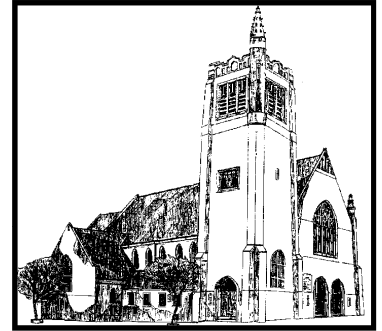




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

Dec 2017-Jan 2018



If you noticed it was quiet round here last week, it was because I was spending the week at Keld looking at "Trajectories for Transforming Church". I'll let you know what it was about when I've got my head round it!

I hadn't driven to Keld for over 20 years, but felt that I could remember the road and checked on the road map- it was over-egging the pudding to use a sat nav- yes, just as I remembered.

The first change was at Scotch Corner. How to find the road to Richmond through the cones? Luckily there wasn't much traffic and the weather was clear and bright- much too bright on the wet bits of road, if I'm honest. On to Richmond, yes that looked right, turn right by the theatre, yes, this was all coming back.

Now I knew that it's an hour to Keld, no matter what, as the road is too winding and upsy-downsy to go fast. This time, though, the road seemed so long. I didn't remember quite so many buildings which look to be in the middle of the road or that the road crossed the river quite so many times. I passed through all the settlements and villages I remembered- and quite a few I didn't. Could this be what happens when you get older? I wondered.

Eventually I reached Keld, I'd forgotten how sharp the turn was- it took a three point turn to get back on the main road again. I checked in, went to find my room at the Keld Lodge (food's wonderful) and went to go back to my car to find- a puncture! A guardian angel appeared- a trainee minister who in a former life changed tyres for a living!

The weather for most of the week was atrocious; we were cut off by floods from Hawes and the puddle in the road down to the centre was so deep that every-body climbed into cars for the few yards.

On the last morning, Friday, it had stopped raining and we woke to find the world white with ice. The car door was frozen and I had to scrape ice from the *inside* of the windscreen. The sun was out and it was a "see 7 counties" day. Wonderful! As the owner of the Lodge said "God's terrific at scenery."

I decided to go home via Kirkby Stephen, a road I'd never been on before, but I knew the route from the main road. Luckily I didn't encounter many cars, just a herd of sheep hurtling down the road followed by the shepherd. I just sat still and waited for the woolly flood to pass. The road was exhausting and difficult, mainly because I wanted to look at the views- not advised.

The road home from Kirkby Stephen was familiar- the usual way home from Windermere, and once having rounded Scots Corner again, plain sailing.

Is my journey a metaphor for life? I'll leave it to you, but the big hug and cries of "Granny, Granny" were wonderful. I'll be happy if my final going home is as welcoming.

*Chris*



**Dates for your Diaries****December**

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Film Night with Pie and Peas 4.30pm

17<sup>th</sup> Concert by Former Members of Hartlepool Youth Choir 4.30pm. Tickets £4

**January**

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> 3-pm- 4pm guidance session on Dementia Friendly Church Status

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> St George's Christmas Party - more details later

**CHURCHES TOGETHER**

8am Prayer Meetings:	13 December	College of Further Education
	10 January	College of Further Education
	24 January	Headland Baptist Church

**.WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - JANUARY 2018**

Sun 21 United Service at 3.00pm at Owton Manor Baptist Church

Join in a shared time of prayer followed by at soup lunch at 12 noon each day

Mon 22 Oxford Road Baptist Church

Tues 23 St Thomas More's RC Church

Wed 24 Stranton Parish Church – to be held at St Matthew's Hall, Elwick Road

Thurs 25 St George's URC

Fri 26 Church of the Nazarene

These are open services and all are welcome to attend

**Coffee Rota**

DECEMBER	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Val Rigg, Rose Hastings
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Grange Road
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Hindmarch, Brian Carter
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Chris and Cathie Eddowes
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Gail and Ashley Hoad
JANUARY	7 <sup>TH</sup>	Gillian Cartman, Elma Welsh
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Janet White, Wynn Parkinson
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Welford, Margaret Fraser
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Alistair and Enid Bushnell
FEBRUARY	4 <sup>th</sup>	Paul and Gillian Rodgers



.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 the Samaritan's purse "Turn on the Tap" Appeal stands at £162.76. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this project and please, please keep saving your coppers etc.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas  
Wyn Parkinson



### 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.

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

The Beavers are currently working on their Disability Awareness Badge. They have discussed different disabilities and have drawn posters to raise awareness about disabled people in the community. They have learnt to sign their names by using the British Sign Language Finger Spelling Alphabet, which also links in with their Communication Badge which they have already completed. During the next few weeks they will be making Christmas decorations and calendars.

