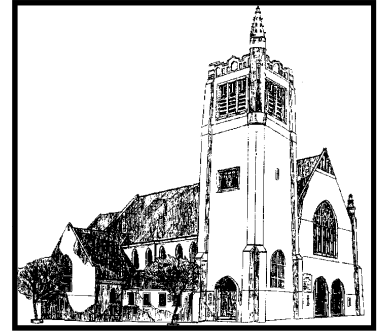


Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool April-May



We are still in the period of Lent as I write this and this means so many different things to different people. To some it is a case of giving something up, chocolates, alcohol or caffeine. These are all things which we are probably better without anyway and, to be honest, it's not really a big sacrifice when we know it's only going to be for a few weeks. And some churches believe that the Sundays in Lent don't count as they are "mini Easters", so these days are not necessarily days of abstinence.

I did hear of a young person who was giving up social media for Lent, quite difficult when you need to know what everybody is doing on Facebook or Twitter or whatever the latest "in" app is.

Some people take something extra on – helping somebody or giving money every-time they use something like a tap or an electric light, things which we take for granted but for some parts of the world are only things to dream of.

We are supposed to make Lent a time of examination: of ourselves, our lives, our attitudes and then make a change. Rarely do we go in for real sacrificial denial or giving.

And yet this is what we should be looking at, particularly if we are trying to model our lives on Jesus.

The forty days of Lent represent the days Jesus spent in the desert, the days of temptation and if we look at them, they were real temptations to someone of Jesus' ability, power, charisma or whatever overused word you want. The bread was the obvious one and probably the easiest one to dismiss. But to use the power you have to make people follow you- that's another thing.

In Holy Week we have another temptation, and probably the one most of couldn't face. Jesus knew what was going to happen, and was human enough to hope there might be a way out. A way from humiliation, torture, and the death reserved for a criminals and terrorists that had to be made an example of. As one of my school pupils once said, "I wouldn't have done it. I'd have run away". Me too, to be honest.

In Holy Week we move from elation to despair; we plumb the depths of grief, but this is followed by glorious resurrection. Of course we know what is going to happen; we've read the book. However, the real knowledge of the resurrection is something else. This is where faith comes in and the wonder of it.

In the last few months, we, here at St. George's have lost some of our members to death. And yet, we haven't. We have just seen them pass onto another place where all is whole and well.

Jesus said "Trust in God; trust also in me".. "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

After Lent is over, this is the promise of Easter. Thanks be to God



Dates for your Diaries

April

Mon 3rd 10am Elders Meeting
 Fri 7th 7pm Concert with Trevor Blease on the Organ with vocal interlude

May

Sat 20th 10am Spring Fayre

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings:

12 April College of Further Education
 26 April 55 Hutton Avenue
 10 May College of Further Education
 24 May Grange Road Methodist Church
 Anyone is welcome to attend these prayer meetings.

Coffee Rota

APRIL	2nd	-	Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Gillian Cartman
	9th	-	Service at Grange Road
	16th	-	Robert and Sheila Harrison, Moyra Mudd
	23rd	-	Chris and Cathie Eddowes, Dick Fletcher
	30th	-	Aileen and Frank Whittaker, Kevin Hoad
MAY	- 7th	-	Janet White, Sandra Hindmarch, Margaret Welford
	14th	-	Will and Kaye Barlow, Brian Carter
	21st	-	Gail, Tarryn and Ashley Hoad
	28th	-	Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Elma Welsh
JUNE	4th	-	Paul and Gillian Rodgers, Gillian Cartman
	11th	-	Service at Grange Road
	18th	-	Chris and Cathie Eddowes, Dick Fletcher
	25th	-	Aileen and Frank Whittaker, Moyra Mudd



.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



Our 2017 project is for Samaritan's Purse 'Turn on the Tap' appeal.

The total of our fund stands at £33-68p. As mentioned in the Annual Report I am always happy to accept any loose change you may have and I would not refuse paper money, but please, if possible, no foreign coins.

Thank you again to everyone who is supporting our project.

Wyn Parkinson

Church Meeting

The annual church meeting held on 19th March, accepted the Annual Reports and the Financial Report noting the loss over the year. The elders who had completed their terms of office, and who had indicated their willingness to serve for a further period, were re-elected unanimously. They are Bill White, Dick Fletcher and Chris Eddowes.

