like a pilgrim, am married to a pilgrim, think like a pilgrim, drink like a pilgrim, sing like a pilgrim, pray like a pilgrim and thank God, I am his pilgrim.

**Patrick Reeve, Mission Enabler
(AKA Mr Vicarage)**



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The Divine Exchange



The fields were covered in a blanket of snow. The river swollen and rushing by.

The path we were walking on was impacted with snow and a thick layer of ice.

We linked arms, gripping on to one another. When one of us slipped the other pulled up tight, so that we were able to stay upright.

Birds were calling to one another, from their warm homes as we were struggling to spot them. We walked till our faces had turned pink and started to sting with the cold.

Our gloved fingers stiff. A little flash of red and a head popped around an old thick tree trunk, a robin was spying on us! As soon as he knew he was spotted he hid again.

I spoke out loud "I would love a photo of a robin in the snow "

We tentatively turned around and walked the same path back, wanting to get into the warmth again. My mind started to think of the year ahead. Anxious thoughts of future and what needed to be done. My mind no longer focussed on the beauty around me just on, what ifs and maybes.

Suddenly another flash of red and a robin flew around us and landed so close on a wire fence. Giving the most beautiful photo opportunity! The redness of his breast against the backdrop of crisp white snow was perfect.

He then kept fluttering close, almost wanting to land on us. He made his presence known. We stood in awe watching the beauty displayed so up close!

The realisation came to me that this was the Holy Spirit saying "I've got you, be at peace. "All I ask of you is to take life moment by moment, no rushing ahead."

In awe, we started walking again

I no longer had a troubled mind, all I felt was deep peace.

I had received a divine exchange.

I released my worries to God. He gave me the gift of peace!

Ang Hall

Lent Courses

This year we are offering the opportunity in the evenings to reflect on the movie *The Way* as we study 'The Long Road to Heaven', starting **Thursday 6th March at St Columba's**. On week 1, we will watch the whole movie together, and then for the following 5 weeks we will use this as the basis for study and reflection, looking at Biblical accounts and images of salvation, past, present, and future.

There will also be a daytime opportunity to come together to read and reflect on *The Women of Holy Week* by Paula Gooder.

More details on both opportunities to follow.

Help Build a Fireplace

The Central Group's Mission Project is going to start a new activity, *The Fireplace*, for young families, offering crafts, hospitality, and on the last Friday of the month, a community cinema. All of which will have a faith basis as part of our witness to the community around us.

Starting **Friday March 7th in St Luke's Parish Rooms at 3.00-5.00pm**

We would love your help and we invite you to join us in building *The Fireplace* by praying for us and helping raise funds in imaginative ways – perhaps you could donate towards The Fireplace or take up a sponsored event (e.g. walks, swims, silences, even parachute jumps!?!)



What Is Shrove Tuesday and What is the Meaning of Eating Pancakes?



Shrove Tuesday—also known as Fat Tuesday or Pancake Day—is the day before Ash Wednesday and the official countdown to Lent. It's the last day before the season of fasting and reflection begins, so traditionally, Christians have used it as a time to confess sins, seek absolution, and prepare their hearts for Lent. Some churches also burn the previous year's Palm Sunday branches to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

But let's be real—what most people associate with Shrove Tuesday is food, and for good reason! Historically, this was the last chance to use up rich ingredients like eggs, butter, and sugar before fasting, which is why pancakes became the star of the day. Even today, many cultures celebrate with indulgent meals before stepping into the Lenten season.

Because Easter moves each year, so does Shrove Tuesday—it always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. In 2025, it will be on March 4th, but depending on the year, it can land anywhere between February 3rd and March 9th. Whether you observe it with pancakes, confession, or both, Shrove Tuesday is a meaningful (and delicious) way to prepare for Lent!

The roots of Fat Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras, trace back to ancient pagan celebrations focused on fertility and the arrival of spring. As Christianity gained influence in Rome, there was a concerted effort to Christianise existing pagan traditions, including the incorporation of Fat Tuesday into Christian practices. This transition aimed to channel the exuberance of the pagan festivals towards preparing for the solemn period of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday and entails fasting and spiritual reflection. The name "Shrove Tuesday" arises from it, marking the culmination of the season known as Shrovetide, which includes indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice. The word "shrove" is derived from the Old English word "shrive," which means to confess one's sins and receive absolution. Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day of preparation for the fasting and penance of Lent. In the Middle Ages, Christians would go to confession, or "shrive," on this day to prepare themselves for the upcoming season of Lent.

The association with pancakes is thought to have originated as a way for people to use up rich foods like eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting period of Lent began. These ingredients were often restricted during Lent, so people would make pancakes to consume these items before the period of abstinence.

