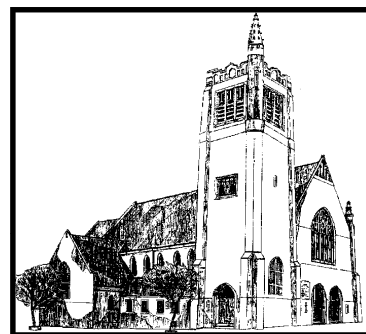




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Aug-Sept 2018



Dear Friends

Welcome to Summer! It is wonderful to see the sunshine although I know it is a little hot for some of us and the gardens like us are parched and taking time to nurture and nourish. I have just come home after four days away at the United Reformed Church General Assembly in Nottingham. Despite the lack of air conditioning and rooms that exceeded 30 degrees, we managed to complete a lot of business and enjoy worship and fellowship together.

On Friday afternoon the Revd Nigel Uden, Minister of Fulborn URC and Downing Place URC in Cambridge and Derek Estill, Elder of Westbury Gardens URC in Blackburn, were inducted as Moderators of General Assembly. Nigel preached at the opening worship, reminding us of the importance of listening – to God and to those around us as we seek the will of God for our churches today. We are invited to listen to one another's melodies, each of us adding richness to the harmony.

There was a lot of business to attend to, not least looking at the future of General Assembly, with 15 resolutions brought by the Arrangements Committee on what Assembly might look like in the future. From 2020 Assembly will become an annual event and at a central venue – possibly The Hayes, Swanick, rather than moving around as it does now.

In 1990 the URC committed itself to a Charter for Children, concerning the place of children in the URC and we affirmed our commitment to this charter. Despite the lack of children and young people in our churches, there was an excellent group of under 26-year olds who added to our discussions particularly on issues of social justice, immigration and education. Their voices are vital to the ongoing work of the church and it was a privilege to hear their passion as they spoke. They also threw a very good party on Friday night with games and a lot of laughter!

We celebrated 30 years of the Church Related Community Work programme, something close to our thoughts at St Columba's, giving thanks for the amazing work in the past and looking forward to the future.

Four churches received Community Awards, The ASK Centre in Rhyl, The Secret Garden in Northallerton, a social cafe in Stocksbridge and Trinity learning in Abingdon were recognised for their work to transform their local communities. Usually there is an overall winner, but the judges felt that all four churches have done remarkable work and deserved to win!

We had several speakers at Assembly on a range of topics. Collin Cowan from the Council for World Mission spoke of our connectedness with churches across the world. Amanda Muk-washi shared stories of her first few months as CEO of Christian Aid and the great work Christian Aid is doing in the world. Jatinder Singh Bardi spoke of the necessity for Interfaith dialogue and working together.

The days began with bible study led by Kathy White looking at the journey's of Abram, Moses and Isaiah and how we are called to Walk the Way today. Worship was lively and thought provoking.

There will be more information in Reform in September and if you are on Facebook the URC Communications department has a page where daily round-ups are available to read.

Enjoy your Summer!

Best wishes

Sue

Dates for your Diaries

August

Sun 26th 12.30pm, Baptism after Morning Worship – please stay to make the church promises.

September

Mon 10th Elders Meeting 10am – venue to be confirmed.

Sat 15th Elders Away day - 9.30am – 1.30pm at Belle Vue Centre Kendal Road

Sun 16th Church Meeting after Morning Worship

Sat 29th Responding to Congregational Trauma Course 9.30am at St James Church Newcastle

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings

22 August Oxford Road Baptist Church

12 September Hartlepool College of Further Education

26 September Stranton Church

Coffee Rota

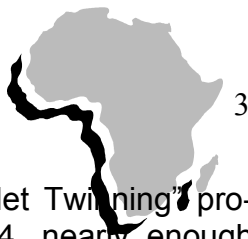
AUGUST	5 th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell
	12 th	Service at Grange Road
	19 th	Chris and Cathie Eddowes
	26 th	Elma Welsh, Val Rigg
SEPTEMBER	2 nd	Margaret Fraser, Gillian Cartman
	9 th	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
	16 th	Robert and Sheila Harrison
	23 rd	Margaret Welford, Rose Hastings
	30 th	Gail and Ashley Hoad
OCTOBER	7 th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell

.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

The total for our "Toilet Twinning" programme stands at £111.04, nearly enough for 2 toilets. Can we make it to 3 by Christmas? (Did I hear you say "Yes we can"?) I hope so.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our appeal. Please, please keep saving your pennies etc.
Wyn Parkinson

Shoebox Appeal 2018

We are keen to support the Link to Hope appeal so please continue to ask friends and save medium sized shoeboxes. The usual articles are required plus candles, holders, shampoo etc under 300ml, plasters, socks and tights. A more comprehensive list is on the church notice board and in the cafe. Sweets need to be in date until June 20019.

