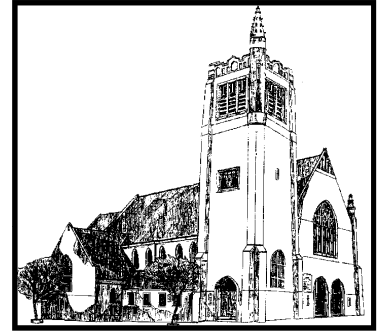


# **Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Dec 2016-Jan 2017**



Dear Friends,

Once again we are in the wonderful season of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the light in Jesus Christ, born a child in such humble circumstances. For the people at the heart of the story, it was a dangerous and difficult time – Rome brought many good things – but occupation was not one of them – and they lived in great sadness, hoping that one day the Messiah would come, and through him, God would walk alongside them. Rome had been clever allowing them to worship with limits, but they were ruthless, because they tried to kill hope in the hearts of the people.

Times were uncertain and frightening – what would the future bring? And yet a few people quietly watched and waited and held onto hope, and prayed that change would come. Among them the people at the heart of the Christmas story, Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and Elizabeth, not knowing what that change would bring. And it was to them that the messenger of God brought the good news. The nativity story is a blend of the gospels of Matthew and Luke and they share the story of that first Christmas with us.

We are relative late comers to the festival of Christmas, as the shops have been filled for some time with cards, gifts and decorations. The brightly lit windows urge us to spend. If we love someone, they tell us, we MUST buy this gift! Now the internet plays a huge part, and we are encouraged to buy 'on-line.' But is the financial value of the gift of any importance whatever, or is it the joy of knowing someone has chosen something with thought and knowledge of us, something we need, or will cherish.

So in this time of Advent, we recall the past, which is usually filled with joys and sadness. Each of our lives has changed in some way and we come to Christmas with either joy or sadness in our hearts. Maybe you know uncertainty or have a positive outlook. But above all we have a deep hope for the future, and pray for peace, and a time of well being, for all God's world and his people. In love, God gave us a precious gift, his Son, who brought life and light into the hearts of so many people who have accepted him.

May this Advent be a time of thoughtful preparation, and as we celebrate the gift of Jesus this Christmas, may you, and your families, know his peace, his joy and his deep love in your hearts.

With many blessings,

Margaret and Ken Harris



## Dates for your Diaries

### December

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup>** Mums the Word Christmas Concert 7pm Tickets £5 Adults £2 Children  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** Eldon Grove School Christmas Concerts – Stewards required – see Brian if you can help.  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>, Sat 17<sup>th</sup>** Evening Rehearsals and **Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Afternoon** Rehearsal for Concert on 18<sup>th</sup>  
**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>** Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir Christmas Concert 4.30pm Tickets £4

### January

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup>** 10am Elders' Meeting

### Churches Together

8am Prayer Meetings: 14 December College of Further Education  
 11 January College of Further Education  
 25 January To be confirmed

### Coffee Rota

DECEMBER	-	4-11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Sandra Hindmarch Service at Grange Road Janet White, Wyn Parkinson, Margaret Welford
JANUARY	-	1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Gail, Tarryn and Ashley Hoad Andrew and Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings Paul, Gillian Rodgers, Dick Fletcher Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Kathie Thompson Aileen and Frank Whittaker, Gillian Cartman
FEBRUARY	-	5 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	Robert and Sheila Harrison, Val Rigg Service at Grange Road Chris and Cathie Eddowes, Brian Carter Will and Kaye Barlow, 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

## SHOEBOXES

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way to pack up 102 boxes which are now on their way to Eastern Europe to needy children who otherwise would not have any presents. A staggering 100 hats and scarves and 80 mitts or gloves have been knitted during the year. So please continue to save medium size shoeboxes and let's continue with the good work that Samaritans Purse does all over the world. Hartlepool children also benefitted as 2 large bags of items such as baby clothes were donated to them. Many thanks Aileen



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

## Reminder

The offering for the December Benevolent Fund will be donated to "Maggie's" a charity which supports cancer sufferers

## Annual Reports

Sorry to upset those of you who are still doing your Christmas Shopping and other preparations for the Christmas period, but: Please can you ensure that all Annual Reports for groups and organisations are with me by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Margaret

## PROJECT AFRICA

The total for 'Friends of Bethel Nursery School' and 'Khanyisa Trust' Project is £394-98p.

Newsletters about the work of the above are on the Notice Board in the Hall.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us and please keep saving your pennies etc.

Christmas blessings to you all.

