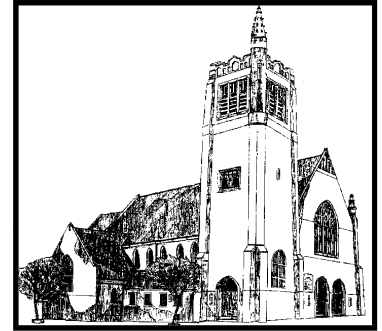




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Feb-March 2019



Dear Friends

As we begin the New Year (well I know we're already 1/12 of the year gone!) it's a good time to reflect and take stock of where we are and where we think God might be calling us. As I write this letter we are awaiting a decision from Synod regarding our application for funding for some redecoration and new audio and visual equipment for the church.

We have been thinking and praying about our outreach for some time. There are many ways in which we are engaged in missional work from the church. One of the ways we do this from this church is through the café and shop and another through the knitted bible. A number of you regularly go out from St George's and lead services in other churches, sharing the stories of God's love for his creation and his people. Through what we do, we hope others might be inspired and encouraged others to think about the stories represented in wool or word, or over coffee and cake and who knows how many lives have been touched by these particular outreach projects over the years.

Many of you are aware that Alan and Betty have decided it's time to retire from coordinating the Knitted Bible and so we are looking for somebody to take it on, enabling others to share the stories with their neighbours through your creativity. If you think God might be calling you to offer to carry out this important work, please talk to me or Margaret or Alan and Betty.

This is just one of the ways we share the Good News with others. Our shop stands up for FairTrade, supports the work of the Fairtrade Foundation, and gives people the opportunity to buy goods from them. Volunteers to serve in the shop are always needed. It is part of our calling to seek out injustice and to work to put it right, to stand up for the lone voices or the ones who for whatever reasons are not heard. Our café, run by Gail, gives time and space for people to come and sit, enjoy good food and cakes and to receive Christian hospitality.

At our service in February we will be focusing on our gifts and talents at a TRIO service – The Responsibility Is Ours! I hope it will encourage us to look at how we give to the church, financially, because we are in real need at the moment, and through all our gifts think of ways that we can serve God, as individuals, and as a church. In 1 Chronicles David praises God with these words;

*For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.*

Please pray and think about you might be your calling as you offer your service to God.

Every blessing  
Sue

## Dates for your Diaries

### February

- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Elders Meeting, 10am  
 Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Fuel Poverty Training, 2pm – 4pm in the hall area  
 Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Organ Recital by Daniel Cook - concert arranged by Hartlepool Music Society, 7pm for 7.30pm

### March

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Women's World Day of Prayer – details of the service to follow  
 Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Evening Lent Course, 7pm – 9pm, St Columba's Church (Hartlepool)  
 Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Lent Course, 2pm, Church of the Nazarene  
 Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Synod Meeting at Kingston Park  
 Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Church Meeting AGM after worship

### April

- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool Male Voice Choir concert, 7pm

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARTLEPOOL

8am Prayer Meetings:

- 13 February College of Further Education  
 27 February Owton Manor Baptist Church  
 13 March College of Further Education  
 27 March 10 Clarkson Court

These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

## Coffee Rota

FEBRUARY	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sandra Hindmarch, Rose Hastings
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Grange Road
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Janet White, Wyn Parkinson, Dick Fletcher
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Welford, Kevin Hoad
MARCH	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert and Sheila Harrison
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Val Rigg, Gillian Cartman
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Aileen Whittaker, Liz Moss
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Fraser, Elma Welsh
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Enid and Alistair Bushnell
APRIL	7 <sup>th</sup>	Gail and Ashley Hoad



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 Fairtrade supplies, cards, books etc.



## Project Africa

"We did it!"

The total for our "toilet twinning" project at the end of December 2018 stood at £182.92p so we are able to twin 3 toilets.

Thank you so very much to all who supported our appeal.

Our project this year is the "Khanyisa Trust" which has a St. George's connection as Moyra's sister is involved in the work of this trust.

The total of our fund stands at £17.67 which includes the £2.92 left over from 2018.

Please, please, keep saving your coppers etc.

