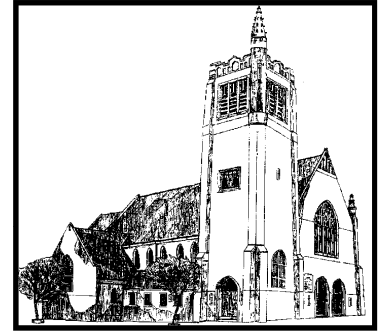


Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Aug-Sept 2017



Dear Friends

We've just come back from three weeks away and what a difference we've seen. Before we went I had been looking at the verges on the A689 and wondering where the beautiful swathes of wild flowers that we've seen were. Surely the council hadn't given up on something that has brought so much pleasure over the last couple of years?

On Sunday morning I was preaching at Stockton and drove out of town. What a delight it was to see the flowers along my route; they had been there all the time and I had been too impatient to see them.

In the book of Ecclesiastes the most famous words are probably these "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven". These words are well known, particularly if you, like me, are a child of the sixties and we learned them from the Byrds' recording "Turn, Turn, Turn" released in 1965.

We were with a group of similarly aged oldies on our recent holiday, a Saga group travelling from Amsterdam down the Rhine and the Danube to the Black Sea. It was interesting to hear what the guides in each town and city we visited said about their countries and the situations in them.

The further east we went, the more the history of each country brought home to me what a different experience we have had being an island nation with fixed borders. There were tales of all the many groups who had invaded and seized power, particularly during and after the Second World War. As one very interesting guide in Hungary said, "The Russians liberated us from the Nazis but then forgot to go home – for 40 years!"

The interesting thing was the question of the Church. In countries dominated by the Communists or by dictators, the Church had definitely been regarded as the opiate of the people. To say going to church was discouraged is to put it mildly. To do so meant an end to your career, particularly if you were someone of influence like a doctor or teacher. Now the times have turned and going to church has become desirable, even fashionable and adults are being baptised so they can marry in church.

The question now is- is this a good thing for faith? The Church has survived through persecution and people have struggled to keep the faith. What will happen now there is no struggle?

I hope that the seeds and shoots kept alive through the difficult days will now come to full flower. Certainly there were signs of churches being restored and even being rebuilt, but as we know church is not a building. Perhaps a bit of persecution would do us all good, rather than the indifference that usually meets us in our country, so that we have to consider what is important.

I do hope your holidays give you something new to consider. Happy Summer!

Chris



Dates for your Diaries

August

Sun 20th at 12.30pm There will be a baptism. Please stay and support the family who are bringing their child, and to make the promises on behalf of the church.

September

Mon 4th 10am Elders Meeting

Thurs 7th 7pm (at St Columba's Billingham TLS lite sessions start again.

Wed 20th Church Building Survey – time to be confirmed.

Sun 24th Harvest Lunch after worship. More details later.

Mon 25th 7pm Pie and Peas supper at the Mission Thornaby

Wed 27th 9am Visit of group from Eldon Grove School to learn about Christian Symbols.

October

Sun 1st Church Meeting following worship

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings

23 August Oxford Road Baptist Church

13 September Hartlepool College of Further Education

27 September Stranton Church

Coffee Rota

.AUGUST	6 th	Gail and Ashley Hoad
	13 th	Service at Grange Road
	20 th	Val Rigg, Rose Hastings
	27 th	Enid and Alistair Bushnell
SEPTEMBER	3 rd	Aileen and Frank Whittaker
	10 th	Gillian Cartman. Elma Welsh
	17 th	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
	24 th	Robert and Sheila Harrison
OCTOBER	1 st	Margaret Fraser, Kevin Hoad



.Please make sure you are in Church early enough to set out the tea and coffee things and get everything ready before service starts. Please use Fair Trade goods. Tea, Coffee and Sugar are provided. Bring milk (2 litres) and biscuits.

If you cannot do your turn please swap with someone else on the list. There is no need to leave your seat before the end of the service to make tea and coffee. There is plenty of time for everyone to get to the hall area and the boiler is ready to use.