The Cubs are currently working towards their Artist Badge. The first stage involved using shaving foam and food colouring to coat sheets of paper, which, when dried, had achieved a 'marbling' effect. In the second stage, these sheets were used to cover some of the church Junior Praise hymn books, which had become rather worn.

During the summer, the Scouts visited Hartlepool Yacht Club to engage in sailing activities.

Since then, they have studied Fire Safety, First Aid, and devised Fund Raising ideas. Their latest activity was discussing their hobbies. Some of the Scouts have taken up a new additional hobby as a result of these discussions.

## Our Incoming Minister

As you all know, following a successful visit Rev Sue Fender accepted a call to the Hartlepool and Teesside Group of Churches.

I thought that some of you might like to know a little bit more about her as a person.

Sue is 53 years old. She is married to Alex and they have two children, a son who lives in Newcastle and a daughter who recently married and lives in Yorkshire. Her parents live in Lancashire.

Since her ordination in July 2011 she has been the minister at the church in Penarth in Wales.

She has extensive experience working with all ages in the church. She also undertook a course in Transitional Ministry, which will be very useful in our Synod, as we are presently looking at the Way Forward in a time of reduced ordained ministry.

We are all looking forward to the start of her ministry amongst us, and I am sure that we will all make Sue and Alex very welcome. However, please remember that she is the minister of four congregations and we must not expect her to be able to do all that we would be able to expect if she was only the minister for St George's.

## Annual Reports

I am sorry to talk about these before Christmas has been celebrated, but these do take a while to produce in order that you can all see them before the AGM.

Therefore, I would be grateful if leaders of groups and organisations can ensure that I have their reports by January 31<sup>st</sup> at the very latest. I will be happy to receive them in whatever form you find easier – although by email is very helpful.

Thank you  
Margaret





*There has been a lot of confusion as to why it is important that companies like Sainsbury's do not stop using the Fairtrade mark. This might make it clearer.*

### **Using the Fairtrade Mark By Robin Roth - Traidcraft Chief Executive**

This year we have seen a number of announcements from various brands, retailers and traders that they are moving away from the Fairtrade Mark. This is a shame and we should continue to support those mainstream companies that are bringing Fairtrade labelled products to the mass market, and so starting their journey about what real fair trade means.

For Traidcraft and other 100 per cent fair trade companies and pioneers however, focusing on a label misses a fundamental point in the origins of fair trade. Fair trade was all about partnerships with people: it was not about certifying products. It should not be forgotten that fair trade began well before standards, certifications, labels, monitoring and impact assessments were even thought of.

Traidcraft was formed in 1979, the label introduced in 1992. As a dedicated fair trade company with these principles running through our DNA, all our products are fair trade, but many don't carry the Fairtrade Mark. These include those that we sold before the label came along as well as the handicraft items Traidcraft has sold over the last 4 decades where we use the WFTO mark. Our Palm Oil from Serendipalm, is certified "Fair for Life" by the Swiss organic certifier I.M.O, because no "Fairtrade standards" yet exists. And for Traidcraft's charcoal, rubber and garden compost from recycled coconut fibre no certifier has yet seen a commercial value in these products and so the relevant standards have yet to be written.

In truth, the Fairtrade label is limited to a relatively small number of raw commodities, or easily identifiable products, like roses and bananas, but it does not include most of the things we actually buy on a daily basis. For all its limitations the Fairtrade label is actually a brilliant idea: simple, understandable and credible. It is simple because it captures a degree of certainty in highly complex supply chains with a single, easily identifiable graphic. It is understandable because there is an implied promise behind that graphic that says something about decent wages/price and working conditions. And it is credible because there is an independent certifier who checks out the claims. This is an important principle for any organisation making ethical claims. As far back as the early 90's, before the Fairtrade label had become established, Traidcraft was a pioneer in social accounting, reporting on its impact and having its findings independently verified.

The reality behind fair trade, however, is anything but simple. Many of the companies no longer using the Mark are right to hint at this – for example citing the anomalous situation of a large multinational having a few fair trade product lines which gives them consumer boost, whilst they continue to avoid tax, destroy the environment or treat workers in an appalling fashion. Few consumers have the time for this level of complexity when it comes to buying a pack of tea. And herein lies the problem. Fair trade is complex. It was never a single idea, and depending on whom you talk to, the core emphasis varies.

For some producers, price is an important issue, but not more so than solidarity with trading partners, establishing land rights, access to pre-finance, long term relationships and a level playing field when competing with agro-industry multinationals. In some cultures and environments, fair trade is simply incomprehensible if not aligned with organic production, and in the United States, an understanding of fair trade might just as much include working with migrant labour in the plantations of Southern California, as it does with coffee cooperatives in Guatemala.