History of Shrove Tuesday

The tradition of acknowledging the start of the Lenten fast has been observed for hundreds of years. By the late Middle Ages, the feast of Shrovetide lasted until the start of Lent. It was customary in many cultures to eat pancakes or other foods made with the butter, eggs, and fat that would be given up during the Lenten season. The tradition of British Christians enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates back to the 16th century.

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Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company

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

Saturday 1st March 2025

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

St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road

Sunday
9th March 2025
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Games

Bible
Story

Food

Singing

crafts

Messy
CHURCH

Lots of Fun for
all the Family

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

I Love Pancakes!

Word Search

BLUEBERRY

BREAKFAST

BRUNCH

BUTTER

COMFORT

CRISPY

DELICIOUS

FLIP

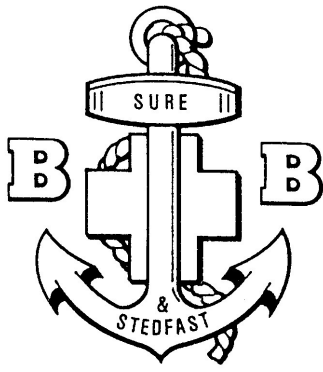
FLUFFY

FRUIT

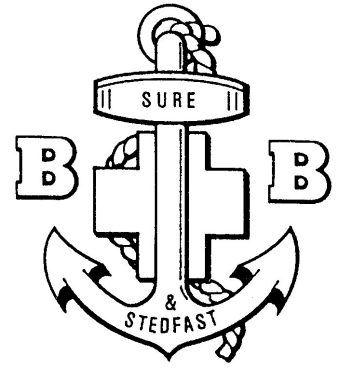
Z	N	A	K	N	V	O	D	K	B	M	O	M	T	I	A	K	P	K
E	K	A	C	N	A	P	L	Y	R	O	V	A	S	A	P	I	E	H
L	O	D	D	C	J	X	A	H	E	G	P	Z	J	Q	L	C	B	X
U	O	S	M	L	R	Y	Y	C	A	D	C	G	P	F	R	U	V	C
T	V	Y	T	G	U	C	F	N	K	E	W	M	O	Z	T	Y	L	T
Z	I	G	E	X	C	F	F	U	F	M	A	M	X	T	H	F	C	Y
N	U	U	N	O	Z	Y	U	R	A	N	F	X	E	E	O	Z	P	D
C	G	F	R	B	G	U	L	B	S	D	F	R	E	Q	G	S	B	V
P	M	V	O	F	O	D	F	K	T	Y	L	W	F	R	I	V	L	E
Z	L	O	G	O	L	D	E	N	B	R	E	T	I	R	K	F	U	D
I	M	I	R	D	E	S	L	K	M	A	J	D	C	G	X	S	E	A
M	D	O	M	N	S	T	A	C	K	C	D	Y	G	S	K	K	B	M
H	S	B	D	E	I	Y	M	A	P	L	E	T	E	E	W	S	E	E
I	Y	T	D	X	L	N	H	Z	E	K	K	L	G	D	I	K	R	M
S	G	O	U	K	T	F	G	C	P	A	U	J	F	V	T	Z	R	O
L	X	E	B	A	S	U	P	V	T	U	S	U	N	D	A	Y	Y	H
T	J	P	E	V	Y	X	Q	P	Q	F	E	W	U	P	N	W	U	R
L	Z	R	P	U	R	Y	S	J	G	C	V	T	R	O	F	M	O	C
Y	T	S	A	T	C	R	Y	X	S	U	O	I	C	I	L	E	D	L

GOLDEN	STACK
GRIDDLE	SUNDAY
HOMEMADE	SWEET
MAPLE	SYRUP
MORNING	TASTY
PANCAKE	TREAT
SAVORY	WAFFLE

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Boys' Brigade



Police Drones used at St Matthew's

Our Juniors were visited by our good friend PC Mark Say who demonstrated the use of drones and he explained how the police utilise them in their day to day jobs.

Many thanks to Mark who also fielded some very hard questions from our Lads.



Our Juniors had an arresting time when we were visited by our friend PC Mark Say who demonstrated how drones help in the Police in their day to day jobs

Uniform Change

Just as our Juniors have changed to blue polo shirts, our Anchor Boys have changed their uniform to red polo shirts. There are no plans to change the Company uniform of shirt and tie.

Camp 2025

Our camp this year will be at the Birch Scout Centre (near Scarborough) and at this moment in time we have nine Lads who have already paid their deposits.

Recent Activities

Our Anchors and Juniors have made their own Treasure Island maps, created BB Anchors and enjoyed a variety of games.

I am very happy to report that the Anchor Boys numbers are growing and we now have fifteen names on the register.

The Juniors have also showed great improvement in their marching skills.

The Anchors and Juniors will be taking part in Easter Eggheads from 7th - 11th April where they will learn all about the first Easter and what it means for life in Hartlepool today.

You can see more of our activities by visiting our Facebook page.