Boxes will be packed gradually on Thursday mornings during Hobbies from September. Please come and help all are welcome .The final checking and covering will be on October 18th at 6pm ready for dedication at the end of October. Boxes and gifts to be placed in the box under the table in church entrance.

We will need £2 per box to send them so any donations will be very welcome.
Aileen Whittaker.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our harvest celebration will be held on Sunday September 30th. As always we will be supporting Commitment for Life, and donation envelopes will be available in the church in the weeks before this.

The church will be open to receive items to decorate the church and volunteer helpers will be very welcome. The time will be announced nearer the time.



Data Protection.

Thank you for returning these forms. I have now received all of them

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so willingly to the food bank over the last few months.

However, information received over the last couple of days reveals that the demand on their services is such that their stocks of food are running low, and that the staff are needing to buy food items to maintain their stocks at a reasonable level.

Some of the food bank trustees are doing a sponsored 10,000 feet parachute jump on September 1st at 12noon at the Skydive Academy Peterlee Parachute Centre.

They have provided details of how people can sponsor them via their web page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/Hartlepool-foodbank-sky-dive>. Sponsor forms are available from the food bank.

Thank You

Dear Members and Friends of St George's, please accept my very grateful thanks for your donations, given to support several Ex-service Charities, on completion of the Coast-to-Coast walk from Workington in Cumbria to Hartlepool done by my son, Russell, and seven other friends at the end of June.

The walkers arrived in Hartlepool very tired and footsore to say the least, but all were pleased to have completed the challenge successfully to help the chosen charities.

Thank you for responding to my appeal a few weeks ago with such kindness and generosity.

Love to everyone,
Elma



The snake in the river

Have you heard the story about the big snake in the river? Zimbabwe folklore says that you must ask permission from the snake to use the water in the river otherwise it will destroy your garden. There is no big snake in the year-long free flowing river next to the Mthombowe-sizwe Garden project in Insiza district, South West Zimbabwe, but there is evidence of much hard work.

The garden project started in 2011 with the help of ZimPro, a Christian Aid partner. There are thirty-one people in the project, all with different stories to tell. Of those thirty-one, twenty-two are women and nine men. They all work together but each have their own strips of land.

Originally, it was set up as a nutritional project but now the yields are such that they have food left over to sell at local markets, schools and mines. They grow a wide variety of crops including carrot, butternut squash, onion, beetroot, spinach, okra, choumoliar, and beans for their own consumption. Selling the surplus has enabled some of them to build up small goat herds. They are then able to sell, barter or pass on the offspring and use this money for essentials.

Medelina spoke of the problem of animals getting in before they had the garden. Working with ZimPro, they realised a fence would make all the difference, so they were helped to erect a wood fence. "We get enough to pay for what we need and send our children to school because we can pay the school fees. We sell in local markets or we barter. Our lives have changed, even our children's lives have changed and our houses too. Now we have plenty to eat and people are healthier." Medelina wants a bigger garden so they can do more. At present, each person has four strips but imagine what they could do if they had six or eight strips.

This garden relies on the stream running very close to the plot. This is where they take the portable solar pump, get water and pump it to a large tank in the garden. It then gets sent to four troughs dotted around the plot, where they use buckets to water the crops making life much easier. All the group members were thankful for the help and support of ZimPro that has made such a difference to their lives.

Modern Day Slavery

Several of us from St George's attended an afternoon session led by Mother Gamma of St Aidan's Church and a retired police officer, who works with Hope for Justice, to learn a little more about modern day slavery.

We learned a great deal in the space of just a couple of hours about the various forms of slavery – amongst which was the startling statistic that there are more slaves now than there has ever been in our history!

We were asked to "follow our gut instinct" and report anything which does not seem to be quite right. We were given a telephone number to use to report suspicions, and those who have a smart phone were given the information to download an app to help identify safe car washes. The phone number is: Modern day Slavery Tel; 08000121700 The app which can be downloaded is: safe car wash.