The Cornerstone is open 6 days a week for your refreshment and for Traidcraft supplies, cards, books etc.

Call in for a real homemade welcome

PROJECT AFRICA - "FARM AFRICA"

The total for Samaritan's Purse "Turn on the Tap" appeal stands at £70,04P.

Margaret Messer has sent the Newsletter and a thank you letter from Friends of Bethel Nursery School. The Committee are disbanding next year and the letter explains this and thanks us for all the support we have given over the years. Please take time to read them, they are on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Please keep saving your coppers because our small amounts grow into something worthwhile for others in need.

Thank you. Janet

Shoebbox Appeal

Please help us to pack our usual 100+ boxes. Thanks to those who have already been busy collecting articles and knitting hats gloves and scarves; we still need more mitts, gloves and scarves. Small toys eg toy cars, yo yos balls crayons etc are needed. Please take a leaflet from the table.

The biggest need this year will be for empty medium sized shoeboxes. Please ask your neighbours, friends and family and place them with any articles in the box under the table in the porch. Donations to help send the boxes are very welcome. Any unsuitable articles are always welcomed by the Hartlepool Women's Refuge so helping local children.

Please consider helping us on these special dates. They really are fun nights.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 12TH 6PM COVERING THE BOXES

OCTOBER 19TH 6PM PACK UP NIGHT

OCTOBER 29TH Dedication of boxes at 10.30 service.

Thank you Aileen Whittaker



Thank you

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, love and hugs given to me at this very sad time of George's death.

Thank you also to Maranny, Chris, Bill and Barry for the beautiful funeral service; it was just as George wished it to be.

God Bless you

Wyn Parkinson

Paul and Margaret would like to say a big thank you to everyone in St George's and beyond, who has supported them and prayed for Paul during his recent health scare. Your thought and prayers were a great support to both of us. He is happy to report that at present he only needs to be kept under supervision during the next six months.

A big thank you to all who helped in any way at the recent Year Six Eldon Grove Academy Leaver's Service.

Thanks a lot.

Brian

Help!

Is there anyone who can play Rummikub? Or who would be willing to learn how to play?- it's not hard. As you know we sadly lost Sheila Deacon late last year. I miss her very much and one of the things I miss is our weekly game of Rummikub.

If you are able to help me cure this ache, please tell me.

Thank you

Valerie Waite



Prayer Time

Prayer is part of our Christian life and is extremely important in the life and witness of any church, and this is so in St George's. However, for many reasons the number of people who can attend the monthly prayer meeting on a Tuesday is very small.

At the last church meeting, I mentioned that a church I know through LMMR visits, has a system by which the whole church, without meeting together join in prayer at a specific time each week to pray.

I thought that this was a wonderful idea, and brought it to the elders meeting for discussion. We agreed that this should be introduced, and have agreed that this should take place on a Tuesday, as this is the day on which the prayer meeting takes place anyway.

We are asking that we all pray for our church, our town and any specific areas of concern, each Tuesday, either in the morning between 9am – 9.30am or 9pm – 9.30pm in the evening. While we pray we will be aware that others from our church family are praying alongside us.

Please do join with us.



Harvest Thanksgiving

There will be a slight change to our giving this year.

The church will be open on Saturday afternoon 23rd September to prepare to decorate the church ready for Harvest and you can bring along your flowers or prize fruit or vegetables then. The time will be confirmed on the service sheet.

However, it has been decided to ask for donations tins, or other non - perishable items for the Foodbank as harvest produce gifts and these can be brought along either on Saturday afternoon or before service on Sunday.

Help will also be needed that afternoon to do some of the preparation for the harvest lunch the next day.

If you receive a hard copy of this newsletter you will find enclosed an envelope for Commitment for Life, which we support every year at this time. If you get your newsletter via email, then envelopes will be available in the church before Harvest for your use. Our donations will be used for work in Zimbabwe, the country we have chosen to support with our giving.



George Robert Parkinson

The service contained a reading of a letter to George by one of his young friends who regarded George as an honorary grandfather. In it she told George exactly what he had always meant to her as she grew up. The following is Maranny's tribute to George on behalf of us all.