Thank you again  
Wyn Parkinson



## Lent Course

An evening Lent Course this year will be based on the award winning TV drama Broken starring Sean Bean and Anna Friel. It will be held on 6 consecutive Tuesdays from 7pm until 9pm beginning on Shrove Tuesday (to fit them in before Holy Week) 5<sup>th</sup> March. Each session is standalone so people don't need to commit to coming every week and can dip in and out as other commitments allow. All sessions will take place at St Columba's church (Hartlepool)

The afternoon course starts the following week and is "The Glory of the Cross", daily reflections for Lent from John's Gospel by Tim Chester. This will be at 2pm Tuesdays March 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (not 26<sup>th</sup>) and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. This will take place at the Church of the Nazarene, Lowthian Road. Everyone is welcome. Print copies of 'The Glory of the Cross,' £5 per copy, are available from Cath and Dave Thompson Tel: 232195. If you fancy going along, then I should get your order in to Cath soon.

## Annual Reports

This is a not so gentle reminder to those folk have not yet sent their Annual Reports in. These should have been with me before 31 January 2019. Please let me have them as soon as you possibly can otherwise they will not be able to be included in the annual book of reports.

Thank you. Margaret.



## Data Protection

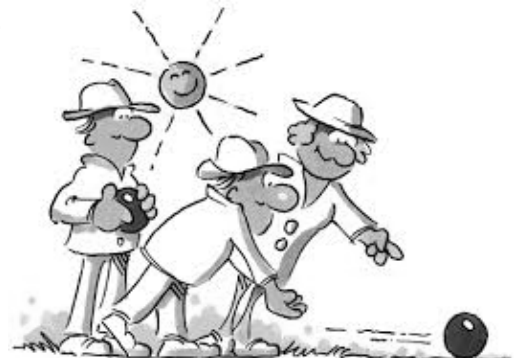
To keep church records up to date and in line with GDPR requirements, if you change your address/telephone numbers/email address please let Margaret Humberston know. Thank You.

## From Sandra Hindmarsh

My term of office as President of Cleveland County Women's Bowls association draws nearer. It starts on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Newark Finals Week from which I hope to be in my singles again. I play on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Thornaby. From May to July there are 5 Cleveland County games: 3 games away at Nottingham, South Shields and Humberside and 2 games at home at Billingham, so there will be 5 speeches and presentations to do. Then in August, I will be at Skegness for a week watching and shaking hands with all the county players.

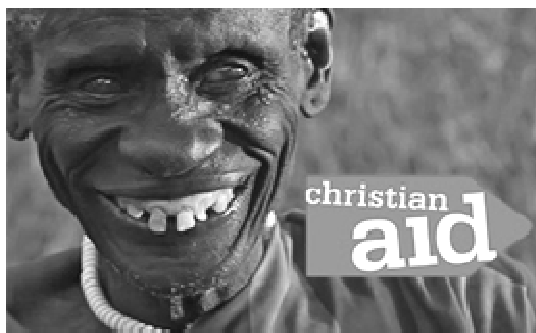
Just hope and pray for good weather. I will get help and guidance as I go along. I am sure I will do everyone proud as President, particularly St. George's friends and family with their guidance and prayers.

Thank you  
Sandra Hindmarsh



## Fuel Hike Causes Riots

Bulawayo – Police were called in to disperse hundreds of demonstrators. Locals responded to a social media campaign called Shutdown Bulawayo. The demonstrations were orchestrated by The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) in response to fuel hikes announced by President Emerson Mnangagwa. These hikes are set to cause price rises across the economy. Food prices, medicines housing and of course transport will be affected, deepening the economic hardships of people in a country where, it is said, some doctors only earn a paltry US\$85 a month.



## Christian Aid Teams in Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe country teams operate from Harare with a team of eleven staff members. They work across six provinces: Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Manicaland, Midlands, Harare and Mashonaland East.

### Agriculture

The team pioneered conservation agriculture. They piloted the move to mechanised smallholder, conservation agriculture. By working with private sector and local NGO partners, they have led the promotion of fair markets. Farmers produce high value, Fairtrade, organic certified crops. The team is also responsible for harvesting non-timber forest products for marginalised communities.

