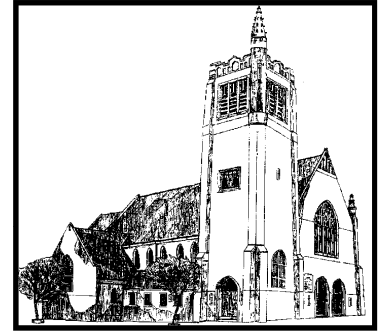


Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool June-July 2017



Something different this month. This is from the URC's Daily Reflection series. The writer is Walt Johnson an Elder of Wilbraham St Ninian's URC in South Manchester.

Acts 1: 1-11

This is the passage about Jesus' last words and his farewell before he is lifted to heaven.

Reflection

For a contemporary Jewish audience, Jesus' farewell to His disciples would be recognised as a clear parallel with Moses who ended his days on the top of Mount Nebo, where he commissioned Joshua to be his successor. In the Gospels of Matthew, John and Luke, and in the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus is doing the same thing: He is commissioning His disciples to carry on His work.

On one level, we can look at the Ascension as a farewell event. It was a painful human moment, filled with emotion. If we go to any railway station or airport, all around us are people saying goodbye: some for a short time; others for a longer time; and others still for whom it is probably farewell for ever. This man, this Jesus, whom the disciples had lost once when He was crucified; they are losing Him again. The emotion of painful separation, grief, is palpable in the story. And into this fragile human moment, God acts supernaturally: Jesus is taken up into Heaven and became hidden from their sight.

The 20th Century theologian, Karl Barth, called the Ascension "an historical turning point". The Ascension is Jesus re-gathering His followers. Jesus did not choose learned or powerful people to be His disciples: He chose every day, working people; He chose the outcasts. And just as He called them the first time, He calls them again.

For the disciples Jesus was hidden from their sight at Ascension; they knew they would never see Him again in the flesh and stood there in shock and amazement. Like we can be, there were paralysed into inaction. The Disciples needed a nudge, for they were staring into the sky. The angels speak to them, assure them and they begin their descent of the mountain to begin Christ's Church.

The Ascension is about Jesus is completing His journey and us beginning ours. Jesus becomes human, is born as a baby, lives His life, is tried and executed. He rises from the dead, and in the Ascension, Jesus is going home. Jesus who is fully human, in the Ascension forever changes the doorway between Earth and Heaven. This is the truth: Jesus, a human-being, entered heaven - a human-being entered heaven!

That is the amazing mystery of the Ascension: a human-being entered glory and is with God. And because Jesus did, we can, too.

Loving God,
today as we recall Your Son's return to glory,
we give You thanks that,
in Your Son, we, too, now have our home with You.
As the disciples came down the mountain
and began the work to spread the news of Your love,
fill us anew with Your Spirit
and revive Your Church.
Amen.



Dates for your Diaries

Sun 18 th June	Church meeting following Morning Worship
Sat 1 st July	WCM Garden Party 2pm – 4pm at 16 Regency Drive
Mon 3 rd July	10am Elders Meeting
Thurs 6 th July	Eldon Grove Leavers Assembly
Fri 7 th July	Eldon Grove Leavers Assembly
Sat 8 th July	Concert by The Special Needs Group. 7pm tickets £5– more details later

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings –

14 June	College of Further Education
28 June	St George's URC
12 July	College of Further Education
26 July	Church of the Nazarene

Coffee Rota

JUNE	4 th	-	Paul and Gillian Rodgers, Gillian Cartman.
	11 th	-	Service at Grange Road
	18 th	-	Chris and Cathie Eddowes, Dick Fletcher.
	23 rd	-	Aileen and Frank Whittaker. Moyra Mudd.
JULY	2 nd	-	Robert and Sheila Harrison.
	9 th	-	Janet White, Dick Fletcher.
	16 th	-	Sandra Hindmarch, Brian Carter.
	23 rd	-	Margaret Fraser, Margaret Welford.
	30 th	-	Will and Kaye Barlow.
AUGUST	6 th	-	Gail and Ashley 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. We will be using a new filter coffee machine which needs to be prepared before the service and will be ready at the end of service. Ask if you're not sure.

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

Farm Africa



Project Africa

The total for Samaritan's Purse 'Turn on the Tap' appeal stands at £57-99p. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this appeal, please keep saving those coppers etc

If I am not at church to collect your coins will you please give them to Janet or Bill who will pass them on to me.