That letter summed George up perfectly and the illustration on the front of the service sheet is Just George, rarely without a smile and full of mischief.

For the last ten years I have been an honorary member of the St George's family and it is right that as a family together we celebrate the life of George Robert Parkinson. I only found out he had a middle name last week but to me he will always be our George. To celebrate his life we have to go back a fair bit and as Wyn was always there loving and supporting him, what better time than when George and Wynne met. They met like many young couples in the fifties, at the cinema, The Odeon in Hartlepool in 1955. The attraction grew and George always got what he wanted and they married in this church in October 1958, which means next year would have been their Diamond wedding. From beginning to end George and Wyn supported each other through thick and thin, and from one place to another as they certainly moved about a great deal over the years. I am so glad they settled back in Hartlepool eventually as what a lot we would have missed without them.

George served an apprenticeship as a joiner, although he wanted to be a butcher, but his dad thought a joiner was a safer trade. George ended up cutting wood rather than meat.

He should have done national service but joined the army as a corporal in the Royal Military Police. I know he had fond memories of this time as he often reminisced about that time in our Thursday Hobbies group.

After passing out, George was posted to Singapore accompanied by Wyn. Singapore had different memories for George as it is there Janet their infant daughter is buried in a war commission cemetery. The third red rose on the coffin is for Janet and rightly so.

After Singapore George and Wyn continued to move around. Next step was Retford Barracks, Edinburgh, then on to France and the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe- Shape for short. Then Chelmsford in Essex. And finally back to Hartlepool in 1972. Safely back here in Hartlepool George took up his trade of joiner and Wyn ran an off licence just round the corner from Milton Road where they moved to in 1978.

George was very much a family man and a much loved uncle. In the different places he lived he made friends, as he couldn't help it. He warmed to people and people warmed to him. He had a wicked sense of humour and many here will bear witness to that mischievous glint in his eye when something amused him, I have it on good authority that Bil, I who read the 23rd psalm, and George had to be separated as they egged each other on.

In the short time I have it is difficult to celebrate all of George's gifts, but he was an accomplished artist although he would-be modest about it. This is one of George's of Holy island that I watched grow at Hobbies. Obviously this is even more precious to me now.



George would be the first to acknowledge⁶ that his sister Barbara taught him a great deal as he attended her art class in Billingham

He made fabulous Ginger wine and raised a lot of money for the Church here with his ginger wine stall at the Christmas Fair.

He embraced new technology and spent a great deal of time on his computer researching family history and he helped anyone and everyone who asked for his help with finding out about their past- myself included.

Wyn and George always seemed to be going off somewhere, visits to family, there always seemed to be a weddings on the horizon in recent years and they did enjoy holidays, Scotland being a favourite,

George knew early this year that his time left here was limited and faced the fact with his usual down to earthness, my apologies to English teachers. We all hoped he would be with us just a bit longer and were disappointed that he wasn't able to celebrate his 80th birthday in Northumberland as planned but he did have a great day with family, his sister Barbara, and brother Stephen, their other halves and of course Wyn. I know because he told me so just a few days afterwards.

George meant a lot to me, When I had a lot to learn leading worship here, he told me "Just focus on me and you will be all right." I did and I am.

A devoted husband, a family man , a great friend, a talented artist. A committed member of this church family.and I could go on and on. What will I remember George for most? All of these but most of all his sense of humour and that wicked glint in his eye. If you have smiled this morning then George who is only a thought away will be smiling back. I guarantee it.

This is a year of Feasts and Festivals for the United Reformed Church:

- 500 years since Luther asked awkward questions
- 100 years since a woman was ordained into one of the denominations from which we emerged and a century of men and women ministering together
- 40 years since the creation of the Council for World Mission - no longer mother and daughter churches but partner churches working together on God's mission
- 30 Years since the United Reformed Church set up the ministry of Church-Related Community Work, recognising the importance of community development within neighbourhoods.
- 25 years of Commitment for Life, the world development programme of the United Reformed Church, remembers 25 years of seeking justice

There will be a service to celebrate the hundred year anniversary of the ordination of Constance Coltman in October locally. Watch out for details.