### Gender

The team challenges men who may have internalised inequality and gender-based violence. Communities in marginalised geographic areas are reached to protect children and differently abled people. It also promotes practical skills for young women who were denied tertiary education

## Fairtrade Fortnight

The theme for this year's focus is entitled **#SheDeserves**.

And will focus on that glorious food we all love so much – cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years. This is particularly the case in West Africa where most cocoa is grown.

The situation highlights in stark terms the scandal of unfair trade. Many farmers are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for the basics, including food, education and housing. They don't earn a living income.

It's even worse for the women who work in the fields and in the home. Despite the hard work they put in, they're often overlooked and under-represented. Women usually see much less of the money for their crop than men. So, Fairtrade be featuring the voices of women cocoa farmers.



By recognising those special women during Fairtrade Fortnight, we can create a platform for the amazing and inspiring women farmers across the Fairtrade network.

They are leading the way in changing attitudes, behaviours and, ultimately, their communities. We hope to get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate.

We hope people will sign the Fairtrade Fortnight petition to support them. Our local groups will deliver this serious message in an accessible way – from baking delicious Fairtrade chocolate treats, to celebrating special women in our lives and communities.

For more information on Fairtrade Fortnight you can find it here.  
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/Fairtrade-Fortnight-for-Campaigners>

There is a campaigner briefing giving the background to cocoa and living incomes can be found here.

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/~media/FairtradeUK/Fairtrade%20Fortnight%202019/Fortnight2019\\_Campaigner\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/~media/FairtradeUK/Fairtrade%20Fortnight%202019/Fortnight2019_Campaigner_Briefing.pdf)



*Don't forget we have a good range of fair-trade chocolate in the Cornerstone.*

### **Commitment for Life Partner**

#### **Prayers**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Trees felling  
 Ground exposing  
 Rains falling  
 Mud forming  
 Shacks slipping  
 Desperation creeping  
 Hope fading  
 Help coming  
 Faith acting  
 Future clearing  
 Hope rising

#### **MARCH**

We pray for:

The government of Zimbabwe as they start to strengthen the economy and reduce poverty  
 Christian Aid, Zimbabwe staff and those partners they support with knowledge and grants, especially the Institute for Rural technologies  
 Programmes that increase rural development and economic opportunities  
 Their work to empower and increase the confidence of women  
 The training of communities to start village banks  
 For Sikhanyiswe, for her resourcefulness, dignity and

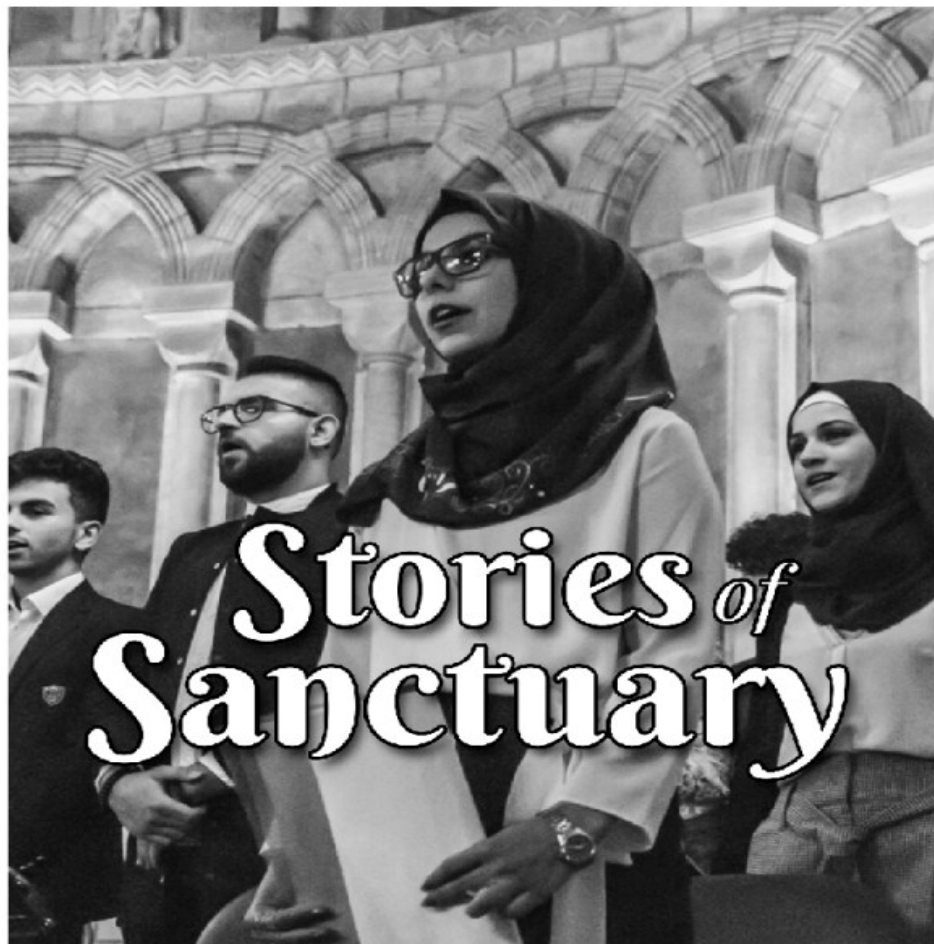
### **BURNS DINNER AT THORNABY MISSION**

