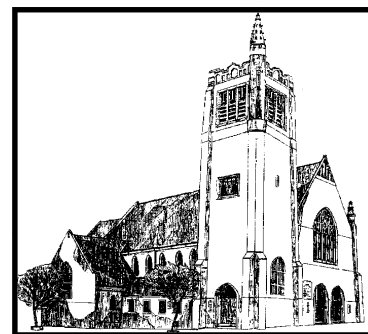




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool April- May 2018



This week, Alex and I visited the garden centre in Stockton. We haven't had the opportunity to do much gardening before, but we are keen to learn and experiment. Our house in Chatham in Kent had a very small garden which was stoned and paved and the manse in Penarth had a larger garden but was mostly laid to grass lawn and we filled the large patio with tubs and planters, so I wouldn't call us gardeners – yet!

When we looked around the manse garden in Crooks Barn Lane on our visit last October most things were beginning to die back and it looked quite uninteresting. Derek and Mary Berry assured us that there are flowers, fruit trees, apple and pear and maybe even plum. There is a vegetable patch too.

When we moved into the Manse it didn't look a lot different. There wasn't a lot happening or much sign of promise. However, there were rather a lot of snow drops and maybe we should have recognised them as a sign of what was to come!

However, as I sit in the study writing this letter today, Alex is out busily tidying up, pulling up the weeds and preparing the ground for the seeds we bought at the garden centre. There are crocuses poking their bright yellow heads out to say hello. There are a couple of primroses, bright purple with their happy yellow centres smiling at us, and a lovely pale pink flower, name unknown to me, starting to come life.

As we approach Easter we call to mind the death and resurrection of Jesus.

On Good Friday the disciples and friends of Jesus must have felt it was all over. All that was good had come to an end on the cross. Hope was overcome by darkness and the joy of their lives had gone. And yet in just three days all was to change. New life sprang forth in the tomb. Jesus is risen. Hope restored, the light has overcome the darkness.

It is a good time to reflect on this as we begin a new journey together both as churches in our own right and part of the larger Hartlepool and Teesside group. Some of our old ways are gone and forgotten like the annuals that flourish for a year then never to be seen again. Other things from our past, mine as well as yours, need to die for something new to happen.

Like a sturdy old apple tree, there is much in your heritage that has borne fruit over the years and will continue to do so.

Jesus when he said unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a grain of wheat, but if it dies it bears much fruit.

(John 12 v 24)

It is my prayer that this is the time when the grains begin to burst forth into life bringing new fruit to us as we seek ways of working together as a group of churches called to share the good news of Easter.

May God bless you all with resurrection hope and promise.

Happy Easter!

Yours

Sue



Dates for your Diaries

April

Sat 7 th	Induction of Rev Sue Fender to the Hartlepool and Teesside Group 3pm
Sat 14 th	Safeguarding Leads Meeting in Durham 11am
Sun 22 nd	St George's Gift Day
Mon 23 rd	Pie and Peas Supper at Thornaby Mission 7pm
Wed 23 rd	Creative responses to Dementia in Middlesbrough 9.30am

May

Fri 4 th	Preparation for Spring Fayre
Sat 5 th	Spring Fayre 9.30am
Mon 21 st	Pie and Peas Supper at Thornaby Mission 7pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings

11 April College of Further Education

25 April St Joseph's Church

9 May College of Further Education

23 May To be confirmed

These are open meetings and all are welcome to attend

Coffee Rota

APRIL	1 ST	Gail and Ashley Hoad
	8 th	Service at Grange Road
	15 th	Robert and Sheila Harrison
	22 nd	Chris and Cathie Eddowes
	29 th	Val Rigg, Margaret Welford
MAY	6 th	Will and Kaye Barlow
	13 th	Sandra Hindmarch, Brian Carter
	20 th	Janet White, Elma Welsh
	27 th	Enid and Alistair Bushnell
JUNE	3 rd	Margaret Fraser, Gillian Cartman



.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.



Project Africa Spend a penny?

The fund at the moment stands at £36.18 so thank you to everyone who is supporting us.