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them) - Some more

- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research
- We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public

Commitment changes lives - Commitment for Life remembers 25 years of being part of the mission of the United Reformed Church.

25 years is a long time to be in a partnership. Can you remember what you were doing in 1992?

The average House Price £68,634 and inflation Rate was 3.7%

Bosnia Herzegovina declares independence and a 3 year war followed between Muslims, Serbs and Croats prompting UN intervention

Signing of the Maastricht treaty on 7th February which founded the European Union

Euro Disney opens in France

Bill Clinton becomes U.S. president

Rioting by local youth breaks out across cities including Bristol

US refuses to sign The UN convention on Climate Change and Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro

Fire damages a major part of Windsor Castle and a number of important works of art, books and furniture are lost

The Summer Olympics are held in Barcelona, Spain

Rioting breaks out in Los Angeles following the acquittal of four white police officers accused of beating black motorist Rodney King.

Violence flares in Germany against Immigrants blaming them for economic problems.

Favourite films included: A Few Good Men, Sister Act, The Bodyguard

And on the television you might have been watching: One Foot in the Grave, The Crystal Maze, Casualty or Inspector Morse

AND The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, in York, commended Commitment for Life to churches as a way of putting their faith into action. Having previously been known as The 1% Appeal, which encouraged Christians to give 1% of their disposable income to aid development, it would now tell stories of how the money was being used and help congregations understand about the structures that keep people poor and how to bring justice for all.

Today, Commitment for Life is firmly embedded in the mission of the church and has raised millions of pounds to help people rise out of poverty and live fulfilled lives. It has also changed the lives of those who have visited partners or heard them speak in their churches. Rev John Marsh has shared a memory from his trip with Commitment for Life to Zimbabwe in 2011.

"The kindness of her neighbours, and the visits by the nurse from the Clinic, supported by funds from Christian Aid and Commitment for Life, were Maureen's only dying comfort and solace. "Thank you for coming to see me", she said.

These utterly poor people have nothing. So they make something out of nothing. It's what they do.

If, in the years since our visit, all had become well for Zimbabwe and its people, we could rejoice that the need was no longer there. Sadly, but truly, little has changed for the better and Commitment for Life's active participation with Christian Aid is urgently necessary going forward.

Where there is nothing, we need to continue to do, and be, something gracious and miraculous for God and for God's people."

'So you see, faith by itself isn't enough.'(James 2:17) James wrote his epistle not with the intention of telling people how to become a Christian but rather how to act like one. James sees faith and works as integral to each other.

Thank you for being a Commitment for Life Church and raising funds last year. Thank you for engaging with issues, retelling stories and praying for partners. Your gifts have made a real difference over the last 25 years but there is still so much more to do.

Linda Mead: Programme Co ordinator

Don't forget that this is what our harvest giving is for. Chris

Friends of Bethel Nursery School

For many years now St George's have been supporters of the charity Friends of Bethel Nursery which was introduced to us by Margaret Messer, Elsie Grainger's daughter. This has helped build a nursery school in Banjul, capital of the Gambia.

It opened in September 2011 with sixty 3 year old children and these have graduated, many of them moving on to primary education.

The trustees have considered the future of the charity and have reluctantly decided to close the charity, though this does not mean an end to the school. The objective to build the new school has been successfully achieved and many other resources have been provided.

There often comes a time when charities need to consider whether their initial idea has gone as far as the trustees can deal with and this is the decision that the trustees of FBNS have come to.

The charity will wind up next year in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and until then the charity will continue to provide for lunches, books, cleaning materials and equipment and maintaining the building.

Margaret has sent a letter explaining why and what is happening and also thanks St. George's for the tremendous support which has been given over the years.

It will be on the notice board at the back of church and you are all invited to read it.



TLS LITE

A group from St. George's, Billingham and the Mission, Thornaby have been studying various TLS units over the last year.

Starting in September, there will be a 10 session unit on Worship, how to put together services and the why and wherefore of doing it. We meet fortnightly at Billingham. It is hard work but we also have a great deal of enjoyment doing it—and it does make you think.