On Monday 21 January eight of us from St George's went through to Thornaby Mission for their Burns Night Dinner. About 35 folk were there and we were treated to a lovely meal of Cock-a-leekie Soup/Haggis, champit tatties, and bashed neeps/Clootie Dumlin' or Topsy Laird Trifle, Coffee and Shortbread.

Alex played the pipes and did the honours at starting the night with the Selkirk Grace and Addressing the Haggis. Sue carried the Haggis in, the Alex "stabbed it to death." After the meal, Alex gave a brief history of the life of Robert Burns.

Thanks goes to the folk at the Mission who worked really hard with Alex and Sue to give us a really super night. Thank you. Janet





## **SAM SLATCHER & THE SANCTUARY SEEKERS**

[Featuring the National Syrian Orchestra's Raghad Haddad]

**22ND MARCH 2019 | 8PM**

ARC, Dovecot Street,

Stockton on Tees, TS18 1LL

Box Office:

01642 525199

[www.storiesofsanctuary.co.uk](http://www.storiesofsanctuary.co.uk)

[www.arconline.co.uk](http://www.arconline.co.uk)



Stories of Sanctuary is a community storytelling project that brings together people from different backgrounds living in County Durham to share their stories of seeking sanctuary in the North East of England. Original songs are written by those with experience of seeking sanctuary.

It stems from the idea that sanctuary is an ancient concept that dates back even before the arrival of the first dwellers in the city of Durham in 995AD, who were a community of monks, carrying an Irish saint – Saint Cuthbert – who became exiled from their home on the Island of Lindisfarne by the Vikings in the 9th century. The project weaves together stories from the past with modern day stories of finding sanctuary from war and conflict, to tell a different narrative about what it means to be living in the North East of England today.



## Fundraising Ideas

Following the information contained in the last newsletter and the ideas slips given out in church a couple of weeks ago we have begun to compile a list of suggestions / idea to help us raise much needed funds.

- Concerts
- Faith Supper & Quiz
- Car Washing
- Paddy's Market
- Games Night
- Sunday Faith Lunch
- Pie & Pea Supper & Quiz
- Film Nights
- Saturday afternoon Beetle Drive with pie & peas
- Rent out our hall space to hold craft stalls
- Sell quiz sheets
- St George's & Friends Cook Book
- Hold events that share the proceeds between the church and another charity
- Sponsorship for events / our Newsletter
- Wedding Fayre
- Christmas Tree Festival
- Coffee mornings
- Sponsored activities

We are hoping to arrange a variety of events that will allow the church family to enjoy time together, as well as planning activities that will allow us to open our doors to the wider community. We have already got a good list of ideas. If you think of anything else, please either complete one of the yellow slips of paper and pop it in the purple boxes in church or come and have a word with me.

If there is anything on the list you feel you could help with please come and have a chat. Our fundraising efforts needs to be a whole church approach. I am happy to co-ordinate things and will be gently starting to twist arms vey shortly!