Only young people under the age of 18 can be automatically referred to safeguarding teams, those over that age must give their consent.

Very often, those who have been enslaved are afraid of the police and other agencies and need to adjust to their new situation when they have been rescued.

Margaret has a booklet produced by Hope for Justice which anyone interested can borrow – but please ensure that this is returned when you have finished with it.



Valerie Waite

It's a real privilege to have put together people's memories of Valerie. Notice "Valerie" and never Val. When Val Towler became our minister, it was suggested that there might be confusion. "No," said Valerie, "She's Val, I'm Valerie." And I would like to thank everybody for their help, particularly Mary Daniel, who knew her for 43 years.

Valerie's time in Hartlepool, and especially here at St. George's, goes back much further than this. She was born in Kent and moved here with her parents and sister around 1948. Her father worked for Siemens at their factory in Woolwich and was transferred here when their new factory opened in 1948. They lived in Chez Nous Avenue on Stockton Road in the Foggy Furze part of town.

She started work in local government but she went to do her Teacher Training in 1961. She taught for many years at Grange Primary. She never married, but spent a lot of her time working- and playing- with children. Paul Humberston remembers her when he started coming here in 1966. A part of joining the Saturday night "youthy" was attending church and he first met Valerie as she was a Sunday School teacher along with Margaret Rodgers and Brenda Culley (Storer). Winnie White was the Sunday School Leader.

Valerie and Joyce and Eric Wallis introduced the 'Pilots' to St George's in 1962 and many of St. George's youngsters have been members over the years. When Joyce and Eric left Valerie became Pilot Captain, something she carried on for many years, receiving her long service award for 20 years as Captain.

Geoff Rodgers sent his memories of this time:-

"Miss Waite (Valerie) was my Pilot Officer from childhood, through adolescence and into early adulthood. Along with her lovely sister, they ran the Hartlepool St George's Pilot Company with class, discipline and fun. Despite what many might consider an "old fashioned outlook" Valerie always embraced the new and was always open to modern ideas. She took us away on Summer Camps, ventures to the Burn Valley, "voyages" around the world and never failed to fully participate in everything that was happening. I can still hear her yelling "npuki ekali" (all change) in the Hall and quieter games of Contraband, when the Junior Pilots had gone home.

For me however, my fondest memories are from the time after I'd learned to play the guitar competently enough to perform publicly and it was at Pilot Camp, where, along with Mini Musicals jointly written by Valerie and Nigel (Ross), we performed a few unlikely music hall duets such as "Cinderella Rockafella" and "Who wants to be a Millionaire." Always hilarious, always well received and most of all a legacy of the faith Valerie placed in me throughout my Pilot years.

I know that Valerie and all her extended family, Mum and Dad, Sister and Husband, Niece and Nephew, had a great influence upon me at that time and are very responsible for me working within the Church for many years. Thank you Miss Waite."

When the United Reformed Church came into being in 1972, a new youth group, FURY, was formed and Valerie was instrumental in getting many of our young people involved.

As well as working with the youth of the church, Valerie had many other roles. She was a long standing elder of the church until recently when she became non-serving due to ill health. She was a member of St. George's choir, singing alto and she always had her full music copy of *Rejoice and Sing* with her in church. She was a member of the World Church and Mission Committee and, in later years, its convenor. She took over as minutes secretary when Margaret was busy doing her degree. She was a member of the prayer group and was on the Bible reading rota until recently. She helped in the church shop and Gail remembers her sitting waiting for customers, busy knitting socks. Her feet always looked so comfortable in them.

Oh, and she was also the Chief Shoe Box Inspector on the shoebox packing nights! In fact, I can't think of any aspect of church life that Valerie wasn't involved with.

My main relationship with Valerie was through the Worship Team. This was founded over 35 years ago in a vacancy and, although Valerie didn't join at first, due, I think, to having to look after one of her parents, she soon joined and became a very active member. She was really useful as she knew her Bible thoroughly and always knew where a passage came from and anything associated with it. In fact, she was always a fount of all knowledge, and few quizzes stumped her.