The standards that form the basis of the Fairtrade label are good, but they are not perfect, and certainly not all encompassing, which is why other standards, and other labels have emerged. At Traidcraft, as among most European fair trade organisations, we acknowledge the value of a number of fair trade standards;

- Fairtrade Label – Product focused, fair trade but not Organic, based in Germany, stakeholder owned.
- WFTO's (the World Fair Trade Organisation) system, Organisational focus, owned by its members.
- SPP (Small Producer Symbol from the Producers of Latin America), Product and organisationally focus, owned by farmers, based in Mexico.
- Fair for Life – Product focused, fair trade and Organic, based in Switzerland.
- Naturland Fair – Product and Organisationally focused, fair trade and Organic, based in Germany and owned by farmers.
- Eco Cert – product focused, fair trade and Organic, based in France. All of these are based on 3rd party, independent certification and all of them capture different, important nuances of what fair trade means.

Of the systems, or labels, that Traidcraft recognises, some are specifically product focused, some are more interested in the “fair trade-ness” of the organisation itself. This distinction is important since ultimately, no product label can guarantee what really goes on in the heart of a company – nor are they designed to achieve that. But at Traidcraft we have always viewed fair trade as something you do as a matter of course, rather than something you do from time to time. After all, being fair to your suppliers makes no sense if you treat your employees abysmally. Fair is an absolute.

Traidcraft was set up to “do” fair trade. It is what we do. It is all that we do. Sainsbury's, just to take one example, was not. It has other imperatives and no matter how good or benign their governance structure may be, it is a company dedicated primarily to the interests of its shareholders. A label on a single product did not alter this, and removing that label does not alter that now. So, when companies decide to remove the Fairtrade label from their products, what does this tell us? It tells us that a commercially driven organisation has made a strategic decision to disengage with a certification system that no longer suits its profile, direction or market.

These companies are no less a “fair trade” organisation than they were before. Indeed, if Sainsbury's has decided to develop its own standards, then we can at least understand what it wants and stands for. The most obvious shift in focus is towards long term supply security before and above producer empowerment. As a commercially driven organisation that may make sense, but it would be disingenuous to describe their new scheme as “fairly traded” since producer empowerment, one of the core concerns of all fair trade schemes, has been substantially downgraded.

In conclusion, the Fairtrade label is an excellent concept, but is neither the last, the best, nor the only word in the world of fair trade. It is a useful tool for commercially driven organisations to make a claim, or start a journey, with a fairly limited range of classic products. But the label says nothing whatsoever about a company's real engagement with its partners, nor its intentions towards its customers. The only real predicator of fair trade in its broader context, is whether the company itself is whole-heartedly engaged and connected to its core principles, and to have this rooted in its governance structure. There are precious few real Fair Traders around, and at Traidcraft we see all labels merely as the beginning, not the end of a journey. Other companies are not likely to change their minds, but thankfully, neither will Traidcraft. Fair trade is all we ever aspire to do.



# **St George's Annual Bazaar**

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2017**



<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>Stall</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
£114.87	Cake Stall	£239.15
£ 42.10	Raffle	£ 32.00
£ 41.60	Scouts Tombola	£ 44.00
£ 64.60	White Elephant	£ 94.70
£ 42.40	Junior Church	£ 23.10
£ 64.35	Hobbies (Bottle Tombola)	£ 95.95
£ 71.00	Aileen's Lucky Dip	£ 73.00
£ 57.50	Christmas Goods Stall	£ 50.00
£226.30	Hamper Raffle	£227.00
	Name the Bear / sweet jar	£ 29.50
£ 17.00	Jewellery	£ 13.51
£ 36.50	Pauls Electrical stall	£ 72.00
£ 45.41	Door Receipts	£ 92.00
£ 10.00	Donations	<u>£ 15.00</u>
<b>£840.20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1100.91</b>

**Wow - what a fantastic result! A big thank you to all who helped in any way. For the last few years we have been struggling to have enough helpers to run the fayre - but with the help of our extended church family we are managing to keep going and it makes it all worth while when we have such a great result.**

**Thanks again  
Gillian**



### Shoeboxes.

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way with the shoe-box appeal. 104 boxes were dedicated and are now on the way to Eastern Europe. Last year our boxes went to Belarus so very worthwhile.

For many years we have been happily supporting this appeal through Samaritans Purse but due to this organization asking for a suggested £5 per box contribution we have decided to explore other organizations doing the work in 2018. So please continue to save all medium size shoeboxes and keep knitting etc so we can continue this outreach work. We will think of 104 happy smiling children's faces at Christmas time.