Did you miss one?

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, and would like to listen to the service, please let me know and I will arrange for the CD to be loaned to you. Margaret



Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kindnesses and cards, (particularly the home made ones) and for being retrieved from the hospital late at night, when Andrew had his stroke and after he died. The support of the church family has been amazing. I also want to thank Chris Eddowes for making the Service of Thanksgiving for Andrew's Life so special.

Margaret Fraser

We would like to thank everyone for their care and sympathy, the cards and messages of support on the death of Rev Arnold Dawson, my dad. It helped us so much at a sad time.

Margaret Humberston

Rita Jackson would like to say thank you for the cards, prayers and good wishes received during her stay in hospital. Rita has now been discharged to Willowdene Nursing Home, near Sedgfield. She is delighted that Whiskers has made his first visit to see her there.

Please note

In some of the rotas it has been decided to use fewer people:- stewards, communion and- from next issue- coffee rota.

This makes it so that duties will come around less often. However, there is always room for more volunteers, particularly on the stewards' welcome rota. This is very important as the welcome from the stewards is the first impression people get of St. George's. Make use of your smile on a Sunday morning by volunteering!

Rev. Arnold Dawson

Arnold was born on 23 January 1923 in Lemington, Newcastle upon Tyne. His early life was spent in Gateshead where his parents ran a Fish and Chip shop, incidentally on the corner of the street next to the one in which we lived for several years as children.

His father died when Arnold was very young and his grandfather, who lived with Arnold and his mother had a great influence on his life.

After school, he worked on the railway training to be an electrical engineer, but when the station burned down – not his fault – he was always quick to point out he was moved to another area and after a series of boils and carbuncles caused by the grease and dust he was forced to leave.

the outbreak of war he volunteered and joined the RAF. He was selected for pilot training and just before they were due to leave for Canada to complete this training it was discovered that a problem with his eyes meant that he could not be a pilot, and so was discharged from the RAF.

Arnold then started nurse training at the RVI in Newcastle and just before his preliminary examinations the RAF got in touch and said if you can nurse in 'civvy' street you can nurse in the RAF, and so he was called back to continue his service.

Arnold and Polly were married on 4th March 1944 and subsequently had two daughters and a son, to whom he was a strict but loving father. He was always involved in church life in one capacity or another. He was an excellent organist and after many years as the pianist/organist at The Assemblies of God in Gateshead, moved to Felling Congregational church where they urgently required an organist.

Over the years Arnold variously worked as a Tea Taster, Heavy Goods Driver, Insurance Agent and a Tea Salesman for Lyons. While he worked for Lyons he was challenged by the then Minister of the church who said "How much longer are you going to run away from a call to ministry?" and so the ball started rolling.

Initially Arnold was the lay Pastor at Felling, the same church in which he and Polly had been married. During this time he was studying for the ministry as well as working in his secular employment and taking care of the church.

His full time ministry began at Ryton and he was ordained there in 1963. He later moved from Ryton & Winlaton to Thornaby and then onto Cottingham & Hull. His final pastorate was at Heaton from where he retired to Hartlepool. In his last three pastorates he was also appointed chaplain to the local hospitals, something which continued well into his retirement as he was the chaplain to Winterton Hospital in Sedgefield until its closure.

He was always keen on working with young people and was well known amongst the Fellowship of Young Congregationalists. Several members of this group have said that they would not have become Christians had it not been for Arnold's influence. His other passion was the Boys Brigade and he loved the Parade services at Cottingham where the lads paraded down the street with their band out in front.

Arnold was a member here in St George's since his retirement, with stints as Interim Moderator in other places and he will be sadly missed by the church family.

Happy memories have been recounted, many of them humorous, lots of which have come in tributes in cards to the family since his death from the many people whose lives he has touched over the years. Arnold had a great sense of humour and believed that being a Christian Minister, or indeed a Christian did not mean that you couldn't have fun.



He wouldn't mind us telling this story. Both Jennifer and David remember the dark winter's night when Arnold was on his way out on his motorbike and sidecar. This was at Ryton and the house grounds were large. As he went to open the gates ready to get the motorbike out he sneezed and out came his false teeth. He expected to just be able to pick them up but they were nowhere to be found. Even after an extensive search of the grounds by the family with torches and setting up search lights they still couldn't find them. The search was abandoned until the next day when the neighbour living on the other side of a tall hedge found the teeth on top of it.