Please keep saving your pennies etc. so that we can spend them on our Toilet Twinning Project

Thank you,
Wyn Parkinson

The Shoe Box Appeal

The support given to this appeal has been excellent and fun but in the last 2 years we have encountered problems. We have been happy with the work of Samaritans Purse but a decision to raise the suggested contribution to £5 a box is considered to be unrealistic. As we now have no Pilots and packed up over 100 boxes we need to make the process much simpler. Therefore I am hoping to register with a new organization called Link to Hope, a Christian organization with 25 years experience with a motto "one is blessed to give and one to receive, with no strings attached". The boxes all go to Eastern Europe countries that we have previously helped.

They ask for £2 a box which I feel would be possible and we would aim to have 80 boxes to be collected. So please continue to save empty shoeboxes medium size and continue knitting and collecting the same articles as before. We would make up a family box so please save any small sachets of shampoo etc if on holiday. Watch out for more details in the next newsletter as the process of packing etc will be completely different.

Many thanks, Aileen.



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.

We have been praying together each Tuesday, either in the morning from 9am – 9.30am or in the evening from 9pm – 9.30pm for some months now, and it is good to know that while we are praying others from our church family are praying alongside us.

If you are not yet involved with this prayer circle, please do join us.

Sandra Bowls them over

On the 23rd April, Sandra Hindmarsh is representing Cleveland County in the National 4 Bowl Single's Competition at Newark in Lincolnshire.

We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to seeing the trophy we're hoping she'll win!



Hall Bookings

I would like to remind all groups and organisations that before any date is entered into the church diary, a booking MUST be made with Janet White. Just because you cannot see anything in the diary hanging the kitchen, does not mean that something has not been booked by Janet and she has not yet had the opportunity to enter it.

Adhering to this will ensure that bookings are not made of which Janet is unaware, and will also prevent double bookings occurring.

Thank you Margaret

Annual General Meeting

This meeting was postponed from Sunday 18th March and took place on Sunday 25th March.

Elders who had completed their term of office and were willing to serve for a further period, Brian Carter, May Ord and Alan Woodhall, were reappointed unanimously. Two further nominations had been received, Paul Rodgers and Gillian Rodgers. These were also appointed by the meeting. Paul was a non-serving elder, and Gillian was appointed for the first time.

The church secretary and treasurer were also reappointed for a further term. Gillian will be ordained an elder, and the others will be inducted for a further term of office at the Communion Service on Easter Sunday.

Synod meeting

The short report from the March Synod meeting is available on the table at the front of the church. Please read it and see what was discussed. It's your Synod too!

Gift Day

Our gift day this year will be on 22nd April. Those who receive their newsletter as hard copies will find an envelope enclosed. For those who receive their newsletter by email, there will be envelopes available in the church.

Elders have agreed that this year, the gifts will be placed in a plate at coffee time, when a birthday cake will be cut and served.



Thank you

Rita Jackson would like to say thank you for the cards and good wishes received on the occasion of her 90th birthday. She enjoyed celebrations in her care home with visits from family and her beloved cat Whiskers.

We have received so many cards, messages and flowers in memory of my Dad. We have been conscious of the prayers of our church family and this has helped us come to terms with our loss.

Although not a church member, my Dad loved to come to as many coffee mornings and church events as he could manage. He enjoyed a cup of coffee and a piece of cake and the fuss that the church family made of him. He attended several concerts and always enjoyed the social aspect of church life. He looked forward to seeing his church friends and liked the fact that people remembered his name and made the effort to speak to him and ask how he was.

Thank you for making my Dad feel part of the church family and for the kindness that you have shown to us.

Gillian

Spring Fayre – Saturday 5 May 2018 9.30 am – 12 noon

Please remember the Spring Fayre when you are doing your spring cleaning. We are always looking for donations and helpers for the stalls. If you could bake a cake or have items for the raffle and tombola stalls, as well as anything, new or used, for the bric-a-brac they would be gratefully received. Please let me know if you need anything collecting by car. If you can lend a hand on the day then your help would be appreciated too.

**Thank you
Gillian**



Mary Daniel was sent this by a friend and she thought we would like to share it.

Changes come, it's life-things can not always be the same
 Conditions alter-otherwise ,life would seem very tame
 So when there is an upheaval,do not resist the circumstance-
 Accept it-make the most of it. it is all a game of chance.
 But change is good for us sometimes, for we get in a rut.
 Our roots may be a long way down. but they must be cut.
 Move on and welcome changes. and no doubt in time you will see
 The change you dreaded was a God-sent opportunity
 For only outward things will change-the real things always stand
 Though life seems all confusion with distress on every hand
 The inner things remain -our principles-our faith -our love-
 The confidence that we have placed in that great power above-
 The secret places of the heart will always be secure –
 Invincible and changeless, for the word of God is sure
 Patience Strong



Data Protection.