Thank you

Wyn Parkinson



Prayer Meeting

Prayer is still an important part of church life and with this in mind prayer requests may be placed in the box on the counter in the Cornerstone café.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11am at the home of Margaret Rodgers. More members are most welcome. Please see Margaret if you wish to join us.



Thornaby Mission Events

Sat 17th June Strawberry Tea Poster on the Table. We are invited to join them

Mon 26th June Pie and Peas Supper. 7pm

We were expecting to go to Windermere weekend of 9th-11th June. As you know this has been cancelled as the centre has now been closed. Chris is now conducting worship at the mission on 11th June, and there is an invitation for any of us who would like to join them for that service. This is the day we would be joining Grange Road Methodists for the service, although they did already know that there would be fewer of us there than usual, because of the visit to Windermere.

The folk from the Mission will be joining us for worship on 30th July

Thank you

Thank you to everybody for their lovely cards (not one duplicated!) and good wishes on my recent birthday. I really appreciated them
Chris



35th Hartlepool (St George's)
Scout Group

The children all enjoy taking part in team games as well as doing badge work.

The Beavers are currently working towards gaining their cookery badge. As part of this, they made individual pizzas to which they added a variety of toppings. They also put together fruit salads consisting of a wide variety of different fruits. This gave them the opportunity to taste fruits which they may not have tried before.

Outdoor activities are a feature of Scouting and the Cubs have been for a walk in the Burn Valley Gardens, which also incorporated road safety instruction, and are to visit the Washington Wetland Centre in June. These outings are towards the Naturalist Badge.

The Scouts are also involved in outdoor activities, at Summerhill, doing orienteering and navigation which are two scout badges. They are going to a camp site near Birmingham for a week at the end of July and are going with the Cubs to camp at Raven Gill, Comondale, for a weekend in August.

**THE URC PAST CASE REVIEW PROCESS
A TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST ABUSES, SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE
AND BUILD A STRONGER, SAFER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

The United Reformed Church has set up a **Past Case Review** and is now inviting anyone with concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972 to raise them formally.

Why is this happening and what does it mean for us?

There is the highest level of public and political concern about past failings in the behaviour of national bodies which have resulted in past abuses being ignored or covered up. A number of high profile cases involved national figures in positions of authority or influence who were found guilty of abusing their power, authority or celebrity status (such as Jimmy Saville and Rolf Harris), in particular involving the abuse of women and young people.

The churches have recognised that they have ignored evidence about past abuses. Some church leaders have been found guilty, including a Scottish Cardinal and a former Anglican Bishop of Lewes. The Pope has said that abuse of children was like "leprosy" infecting the Church, according to the Italian La Repubblica newspaper. Pope Francis has strengthened the Vatican's laws against child abuse and has sought forgiveness from the victims of sexual abuse by priests. Sadly, there have also been a few cases within the URC.

Concern about abuse is now widespread around the world and several countries have established public enquiries. The UK government's *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse* is investigating a wide range of institutions including local authorities, the police, the armed forces, schools, churches and mosques to consider the extent to which State and non-State institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation; to consider the steps which it is necessary for State and non-State institutions to take in order to protect children from such abuse in future; and to publish a report with recommendations.

All the UK churches are reviewing their own files and past practices concerning all forms of abuse. A consistent finding is that mistreatment is usually associated with abuse of power by people exercising authority. Examining these cases has therefore inevitably led churches to explore the ways in which power is used and abused within the church and, in particular, the concept of spiritual abuse, meaning the use of spiritual authority or The Bible by an ordained or lay church leader to coerce, intimidate or ill-treat people, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually.

The URC has established a formal process to receive, evaluate and respond to any allegations involving ordained ministers and also lay church leaders. All churches are being asked to draw this to the attention of congregations. A brochure (explaining the process in detail) and a poster are available (www.urch.org.uk/past-case-review). A team of independent people will respond to the allegations and provide support to all involved.

What happens next?

Past and present members of local congregations are now being given the opportunity to raise any concerns about past physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse. If a disclosure is made in a local church context, the person who wishes to disclose will be put in touch with the Past Case Review team. There will be no pressure on people to disclose, but should they want to, there is a clear process in place which has been authorised by General Assembly.

If an issue of concern about past abuse is raised in a particular local congregation, this can provoke strong emotional reactions and upset. If it becomes public, there may be contrary opinions, shock, outrage, denial and deep hurt. We trust that God will guide us and grant us wisdom, sensitivity and open minds as it progresses.