A few weeks later, when conducting worship he sneezed again and out came the teeth, landing on the sleeve of his gown – he made an appointment with the dentist the next day. Rev Trevor Holborn, who conducted Arnold's funeral service paid tribute to Arnold as a friend and mentor. He said, "One day some years after I became a teacher, Arnold took me to one side and asked me why I was unhappy. He was right but I didn't know why. He told me I should pray about it and listen to what God had to say.

"From that conversation, came my ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament. During the training period on NEOC Arnold was my pastoral tutor and a constant support to our whole family.

"Part of my pastoral training was to work with Arnold at the local Psychiatric Hospital. On the first lovely autumn day he showed me around the hospital. Surrounding a grassed circle were members of staff in deck chairs watching some patients play conkers. I made some comment and Arnold taught me yet another lesson, don't judge by appearances – the staff were playing and the patients watching.

"Throughout my ministry Arnold has been there for me. When I didn't know how to act in a situation I would ring Arnold knowing that I would get sound advice. When pastoral situations arose I would ask myself "What would Arnold do?"

Two stories show what a great pastor Arnold was. When Arnold was leaving Thornaby on Tees he was introduced to a church. When he went to meet the Elders he was put up in a hotel. "That was not the church for me" he said, "if they can't find anyone to offer hospitality."

When the manse in Cottingham was found to be riddled with woodworm, it had to be shrouded in plastic sheets and filled with a poisonous gas. I believe it was early winter. An Elder offered to find Arnold and Polly alternative accommodation. "No way" said Arnold "people will not know my telephone number or how to contact me in case of need." So, he borrowed a caravan, parked it on the church car park and he and Polly made their home there for some cold and cramped weeks.

Many of us here in St. George's have reason's to be thankful for Arnold's compassion and common sense. We miss him but rejoice that he is now where he wanted to be for so long.

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.

Alphonsi has transport and is happy to pick items up from individuals if requested but it would be more helpful if you could take items to your church and he can then arrange collection from the secretary.

Alphonsi's contact details are as follows:

Mobile: 07476 456 755

solomon1985@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Fraser

Andrew was born on 2nd July 1948 in Blackpool where his father was a GP and moved to Hartlepool when Andrew senior became anaesthetist at the Hartlepool Hospitals. Andrew went to school at Rosebank, had a short spell at a boarding school, which he didn't like and came back to finish his schooling at Rosebank.

Ian, Andrew's younger brother, remembers that most family holidays were spent golfing in Scotland where the standard of golf was more interesting than expert. There was much exercise to be had as no-one had any idea where the ball would go when any of the family teed off, so they spent quite a bit of time and energy searching for lost balls in the heather.

Many Christmases were spent with grandparents in either Glasgow or the Isle of Man. The house in the Isle of Man was cold- there was no central heating and the family lugged suitcases full of warm clothes with them. They competed to see how many layers they could wear. Interestingly enough this probably explains why Andrew was nearly always on the door here at St. George's when there was a bazaar or coffee morning. This is a very cold job, but Andrew obviously had early training.

Apart from stoicism, there was something else Andrew gained from the Isle of Man. It is, of course, famed for the TT races and Andrew became a fan of speedway, travelling to the local tracks in the area, often visiting Sunderland with a friend. Andrew was 6 when Ian was born, and apart from the usual brotherly squabbles, he always supported and protected his little brother. He literally went the extra mile when Ian was recovering from appendicitis and Andrew volunteered to ride to the local shop on his bike to buy sweets for Ian. He bought the sweets but then had an argument with a car on the way back. You'll be pleased to know both Andrew and the sweets arrived home unharmed, but it put him off riding his bike for a while.

When he left school, Andrew went to Hartlepool College of Further Education from where he went to work as a test certificate clerk in the steel works. The steel works were seen as a job for life but unfortunately in the 80s that was not to be.

When I was thinking about Andrew and the conversations we had over the years, I came up with 3 words- cruises, sport and quizzes. Andrew loved all of them. Ian said that the family went on a couple of cruises when they were younger and this obviously set Andrew up for one of his passions.