Wyn Parkinson



## Israel Palestine Observer

Those of you who were at Synod in St George's heard a short report from Andy Lie about his experiences in Israel and Palestine. Andy is our Ecumenical Officer in Northern Synod and he was privileged to spend three months (Dec15-Feb16) as an Ecumenical Accompanier/human rights observer with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

The second part of his programme is to go and tell churches and groups about what he saw there. The Hartlepool Global Peace and Justice Group have invited Andy to come along to their meeting on 13th Feb in St George's to give a slide presentation and question and answer session. This will be an open meeting so all are invited to come along and hear about Andy's experiences.



## ROMANIA SCHOOL TRIP

Following the very kind donations from members and friends Abbie departed on her school trip and I received the following note and photos on her return. She was overwhelmed by the kind donations received.

Sandra Twist

The school go to Romania every two years working with the charity People against Poverty.

My team raised just under £7,000 which was way above our target! We were working on a farm and because of the extra money we raised we not only managed to build a poly tunnel get a barn for storage, finish off the farmer's house and build a mill! The farm will benefit the whole community not just the particular family who owns it.

If you want to know about the man who lives there his name is John August. He is called this because he was found in a rubbish bin as a baby and John was a common name and also he was found in August. He grew up in an orphanage, did not get a good education and was homeless from a very young age. The charity that I went out with found him and over the last few years we have built him a home, bought livestock and he is now one of the most popular members of his community.

I've attached some photos from my trip. It was amazing, I enjoyed every bit of it! Please say thank you to everyone at church for their donations!



### Sheila Deacon

At Sheila's funeral it was good to hear stories from Sheila's past from her brother and Tim, her son, I knew that she had been a "biker chick" but not that she rowed for Durham University and many other interesting aspects. She stayed with a friend of Tim and Carol's who is a URC minister and his comment was "Hasn't your mother done interesting things".

I spoke about the Sheila that I, and many people in town, knew- and here's what I said.

I first met Sheila when I went to teach at Brierton and Sheila ran the school office. She scared me! And I wasn't the only one who found her intimidating- beware if you wanted too many paper clips!

We worked on different sites so I lost track of her when she retired, but it was at Brierton that she met Elsie Grainger who became her friend and neighbour and who also brought her along to St. George's where she made her spiritual home.

Sheila joined Hartlepool Mencap but they already knew her from her work with them in Middlesbrough. She soon became the Chairman and her business sense meant that she found grants and other helpful information for them. After time she swapped roles and became the local secretary. The local Mencap group went from strength to strength until she retired in her early 70s. Many people with disabilities still stop Ida in the street to ask how she is. She will never be forgotten while they are around. Wherever Sheila went and joined- she became involved and was always welcome because of her minute taking abilities and talent for organisation.

At St. George's she became an elder- and took the minutes at meetings. She joined the Worship team- and took notes about what we decided. She became involved in Town Centre churches together- and took the minutes, Townwide Churches together- and took the minutes. If there is a vacancy in heaven for a recording angel, you can bet Sheila is already on the job.

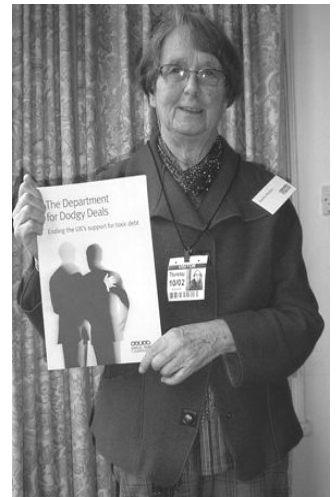
She not only took the minutes but was so organised, she always kept everyone right. She was so organised that when her hearing made it difficult to keep up with minute taking, she made sure she had lined up a successor and she did it so cleverly you didn't realise she'd conned you into the job.

I am eternally grateful particularly that Sheila was one of the founding members of the Hartlepool Global Peace and justice Group. A group of us got involved with the Jubilee Debt campaign and we travelled far and wide protesting- Birmingham, Cologne, Italy... After the trip to Italy we decided to set up a group and it was Sheila who invited Dr David Goulding to our first meeting and this set us on our way to dropping the debt and making poverty history. Sheila was passionate about the causes and her organising skills were much in demand- particularly by me. Sheila always had the date, telephone number or address which I had lost.

She became very involved in making Hartlepool a Fairtrade Town, writing to and meeting with our MP, organising rotas and serving in the Cornerstone- even in the week she died. If something was happening in St. George's Sheila was there baking bara brith or knitting hats for sailors. She was a born volunteer and was always there. We will miss her very much.