Gillian Rodgers

### Just a few random thoughts

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

## A Creation Myth!

God created the mule, and told him, 'you will be mule, working constantly from dawn to dusk, carrying heavy loads on your back. You will eat grass and lack intelligence. You will live for 50 years.' The mule answered: 'To live like this for 50 years is too much. Please give me no more that 20.'  
And it was so.

Then God created the dog, and told him, 'You will hold vigilance over the dwellings of man, to whom you will be his greatest companion. You will eat his table scraps and live for 25 years. And the dog responded: 'Lord to live 25 years as a dog like that is too much. Please, no more that 10 years.'  
And it was so.

God then created the monkey, and told him, 'You are monkey. You shall swing from tree to tree, acting strange. You will be funny, and you shall live for 20 years.' And the monkey responded: 'Lord to live 20 years as the clown of the world is too much. Please, Lord, give me no more that 10 years.'  
And it was so.

Finally, God created Man and told him, 'You are Man, the only rational being that walks the earth. You will use your intelligence to have mastery over the creatures of the world. You will dominate the earth and live for 20 years.' And the man responded: 'Lord, to be man for only 20 years is too little. Please, Lord, give me the 20 years the mule refused, the 15 years the dog refused, and the 10 years the monkey rejected.'  
And it was so.

And so God made Man to live for 20 years as a man, then marry and live for 20 years like a mule, working and carrying heavy loads on his back. Then, he is to have children and live 15 years as a dog, guarding his house and eating the leftovers after they empty the pantry; then, in his old age, to live 10 years as a monkey, acting strangely to amuse his grandchildren.

And it was so !





## News of People

It has been good to welcome Pam and Liz into membership in December.

We send our best wishes to Kathy who is under the weather at the moment. We remember Fergus from St Andrew & St George's Church in Stockton and Ted from St Columba's Church in Billingham who have both been unwell over the last few weeks. We continue to pray for Rev Maggie Vigor who is currently ill in hospital.

It has been good to see our Minister Sue back amongst us after her sick leave. However please remember that at present she is still on restricted hours of work.

Lewis will be leaving us again soon as he sets out on a new phase of his employment, we will miss him but wish him well.

Paul Humberston will be 70 on 11 March and Margaret Rodgers will be 90 on 21 March. Congratulations and best wishes to them both.



### Flower Donors

February 3	Mrs W Parkinson
February 10	
February 17	
February 24	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
March 3	Miss M Rodgers
March 10	Mrs M Goulding
March 17	
March 24	Mrs P Simpson
March 31	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall



*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
FEB 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Paul Humberston, Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
10 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Grange Road	
17	Pam Branfoot, Liz Moss	Bill White
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Hindmarch, Dick Fletcher	Brian Carter
MAR 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aileen Whittaker, Paul Humberston	Frank Whittaker
10 <sup>th</sup>	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
17 <sup>th</sup>	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
24 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Hoad, Pam Branfoot	Bill White
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sandra Hindmarch, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
APR 7 <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****February**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Rev Sue Fender – Communion Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	The Worship Team – Friends from The Mission joining us today
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes – Not Parade

**March**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Rev John Elliston - Communion Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Barry Hutchinson - United Service with Grange Road
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Dr Donna Moore
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Sue Fender
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	The Worship Team – Parade and Family Service

**April**

7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes - 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 **31st March** please (or earlier)

**Reach me by e-mail on:**

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

**Church Officers**

MINISTER– Rev Sue Fender Tel.01642 657642  
40 Crooks Barn Rd, Norton.

Email: revsuefender@gmail.com

**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**

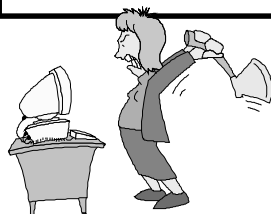
Mr W White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew  
Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986

**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

**Newsletter Editor**

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

**Church office**

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

**Creche Rota**

Feb	3	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	17	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	24	Mrs M Ord	Mrs E S Welsh
Mar	3	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	17	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	24	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	31	Mrs M Ord	Mrs E S Welsh
Apr	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

**Communion Rota**

<b>Mar</b>	Mr B Carter	Mrs M Ord
<b>Apr</b>	Mr W White	Mrs J White

All elders to help with clearing up.