Strangely it was two of his loves that brought Margaret into his life. In 1978 he went on a Bachelors Abroad Cruise to the Mediterranean. Sailing out of Southampton Andrew went to join a group to play quoits. The men's names were put in one hat and the ladies' in another and Andrew and Margaret were drawn to be partners. I bet they won! (*they did*)

One thing led to another and they were married in the following April, much to Morag, Andrew's mum's delight. She loved telling people at church about Andrew's girlfriend. On their honeymoon they flew from Luton and the staff were working to rule so the passengers were weighed as well as their luggage. Much better for this to happen at the beginning of a cruise. Andrew's passion for cruising increased with the years and both he and Margaret got to see a lot of the world. He enjoyed being an Elite Passenger of Princess Captains' Circle, particularly the perks that came with it and on several occasions they were in the top three Most Travelled Passengers.

One thing I've enjoyed on cruises is quizzes and I can imagine Andrew there with his pencil at the ready. He loved quizzes and puzzles and was very good at them. He was a good person to have on your team as his knowledge extended to most topics- and certainly filled in my gaps with sport. I remember being on a car treasure hunt and there was a question I certainly hadn't a clue. Quarry, said Andrew as we drove along, he was a boxer. So we got that one right!



Mary Daniel remembers New Year's Eve on many occasions at the Frasers- both senior and junior- when post dinner entertainment was indoor games, and, in particular, a quiz. Andrew was always quiz master of course. He spent a lot of time looking things up in reference books, but not quite so long in putting them away again!

Sport, as already mentioned, played a large part in Andrew's life. He was an ardent supporter of Hartlepool United (someone has to be) and football was always on the TV. He also played cricket for St. George's and also enjoyed keeping the score book- a very important job and not for the easily distracted. He was registrar for the Hartlepool Cricket League and collected and collated all the league results and reports from which he wrote a weekly piece for the Hartlepool Mail.

When Andrew became redundant he did a variety of small jobs but as these faded away, he became a volunteer. He was one of the first to serve in St. George's shop when it was Acorn bookshop and then he worked in the Hartlepool Hospice in the fundraising office and received long service awards from there. He also received the WVS Long Service Medal for 15 years helping in the RVS hospital shop. One advantage for us of his voluntary work at the hospital was that he could pass on news of church members in hospital and this complemented his role as an elder in St. George's, a role of which he was very proud.

As an elder he was caring, helpful, observant and showed concern for his "flock" particularly if they were housebound or in hospital. He delivered the Newsletter and Reform, the URC's national magazine and collected the subscriptions for it. He organised the stewards' rota and took his turn in unlocking the doors and then locking up again after church.-and as mentioned, he often had the cold job on the door.

Andrew has been described to me as a man of few words but if you wanted something done, he would get on with the job in hand quietly and without a fanfare. Margaret has described him as a "gentleman" who would always escort their neighbour home from parties to make sure all was well. I think this sums Andrew up- he was a gentleman and a gentle man and we will all miss him.

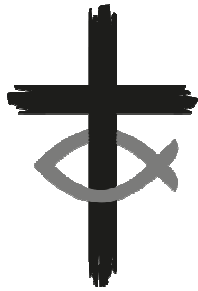


Christian Aid's programme in Zimbabwe has faced a number of challenges over the last year or so. The political, economic and environmental situation has created an extremely difficult set of circumstances for our partners to carry out their work. That said, through sensitively building constructive relationships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

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.

The economic outlook in Zimbabwe also remains gloomy, with prospects for recovery and stability currently looking bleak. 'Bond notes' were introduced at the end of 2016 as a stop gap measure to the crippling cash crisis which had seen people queuing for days and even sleeping at the banks in order to try and access their meagre salaries. While the bond notes were relatively well received by the somewhat desperate population, confidence in the monetary system has continued to diminish as more stable currencies have continued to flounder and devalue. (*for a full report- see Chris*)

Daily Devotions from the URC



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Every morning a reading, reflection, and prayer is sent out by email from the URC. They are written by a team of around 100 people from different places and perspectives and provide inspiration in our inboxes! The devotions are designed to help enrich our discipleship and, whilst designed for personal use, have been found helpful for Bible