Now this makes Sheila sound very worthy- she was but she was also very young at heart, kept up with the times and had a lovely sense of humour with a mischievous smile and a lovely chuckle. She never regarded herself as old. Once on the tube in London when we had gone to a protest, someone offered her a seat. She accepted but turned to me and said "Do I look old?" "You are old," I said. She agreed ruefully, but I don't think she believed it - and she did leave a lot of us younger ones trailing in her wake.

Organised, helpful, a minute taker par excellence- yes. But I'm also pleased and honoured to say she was my friend.



### 35<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group

The Beavers have recently completed their 'Health and Fitness' badge. This involved learning about 'healthy eating' and the importance of exercise. They are now undertaking their 'Promise Challenge' where teamwork involves helping each other to learn the Beavers' Promise and they will also individually undertake to help at home or perhaps at their grandparents'. The Beavers enjoy playing games and will be making Christmas decorations.



The Cubs have completed their 'Environmental Conservation' badge and have been presented with their badges. They are now working on the 'Our skills badge' which has several different parts, eg sewing on a button, ironing a necker, taking part in reading aloud from a script. They also enjoy playing games.

During the summer, the Scouts joined with those from other districts at Fordell Firs, just north of Edinburgh, to camp for a week. Although the weather was mixed it did not stop their enjoyment of the planned activities. New members who have recently joined Scouts are being helped by the existing members to learn the Law and the Promise.

The Cubs and Scouts recently went to Ravengill for a weekend camp. (Not under canvas). The theme was the country of China. A good time was had by all despite the wet weather.

New members are welcome. Contact [davidbrcarter@hotmail.com](mailto:davidbrcarter@hotmail.com) or telephone 07766077677

### I know the feeling!

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her nursery pupils put his boots on?

He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing the boots still didn't want to go on. When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Miss, they're on the wrong feet."

She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on – this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" as she wanted. One again she struggled to help him pull off the ill-fitting boots. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My mum made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry.

She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

.....Ever had one of those days?



### **Zimbabwe Peace Project**

Christian Aid partner Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) collects information on human rights abuses based on reports from ZPP long-term community based human rights monitors, who observe and record cases of human rights violations in the constituencies in which they reside. ZPP deploys a total of 420 community-based primary peace monitors (two in each of the 210 electoral constituencies of Zimbabwe). The monitors compile reports that are then consolidated at the national office into the ZPP Monthly Monitoring Report.

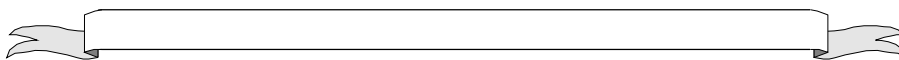
### **Silveira House**

Commitment for Life has supported Silveira House on the outskirts of Harare for 25 years. Through the partnership with Christian Aid, Silveira House has developed into an effective Church-based organisation that carries out a number of poverty reduction, local development, peace building and women/youth empowerment projects. It has built strong relationships with government ministries, local district councils and local NGOs. Furthermore, it has developed good relationships with polytechnic colleges and the ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, both of which now offer accreditation to our beneficiaries trained in technical vocational skills.

The partnership with Christian Aid has also helped Silveira House to transform the lives of thousands of poor people over the years. In the past 15 years or so, support from Christian Aid enabled the organisation to navigate the country's economic challenges, by continuously supporting organisational development and support. With support from Christian Aid and others, Silveira House has developed from having a special focus on peace building and advocacy, to a wider, multi-sectoral and more effective program that has;

- Built the capacity of thousands of unemployed poor people with technical skills for employment and income generation.
- Accompanied and empowered communities to influence changes in local and national level policies on labour, small enterprise development (formal and informal)
- Contributed significantly to building peace and managing socio-political conflicts.

One distinct achievement of Silveira House has been the official recognition in the constitution and in schools, of minority groups and minority languages like Tonga and Venda. These are now taught in primary schools and some teacher training colleges are now training teachers for that.



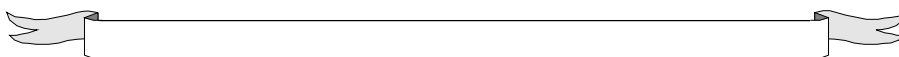
### **Church Register**

#### **Deaths**

Mrs Sheila Deacon  
Mr Alan Rodgers

#### **Baptisms**

Arthur James McIntosh - son of Rachael  
and James





### **Mum's the Word**

The Christmas season gets a boost with a concert by Mum's the Word on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm This is a very popular choir made up of- you've guessed it- mums.