George Bainbridge

Shrove Tuesday Quiz - Answers

S	Which S carried off the gates of Gaza?	Samson
H	Which H is an old testament Prophet?	Hosea
R	What R fed Elijah?	Ravens
O	Which O is St Ceilia patron of?	Opera
V	What V is mentioned in Psalm 23?	Valley of Death
E	Which E went up to heaven in a chariot of fire (two answers)	Elijah and Enoch
T	Which T first took the gospel to India?	Thomas
U	Saint Barbara is the patron saint of which U?	Underground workers
E	Which E was the first garden?	Eden
S	Which S was the first martyr?	Stephen
D	Which D threw Daniel into the Lion's den?	Darius
A	Which A was thrown into the fiery furnace?	Abednego
Y	Which Y was a Northumbria saint who took his faith to Brittany?	Ywi

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

March

Rebecca Bell
Teagan Bruce
Kayleigh Bruce
Andrew Busby
Stella Clarke
Erin Connell
Azam Chaichi
Emily Sanders



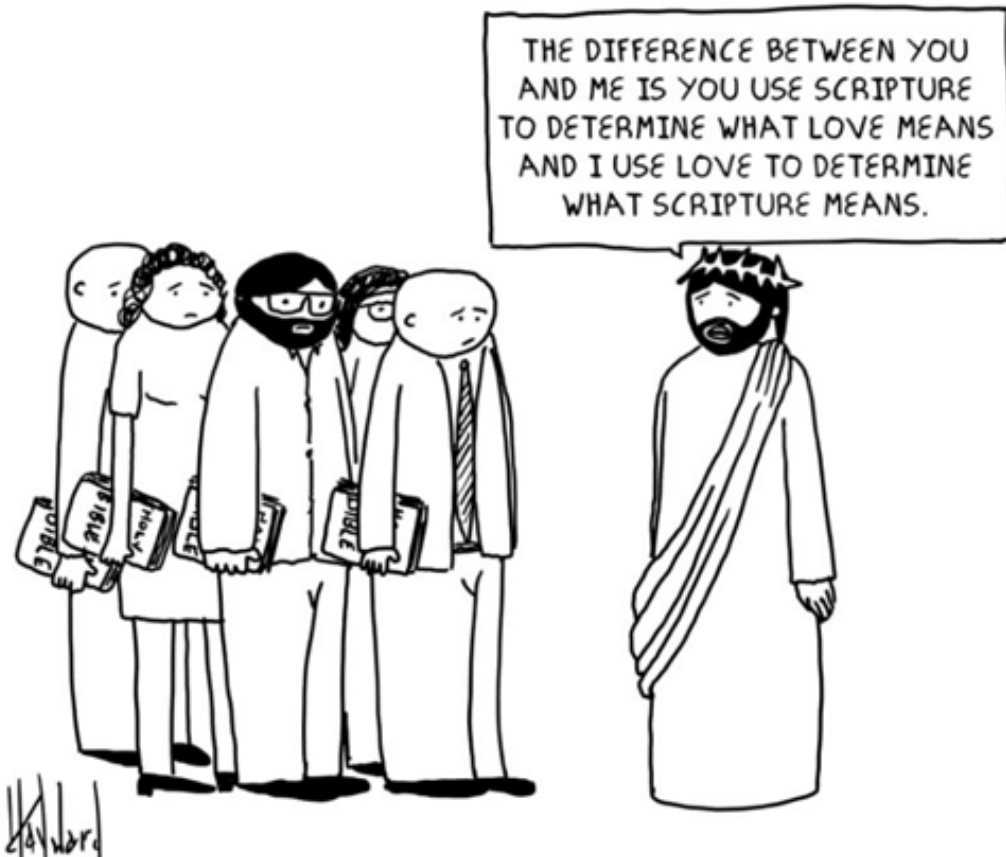
If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email
admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 894006.

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

Dates for the Diary

March

- Sun 2nd Coffee, Cake & Conversation St Matthew's CC
2.00-4.00pm
- Wed 5th Ash Wednesday St Aidan's 7.00pm
- Thurs 6th Lent Course in St Columba's 7.00pm
Based on the Film 'The Way' - weekly
- Sun 9th Messy Church St Matthew's CC
4.00-5.00pm
- Tues 11th Lent course - Women of Holy Week St Columba's
10.15am -weekly



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
To contact clergy by E-mail	E-Mail: clergy@stranton-church.org.uk

Priest in Charge Rev. John Bell Email:	34A Westbourne Road revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk	07512 481115
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Reader Mary Tones	40a Blakelock Road	07972 342890
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St Aidan's & Columba's Church

Priest in Charge Rev. Becky Reeve Email:	5 Tunstall Avenue revbeckystaidanandcolumba@gmail.com	01429 617358
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Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

Church Wardens	Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road	234279 871266
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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

St Matthew's Booking	Trish Playfor Church Office	894006
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Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.