If you would like to join us, please let me know as I need to order the correct number of booklets before we start.

Chris

Church Register

Wedding

June 17th Anthony Wheeler to Claire Louise Clapp.

Funeral

George Parkinson on 28th July

News of People

George Parkinson has died since the last newsletter, and we send our love and our prayers and sympathy to Wynn and the other members of the family on their loss. We all loved George and will miss his sense of humour and his wit greatly.

We remember all the members and friends who are unable to get to church and assure them that we miss them and hold them in our prayers.

We think of Moyra who is struggling with leg pain at present, and hope that this may soon be resolved.

We remember Alan and Betty who are worried about Betty's brother Keith who is presently in Hospital.

We are pleased to report that Lewis Muldown is to start an apprenticeship in Grange school in the PE department in September. We wish him well in this new venture.

Congratulations to Tonia Booth who will be 50 on 29 September and Sandra and Frank Twist who will celebrate their ruby wedding anniversary on 8 October



Flower Donors

August 6	Mrs M Daniel
August 13	Mrs C Eddowes
August 20	
August 27	Mr & Mrs A Ord
September 3	
September 10	Mrs G Cartman
September 17	
September 24	



The Flower

Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help on any particu-

Stewards Rota

Date	Stewards	Keys
AUGUST		
	6 th Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair and Enid Bushnell
	13 th Service at Grange Road	
	20 th Aileen Whittaker, Dick Fletcher	Bill White
	27 th Gail and Ashley Hoad	Frank Whittaker
SEPTEMBER		
	3 rd Paul Humberston, Kevin Hoad	Paul Humberston
	10 th Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
	17 th Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair and Enid Bushnell
	24 th Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
OCTOBER		
	1 st Kevin Hoad, Dick Fletcher	Brian Carter

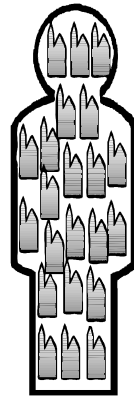
If you are unable to do your turn, please arrange your own substitute

Worship in St George's**August**

6th 10.30am Rev Ray Anglesea – Communion Service
 13th 10.30am United Service - at Westbourne Church (not Grange Road)
 20th 10.30am Dr Donna Moore
 27th 10.30am Mrs Jan Harper

September

3rd 10.30am Rev John Durell – Communion Service
 10th 10.30am Mrs Jan Harper – United Service with Grange Road
 17th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
 24th 10.30am Junior Church Worship Team – Harvest Thanksgiving



We are now recording our services whenever possible, and thanks go to Paul Rodgers for doing this for us. If any of our housebound members and friends, or those who are unable to be present on a particular Sunday, would like to listen to the service, please let me know and I will arrange for the CD to be loaned to you. Margaret

Church Officers

MINISTER– vacancy
 CHURCH SECRETARY
 Mrs M Humberston 25 Belmont Gdns
 TS26 9LS tel 425847
 CHURCH TREASURER
 Mrs Sandra Twist, 17, Granville Ave
 tel 273447
 FREEWILL OFFERING TREASURER
 Mr W White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986
 HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD
 Mrs J White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel.: 280986

From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **Sept 24th** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

St George's Regular Activities

Sun 10.30am Family Worship
 Mon 2.00pm Monday Meeting at Grange Road
 6.00pm Beavers
 6.30pm Cub Scouts
 7.0pm Scouts
 3rd Tuesday in month Prayer meeting 11.00am
 Thur 10am Hobbies Club
 6.00pm Pilots

**Church office**

Mr P Humberston
 25 Belmont Gardens
 TS26 9LS
 (425847)

Newsletter Editor

Mrs C Eddowes
 65 Hutton Ave
 TS26 9PP
 (269412)

**Communion Rota**

Sept Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

Oct Brian Carter Sandra Twist

All elders to help with clearing and washing up

Creche Rota

Aug	6	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	13	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	20	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	27	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Sept	3	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	17	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	24	Mrs M Ord	Mrs T Kirkpatrick
Oct	1	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	8	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
 E S Welsh