Anybody from our church who wishes to talk over a concern can speak with the Minister, their Elder or Safeguarding lead. You can also contact the Past Case Review team direct, no matter who you are or what your question, by sending an email to pastcase.review@urch.org.uk.

The URC and our own local church aim to be an open, respectful and trusted community, guided by Christian love and respecting the humanity of all involved. We know this does not work perfectly; people do get hurt in churches and serious abuse does happen. This process enables us to hear and respond to deep hurts, which may have been nursed for many years. The process of talking, listening respecting and apologising can be healing and should help us to be stronger communities.

The website is full of information and resources, including a wide range of counselling services: www.urch.org.uk/images/PCR/PCR-docs/Past-Case-Review-Brochure-10-09-2016.pdf.

We pray that as the process works its way through, we will see the love of God at work, that our churches will become safer spaces for worship and fellowship, and that we will be able to care for each other in Christian respect and compassion.

As this is important, we are reprinting it in case you missed it the first time

THE KHANYISA TRUST



INCORPORATING
THE MANNA CENTRE of CONCERN
AND H.O.P.E

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Email:
khanyisatrust@telkomsa.net

KHANYISA HOUSE
58 7 AVENUE EDENVALE

P O BOX 4346 EDENVALE 1610
REPUBLIC of SOUTH AFRICA

26 January 2017

The Congregation
St George's United Reform Church
Hartlepool

Dear Friends

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to you all for your kind donation of £200 towards the work of The Khanyisa Trust.

Thank you for sharing in our efforts to help the hungry and unemployed in our community. In the current economic climate in South Africa this has become increasingly challenging, and to receive support from the family of God on the other side of the ocean is particularly heart-warming and much appreciated.

May God's richest blessings be yours in 2017.

Kind regards

Kathy Malherbe
Treasurer
The Khanyisa Trust

*Sorry this is so late—I forgot to put it in
the last Newsletter
Chris*

Can you help?

Alphonsi Solomon, a member of St George's Church, High Heaton is planning a trip to Uganda this year and would be grateful for donations of children's books (especially those specifically designed to help with reading skills), bibles, baby clothes and items and children's clothes and items (up to 15 years) as well as any surplus household items.

We published this appeal last edition and have some things already, mostly books for children's books. They have enlarged the remit to include adult clothes, though I think we should think about the viability of getting some of the things over to Uganda.

Please bring things along to church during June then we can get them to Alphonsi in time.



ZIMBABWE

Christian Aid's programme in Zimbabwe has faced many challenges over the last year or so. The political, economic and environmental situation has created an extremely difficult set of circumstances for our partners to carry out their work. That said, through sensitively building constructive relationships at the local government and authority level, Christian Aid has been able to continue implementing its programmes largely unimpeded.

Christian Aid's programme has continued to focus on profitable, resilient, drought resistant agriculture, conflict transformation and peace building, and the strengthening of citizens to build capable states. Projects include those focusing on market development, extractives, tax and responsive budgeting accountability, and transparency. The programme has been designed to dovetail with Zimbabwe's national economic development strategy to support the restoration of economic stability and growth. As such, it strikes a balance between responding to the needs of the poor and seeking transformative change through being rooted in policy and advocacy.

Political outlook

Zimbabwe remains politically volatile, particularly as the country approaches general elections in early 2018. Internal conflicts amongst potential opposition parties abound, meaning, yet again there is virtually no meaningful opposition to Robert Mugabe's ongoing, tyrannical regime.

Outside politics however, a new wave of political activism consisting of individuals, churches and spontaneous social movements has emerged as an alternative force to the malaise of political opposition.

During the second half of 2016, these activists and movements spearheaded a wave of violent demonstrations and confrontations against the Mugabe regime. Security forces cracked down heavily in response to these demonstrations, and in late August 2016, in a direct violation of the constitution, a total ban on demonstrations was introduced. While the momentum of these movements has reduced somewhat in early 2017, there is growing concern that the government is now almost totally preventing and suppressing any alternative or opposing opinions, and as such has ordered the immediate arrests of anyone voicing opposition to the government.

A group of Commitment for Life supporters will be visiting Zimbabwe and will bring back stories and worship materials to share with churches.