She was always willing to do the "children's address", now known as "family time" and her teaching experience came in useful. She was always willing to take part in sketches and I remember a very silly one she found that she and I did on the subject of sheep and goats. However, her "tour de force" came in a nativity sketch which no-one who saw it will ever forget. Valerie played the part of Mrs Shepherd, the wife of Mr Shepherd, one of the shepherds visited by the angels. The poor man was trying to tell her about it but couldn't get a word in. Dick Fletcher, Mr Shepherd, looked like a goldfish as Valerie nagged for England. We were very glad it was acting and not type-casting.

She always helped me when I was doing my TLS training and became part of my support group doing useful things like asking if I'd done my essays yet! She also became part of my guinea pig group who tried out things I was doing in my Performing Arts in Worship course. Emily Rodgers was the youngest and Valerie the oldest, but they both had a good go with the others at liturgical dance, even performing in a service.

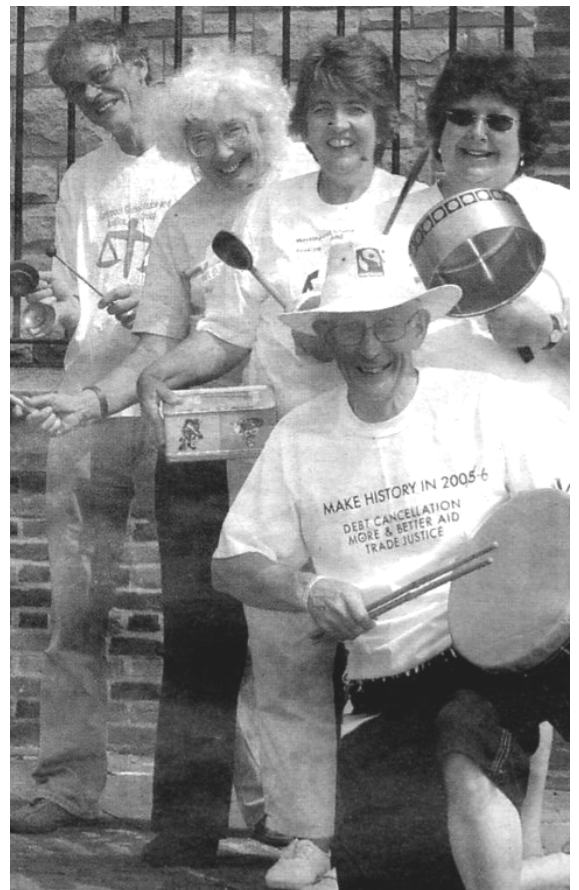
We all have our own memories of Valerie and I hope we will all be sharing them after the service when we have a cup of tea- decaff, always for her. She was a terrible passenger in a car, driving herself as long as she could, and starting to do so after her recent bad health. She was claustrophobic and always stood outside the ministers' vestry when the worship team met before church. The window I painted for her didn't work. This was evidently a hang-over from the black-outs in the last war.

She was a whizz at games, particularly Scrabble- she was too good for me and enjoyed playing to the end. We can be thankful that she was able to stay in her own home and that she enjoyed life to the last- she was at the recent afternoon party with silly games. Of course, Valerie was also well known for her love of border terriers and she loved taking them for walks. She was helped in this as increasingly she found getting out difficult, by friends Peter and Joan Scrafton and Peter and Dorothy Downer. We are all grateful to Valerie's friend and neighbour, Peter, who brought her to church and fetched her afterwards and took her beloved dog for walks twice a day. Thank you for making her life as normal as possible for as long as possible. I think it was important to her that she stayed in her own home.

It was a shock for us all to lose Valerie, but we can be grateful that we knew her and that her own faith has had such an influence greater than she would ever have thought. Mary said she had a well lived life and, to echo Geoff, thank you, Miss Waite.

Memories of Valerie Waite from her memorial service held in St George's.

Valerie(second left) in her protest days!



I asked Ash to tell us about how she came to do so well at the end of her degree course at the CCAD (Cleveland College of Art and Design) and here it is:

From Ashley Hoad

I guess you could say that everything started when we broke up for the summer at the end of my second year at CCAD. I'd made the decision that I wanted to draw people and I wanted to draw them well. Before this, I'd mostly been concentrating on animals. For four months, I tried to sketch every day and by the time I went back to uni as a third year student, I'd completely changed my art style. It earned me a lot of praise and encouragement from both my lecturers and fellow students, which led me to doing a portrait based project for my FMP.

My project was centred on creating a fantasy concept for one of my favourite Korean pop groups. Not only had I pursued a subject I was new at for my final project, but I'd also decided to do it completely digitally, a technique that I'd only ever experimented with once before. As it turned out, I had a natural talent for it and I ended up creating the kind of art work that I'd always aimed to do.