Study groups, service preparation and devotions at the start of meetings. You can read them all by going to <http://devotions.urc.org.uk> where you can also sign up to receive them yourself using the link on the bottom left of the screen

Spring Fayre

on Saturday 20th May from 9.30 to 12 noon.
Stalls set up as usual on the Friday afternoon.
I am happy to collect any items for the stalls

Gillian



Don't forget

Fri 7th April 7pm

Concert with Trevor Blease on
the Organ with vocal interlude
Make sure you have your tickets

Church Register

Death

Mr Andrew Fraser

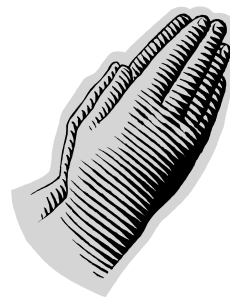
News of People

We mourn the death of Andrew Fraser and assure Margaret and the rest of his family of our prayers and support as they come to terms with his loss.

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, and hope that they will soon feel well enough to join us again.

Rita Jackson has moved into a care home near Sedgfield and Nancy Stephenson has moved to Surrey to live near her son. We wish them every blessing in their new surroundings.

The Hoad family believe in sharing- Ashley Hoad will be 21 on 16 April and Gail Hoad will be 50 also on 16 April. Chris Eddowes will be 70 on 2nd May. Congratulations.



Flower Donors

April	2	
April	9	Mrs C Eddowes
April	16	
April	23	Miss M Rodgers
April	30	
May	7	Mr and Mrs W White
May	14	Mrs E Welsh
May	21	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
May	28	
June	4	Mrs A Foster



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
April 2	Mr A Bushnell	Mrs E Bushnell	
	Mrs G Hoad	Miss A Hoad	Mr P Humberston
April 9	Grange Road		
Good Friday	Mr P Humberston	Mr W White	Mr A Bushnell Mrs E Bushnell
Easter Day	Mr F Whittaker	Mr R Fletcher	Mr W White
	Mr K Hoad		
April 23	Mr L Muldown		Mr A Bushnell Mrs E Bushnell
April 30	Mrs G Hoad	Miss A Hoad	Mr Paul Humberston
May 7	Mr R Fletcher	Mr K Hoad	Mr W White
May 14	Mr A Bushnell	Mrs E Bushnell	Mr Frank Whitaker
	Mr L Muldown		
May 21	Mrs G Hoad	Miss A Hoad	Mr P Humberston
	Mr F Whittaker		
May 28	Mr R Fletcher	Mr K Hoad	Mr W White
June 4	Mr L Muldown		Mr A Bushnell Mrs E Bushnell

Please note there are now usually 3 stewards on duty, one of whom may be the key holder

If you are unable to 'steward' a date, please ensure you arrange a substitute. The 'Stewards' and 'Keys' responsibilities are as per the 'DUTIES OF STEWARDS' document which has been issued to you

Worship in St George's

April

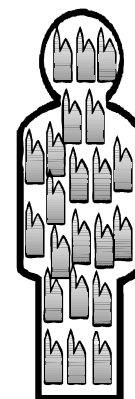
2 nd	10.30am	Rev Ruth Crofton – Communion
9 th	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
13 th	7pm	Mrs Chris Eddowes - Maundy Thursday Communion Service
14 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston - Good Friday Worship
16 th	10.30am	Rev Barry Hutchinson – Easter Day Communion Service
23 rd	10.30am	Mrs Jan Harper
30 th	10.30am	The Worship Team – Parade and Family Service

May

7 th	10.30am	Rev Ruth Crofton – Communion
14 th	10.30am	The Worship Team – United Service with Grange Road Methodist Church
21 st	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones
28 th	10.30am	Mr Brian Johnson – Parade and Family Service

June

4 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes and Mrs Janet White
		- Communion



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 **May 28th** 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

Easter Sunday

Bill White Janet White

May Brian Carter Moyra Mudd

June Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

All elders to help with clearing and washing up

Creche Rota

Apr	2	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
	9	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
	16	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh
	23	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
	30	Mrs M Ord	Mrs T Kirkpatrick
May	7	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh
	14	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
	21	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
	28	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
June	4	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
	11	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
E S Welsh