St George's Church in association with the Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group present

Go Western

A celebration of music and drama with a Wild West Theme

Time 7.00

Date Sat.8th July

Burgers, Hot dogs Raffles and refreshments

Tickets £5.00



St Georges UR Church Summer Fayre 20th May 2017

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<u>2016</u>	<u>Stall</u>	<u>2017</u>
£104.05	Cake Stall	£126.90
£ 68.20	Hobbies Tombola	£100.30
£ 85.52	Junior Church	£ 48.00
£ 67.20	Scouts Tombola	£ 43.70
£ 43.90	Raffle	£ 40.00
£ 99.22	White Elephant	£100.97
£ 24.75	Electrical Stall	£ 83.00
£136.25	Plant Stall	£336.00
£180.00	Hamper Raffle	£248.90
£ 99.51	Door	£ 86.90
£ 15.00	Donation	-----
£ 20.00	Craft Sales	-----
£170.50	Plants sold privately	-----
	Jewellery Stall	£ 48.00
-----	No of Sweets in jar	£ 9.60
-----	Extra Coffee Sold	£ 7.95
.....		
£1114.10	Total	£1280.22

Many thanks to all those who contributed to such a successful Fayre and fantastic amount raised. As ever the folks at St George's (and their family and friends) turned out in force on the day to ensure that all the stalls were fully covered. This is the first year we have not placed an advert in the Hartlepool Mail, and instead used the local radio, free adverts and social media. It was pleasing that this did not appear to have a detrimental effect on attendance. Several people did comment that along with our usual visitors there were a number of 'new faces' so the plan will be to carry on with this strategy for the next fayre.

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)

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car..

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



8



WORLD CHURCH MISSION



10TH GARDEN PARTY

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
AT 16 REGENCY DRIVE
FROM 2PM – APPROX 4PM**

Church Register

Baptism

Jack Graddon, son of Christine and Ross on April 30th

Funeral

Morag Fraser on April 28th

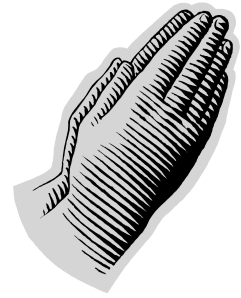
News of People

Morag Fraser has died since the last newsletter. We remember the family, who are now mourning two members of the family who died within weeks of one another.

We remember those of our church family who are not well enough at present to join us for worship regularly. We assure them of our love and prayers.

We congratulate Mark Carter who has been elected as the captain of his hockey team.

Happy birthdays to George Parkinson who will be 80 on 18 June and Gillian Rodgers who will be 50 on 30 July.



Flower Donors

Flower Donors

June 4	Mrs A Foster
June 11	Mrs R Jackson
June 18	Mrs S Twist
June 25	Mrs M Mudd
July 2	Miss V Waite
July 9	
July 16	
July 23	
July 30	



The Flower Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help on any particular day—just offer.

Stewards Rota

Date	Stewards	Keys
JUNE 4 th -	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.
11 th -	Serviceat Grange Road.	
18 th -	Frank and Aileen Whittaker.	Frank Whittaker.
25 th -	Gail and Ashley Hoad.	Bill White.
JULY 2 nd -	Kevin Hoad, Dick Fletcher.	Frank Whittaker.
9 th -	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.
16 th -	Gail and Ashley Hoad.	Brian Carter.
23 rd -	Paul Humberston, Aileen Whittaker.	Paul Humberston
30 th -	Kevin Hoad. Dick Fletcher.	Alan Woodhall..
AUGUST 6 th -	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.

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

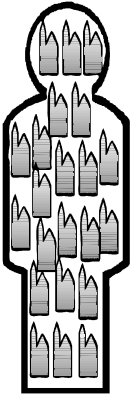
Worship in St George's

June

4 th	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes & Mrs J White - Communion
11 th	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road
18 th	10.30am	The Worship Team
25 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston

July

2 nd	10.30am	Mr John Drew –Communion
9 th	10.30am	Mr Ian Smith – United Service with Grange Road
16 th	10.30am	Miss Dorothy Thompson
23 rd	10.30am	Mrs Judith Winn
30 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston



We are now recording our services whenever possible, and thanks go to Paul Rodgers for doing this for us. If any of our household 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 **July 30th** 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

July	Bill White	Janet White
Aug	Chris Eddowes	May Ord

All elders to help with clearing and washing up

Creche Rota

June	4	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
	11	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
	18	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	25	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
July	2	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	9	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	16	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	23	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	30	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
Aug	6	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	13	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
 E S Welsh