There will be festive songs followed by refreshments- mulled wine and mince pies- all guaranteed to foster the glow of Christmas. Tickets, £5 for adults and £2 for children, are available from the Cornerstone Coffee shop in St. George's buildings or you can pay at the door



# Mum's the Word

**Some bad cracker jokes to get you in the mood!**

**Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?**

Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

**What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?**

He got 25 days!

**What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?**

A Holly Davidson!

**What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?**

A Christmas Quacker!

**What is the best Christmas present in the world?**

A broken drum, you just can't beat it!



**A VERY HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS TO  
YOU ALL FROM  
THE NEWSLETTER  
PRODUCTION  
TEAM**



## News of People

We remember Tim and Carol and the friends of Sheila Deacon as they mourn her loss.

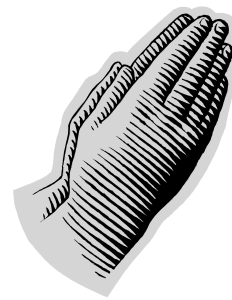
We also think of Paul, Gillian, Emily and Margaret Rodgers as they mourn the loss of Alan Rodgers.

We will miss both of them greatly, and they will be a big miss in our fellowship.

We remember those of our members are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery, amongst them: Valerie Waite, Cathy Thompson, and Graham Burgon. Several folk are in hospital, while others are waiting for tests or the result of tests, amongst them Margaret Goulding, and Rita Jackson, Richard Eddowes, and Sylvia Turnbull. We remember them all in our prayers.

Some good news - we congratulate Lewis Muldown who has been winning more Medals as he represents his country and Europe in championships.

And congratulations to Aileen and Frank on the birth of their new grandson, Joseph



## Flower Donors

### Flower Donors

December 4	Mrs M Mudd
December 11	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall
December 18	
December 25	
January 1	
January 8	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
January 15	
January 22	
January 29	Mrs S Harrison



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

## Stewards Rota

### Stewards

### Keys

December 4	Mrs E.Bushnell Mr P.Humberston	Mr A.Bushnell Mr G Parkinson	Mr W.White
December 11	At Grange Road		
December 18	Mr K Hoad Mr R. Fletcher	Mr A Fraser Mrs G. Hoad	Mr P.Humberston
December 24	Mr A. Bushnell	Mrs E. Bushnell	Mr A. Woodhall
December 25	Mr K.Hoad	Mr R. Fletcher	Mr P Humberston
January 1 2017	Mr A.Bushnell Mr P Humberston	Mrs E.Bushnell Mr. G Parkinson	Mr A.Fraser
January 8	Mrs G.Hoad Mr A.Fraser	Miss A .Hoad Mr F.Whittaker	Mr G.Parkinson
January 15	Mr A.Bushnell Mr W.White	Mrs E.Bushnell Mr R.Fletcher	Mr P.Humberston
January 22	Mrs G.Hoad Mr R.Fletcher	Miss A.Hoad Mr G.Parkinson	Mr A.Fraser
January 29	Mr K.Hoad Mr A.Fraser	Mr F.Whittaker Mr P.Humberston	Mr W.White
February 5	Mr A.Bushnell Mr R.Fletcher	Mrs E.Bushnell Mr G.Parkinson	Mr F.Whittaker

If you are unable to 'steward' a date, please 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

### December

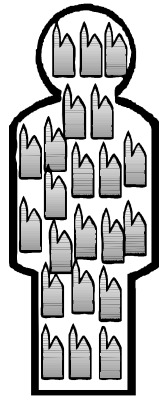
4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes & Mr A Woodhall – Communion Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Nativity Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service – Mr W & Mrs J White
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30am</b>	Christmas Morning Worship – Mr P & Mrs G Rodgers

### January

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes – Communion Service
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr Brian Johnson
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Judith Winn
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Mrs M Jones
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	The Worship Team

### February

5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr I Smith - Communion Service
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### 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 **Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** 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
	6.30pm	Beaver and 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

Elders in bold please set up the Communion Table.  
Other elders please help to clear at the end

<b>Jan</b>	<b>Alan Woodall</b>	<b>Betty Woodhall</b>
	Moyra Mudd	Andrew Fraser
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Bill White</b>	<b>Janet White</b>
	Brian Carter	May Ord

### Creche Rota

Dec	4	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	11	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	18	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	25	Mrs M Ord	Mrs T Kirkpatrick
Jan	1	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	8	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	15	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	22	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	29	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Feb	5	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	12	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend  
E S Welsh