The chain of good events really began when I was personally asked by my lecturers to showcase in our final degree exhibition down in London (a position others had to pitch themselves for) and continued with an email informing me that I'd been nominated for two awards and that I was to attend an award ceremony along side two of my peers. The real highlight, however, was when myself and three other students were called up to the lecturers' office for a meeting. It was then that we were informed that a large company dealing with photo-editing software had offered us jobs straight out of uni after coming to see our exhibition. It was an amazing opportunity and we were all stunned to learn of the offer. I'd never imagined that this was where my art would get me.

The following months were full of hectic preparation and communicating with our soon-to-be bosses until the day of the award ceremony where I ended up winning the Progression award along side a personal gift (a framed print of a taxidermy falcon I had been obsessed with during my first year at uni; his name was Harold) from my lecturers. From there it was interviews with newspapers and graduating with a 2:1 in Illustration for Commercial Application and a degree in my pocket (the gowns were super uncomfortable and both mum and Tarryn cried at the ceremony).

With that all over, I now work from the comfort of my own home at my new job and with plans to attend art conventions next year with my friends from uni. I guess you could say things turned out pretty good for me.

Left: Ash with sister Tarryn

Right: Ash and Harold!

Well done! We're proud of you.



Church Register

Deaths We all mourn the sudden death in June of Valerie Waite. She was a much loved member of the church and we miss her greatly. We extend our sympathy to Elaine and Howard and their families.

Weddings and Baptisms There have been no weddings or baptisms during the last two months.



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

The Daily Devotion

Every morning the United Reformed Church sends out a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, short reflection and prayer to around 2,500 people. The reflections are written by a range of people from different places and perspectives - mainly from the URC. If you'd like to read old Devotions or sign up to receive them each morning please go to devotions.urc.org.uk

News of People

We wish Lewis well as he moves to Wales for a few months at the end of August to take up a job there for a few months.

Some of our members and friends have been a bit under the weather recently. We remember them and hope they are soon feeling much better.

Grahame Burgon will be 60 on 11 August . Happy Birthday, Grahame!



Flower Donors

August 5	Mrs M Daniel
August 12	Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
August 19	Mrs C Eddowes
August 26	Mr & Mrs A Ord
September 2	
September 9	Mrs G Cartman
September 16	
September 23	Mrs S Twist
September 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
AUGUST	5th	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	12th	Service at Grange Road	
	19th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	26th	Paul Humberston, Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
SEPTEMBER	2nd	Sandra Hindmarch, Dick Fletcher	Brian Carter
	9th	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Bill White
	16th	Paul Humberston, Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	23rd	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	30th	Sandra Hindmarch, Dick Fletcher	Brian Carter
OCTOBER	7th	Aileen Whittaker, Kevin Hoad	Frank Whittaker

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

Worship in St George's**August**

5th 10.30am Mrs C Eddowes and Mr Bill white – Communion Service
 12th 10.30am United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
 19th 10.30am Mrs Jan Harper
 26th 10.30am Rev John Durell

September

2nd 10.30am Rev B Hutchinson - Communion Service
 9th 10.30am Junior Worship Team with Rev Sue Fender - United Service with Grange Road
 16th 10.30am Mrs Judith Wynn
 23rd 10.30am Rev Ruth Crofton
 30th 10.30am Mrs M Jones – Harvest Thanksgiving.

October

7th 10.30am Group Service at St Andrew and St George's Church Stockton.

This will be a Communion Service conducted by Rev S Fender. **There will not**

be a service in St George's that morning.

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 **Sept 30th** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

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 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986

HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD

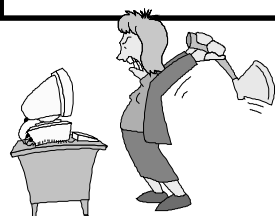
Mrs J White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
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St George's Regular Activities

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

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**Newsletter Editor**

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Communion Rota

Sept Mr A Woodhall Mrs B Woodhall
Oct Mr P Rodgers Mrs G Rodgers

All elders to help with clearing up.

Creche Rota

Aug	5	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	12	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	19	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	26th	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs M Ord
Sept	2	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	9	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	16	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	23	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	30	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs M Ord
Oct	7	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	14	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
 E S Welsh