Also 2 bags of mainly babies and children's clothes have been donated to Hartlepool Women's Refuge so helping local children. Well done.  
Aileen



Things must be in a state of flux in our partner country, Zimbabwe, with a change of government. Will things get better now that Robert Mugabe is no longer in charge? We don't know but can only hope and pray that a once well resourced country which was seen as the bread basket of Africa can rise from poverty and famine to its proper place again.

Remember all our brothers and sisters in our partner country in your prayers, that they may live in a peaceful, reconciled country.

**A CONCERT BY  
FORMER MEMBERS OF HARTLEPOOL  
YOUTH CHOIR  
ST. GEORGE'S URC SUNDAY DEC 17TH  
4PM  
TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CHOIR'S VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND**

**TICKETS £4**

**PROCEEDS TO MAGGIE'S CHARITY AND ST GEORGE'S**

**REFRESHMENTS**

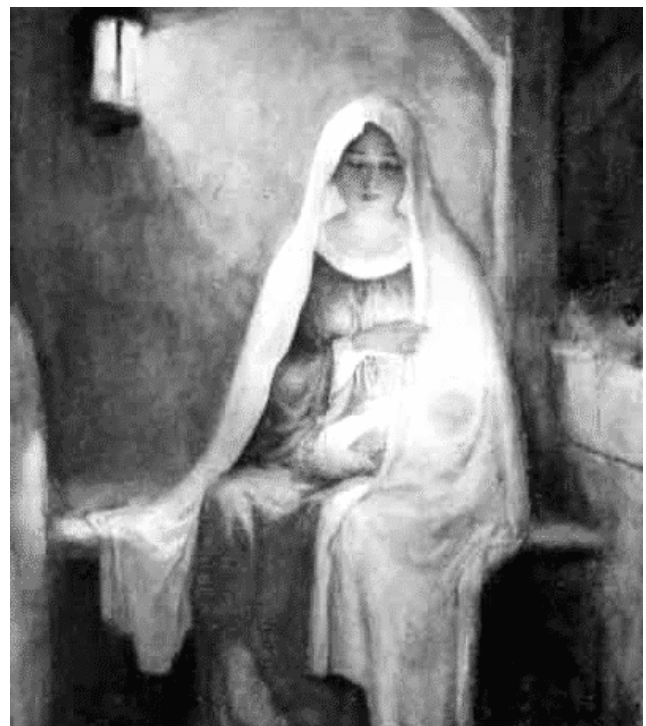


# St George's Church **MAMMOTH SALE**

Everything must go  
**1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>** **3 days of**  
**February** **bargains**



If you want it - we've got it



This is what it's really about!



## News of People

I am pleased to report that our moderator Rev David Herbert has now recovered sufficiently from his heart attack to be allowed a phased return to work. We remember those of our fellowship who are under the weather at the present moment, including Moyra Mudd, Margaret Goulding and Anne Foster. It is lovely to see Valerie Waite being able to join us for worship again, although she is still not driving her car. We are all pleased that Pam Branfoot is doing well after her recent knee operation.



### Flower Donors

#### Flower Donors

December 3 Mrs M Mudd  
 December 10 Mr and Mrs A Woodhall  
 December 17  
 December 24  
 December 31 Mrs S Turnbull  
 January 7 Mr and Mrs P Humberston  
 January 14  
 January 21  
 January 28 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

Date			Stewards	Keys
DEC	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	10 <sup>th</sup>	-	Service at Grange Road	
	17 <sup>th</sup>	-	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Frank Whittaker
	24 <sup>th</sup>	-	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	25 <sup>th</sup>	-	Kevin Hoad, Sandra Hindmarch	Paul Humberston
	31 <sup>st</sup>	-	Aileen Whittaker, Lewis Muldown	Brian Carter
JAN	7 <sup>th</sup>	-	Dick Fletcher, Kevin Hoad	Bill White
	14 <sup>th</sup>	-	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	21 <sup>st</sup>	-	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Kevin Hoad, Paul Humberston	Paul Humberston
FEB	4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell

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

## Worship in St George's

December

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Rev Barry Hutchinson – Communion Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	United Service – at Grange Road
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Nativity
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight Mr B Carter & Mrs M Humberston
25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Christmas morning worship Mrs Chris Eddowes
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Mrs M Humberston.

### January

7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes – Communion Service
14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev R Crofton – United Service with Grange Road
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Rev. Barry Hutchinson
28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs J Winn – Parade and Family Service

### February

4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes & Mr Alan Woodhall
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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 **Jan 28th** 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

Jan	Sandra Twist	Alan Woodhall
Feb	Betty Woodhall	Chris Eddowes

All elders to help with clearing and washing up

#### Creche Rota

Dec	3	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	17	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	24	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	31	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Jan	7	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	14	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	21	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	28	Mrs M Ord	Mrs T Kirkpatrick
Feb	4	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	11	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend  
E S Welsh