There are changes on the way to the way in which personal data can be used and stored. Sue, Sandra, Brian and I attended a training seminar recently to learn more about how the changes will affect us all, and those of you who were at the church meeting will have learned a little about this. It means that we can no longer rely on assumed consent to use and store personal information, and this must now be obtained explicitly.

At the moment we are in the process of completing a data audit, and in the near future, we will be producing forms which you will need to sign to give us consent to use your information in various ways within the church. There will also be means by which you can consent to some area and refuse consent in others.

We will ensure that you are all kept informed.

Breaches of these regulations now need to be reported and could result in heavy fines for the church, if the breach is deemed to be serious.

Food Bank

We have recently learned from the coordinator of the food bank, that they are presently supporting around 150 people every week with emergency food.

We have recently been publishing in the service sheet items on which they are running short.

The elders talked about this at their last meeting, and agreed to bring a suggestion to the church meeting, that those of us who are able to do so, would bring at least one item each week to be donated to the food bank.

This will show our concern for the community in which we are situated, which is surely part of the mission of this church.

Your help will be greatly appreciated



You missed a good night

The Prudoe Gleemen provided a really good evening's entertainment on Saturday 24th of March with something for everyone. After the song about the Long Benton Leek, both Franks are on the look out for Chinese elephant dung! I particularly liked the one about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's go cart which I'd never heard before.

There were also some songs from the shows; particularly poignant was the one from Les Miserables, Do You Hear the People Sing. Co-incidentally, this was being sung at the same time by one of the choir member's daughter and grand daughter in a march in Daytona Beach Florida calling for an end to gun violence. It gave real meaning to the words.

There were also some rousing versions of hymns to end with. If the choir come again, please make sure you have your ticket.



News of People

This is an area which is impacted by the changes to data protection regulations.

We are no longer able to use names of those who are mentioned during meetings, whether for concerns for health, requests for prayer, or indeed good news, without with specific permission. This also applies to recording of minutes as well as listing in the newsletter.

On this occasion, all that can be recorded here is that prayers and best wishes are offered to all of our members and friends who are ill or in need of our love and prayers.

However— we have permission to tell you about:- Sandra Hindmarch will be 70 on April 10 and Patricia Simpson will be 90 on May 4. We wish them both happy significant birthdays.

We also send our love sympathy and prayers to Paul, Gillian and Emily on the death of Gillian's dad, Ken Snowdon.



Flower Donors

April 1	Mrs C Eddowes
April 8	
April 15	
April 22	Miss M Rodgers
April 29	
May 6	Mr and Mrs W White
May 13	Mrs E Welsh
May 20	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
May 27	
June 3	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		
1 st	Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
8 th	Service at Grange Road	
15 th	Kevin Hoad, Dick Fletcher	Alan Woodhall
22 nd	Sandra Hindmarch, Lewis Muldown	Brian Carter
29 th	Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
MAY		
6 th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
13 th	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Bill White
20 th	Aileen Whittaker, Dick Fletcher	Frank Whittaker
27 th	Sandra Hindmarch, Kevin Hoad	Brian Carter
JUNE		
3 rd	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell

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

Worship in St George's

April

1st 10.30am Mrs C Eddowes – Easter Day Communion Service
 8th 10.30am United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
 15th 10.30am Rev John Elliston
 22nd 10.30am Rev John Durell
 29th 10.30am Rev Sue Fender – Parade and Family Service.

May

6th 10.30am Mr John Drew Communion Service
 13th 10.30am Rev Sue Fender United Service with Grange Road
 20th 10.30am The Worship Team
 27th 10.30am Mrs C Eddowes

June

3rd 10.30am Rev B Hutchinson Communion Service



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

From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **May 27th** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

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

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



Church office

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



Newsletter Editor

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

Communion Rota

May Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall
June Paul Rodgers Gillian Rodgers
 All elders to help with clearing and washing up

Creche Rota

Apr	1	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	8	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	15	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	22	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	29	Mrs M Ord	Mrs E S Welsh
May	6	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	13	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	20	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	27	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
June	3	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
 E S Welsh