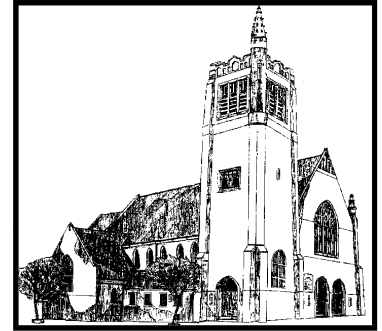




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

Feb – March 2018



Greetings

As I sit at my desk at the start of the New Year I am drawn to thinking of all the hope and promise wrapped up in the celebration of the child born to be king and in all that we hope for us in our lives as individuals and as churches as we look forward to what lies ahead of us.

Of course as I sit here surrounded by files and books and resources, I am also thinking how much is to be done before we move to Norton and I begin my Ministry with you – a daunting prospect, but one which also holds much hope and promise.

Hope and expectations probably feature quite heavily on your thoughts as you prepare to receive a new minister. What are the things you hope for from her? What are the expectations you have for her as a minister, for your churches and for your own journey in faith.

Well, we have exciting times ahead as we work together, all four churches, seeking God's will and God's way for us. Alex and I look forward to getting to know you all, spending time with you and hearing of your hopes and dreams for your churches.

We all have hopes and expectations and some of them will work out and fill us with joy and delight. Others will need to be set aside as we dream and seek visions together about the work God has for us and the plans for our future together.

It is only by listening to God and to one another and allowing God's spirit to guide us and lead us that we will know the way.

However, we do know from Jesus own words recorded in John's Gospel; He is the way, the Truth and the light and if we follow Jesus we will find all that God has offered to us.

Plans are now well underway for our move in Mid-February and for my Induction service at Stockton on Saturday 3rd March at 3.00 pm.

Alex and I wish you all a very Happy New Year!
Every blessing
Revd Sue

Dates for your Diaries

February

Mon 5th – Mon 19th Coffee Time and Fairtrade Shop will be closed.

Lent Courses begin on Ash Wednesday – 14th Feb – as below.

Daytime: To be held at 2pm on Tuesdays in the Church of the Nazarene.

Evening: To be held at 6.45pm on Wednesdays in St Luke's Church.

Further details are available in the church

March

Fri 2nd Womens' World Day of Prayer Services
 Sat 3rd 3pm Induction of Rev Sue Fender to our Group of Churches
 Mon 5th 10am Elders' Meeting
 Sat 10th Synod Meeting at Wideopen Church
 Sun 18th Annual Church Meeting after Worship
 Sat 24th Concert by Prudhoe Gleeman 7pm. Tickets will be available soon.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings:

14 February College of Further Education
 28 February Owton Manor Baptist Church
 14 March College of Further Education
 28 March 10 Clarkson Court

These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

Coffee Rota

FEBRUARY	-	4 th	-	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
		11 th	-	Service at Grange Road
		18 th	-	Robert and Sheila Harrison
		25 th	-	Sandra Hindmarch, Brian Carter
MARCH	-	4 th	-	Margaret Fraser, Val Rigg
		11 th	-	Enid and Alistair Bushnell
		18 th	-	Gillian Cartman, Rose Hastings
		25 th	-	Aileen and Frank Whittaker
APRIL	-	1 st	-	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 Traidcraft supplies, cards, books etc.

Project Africa



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At the end of December 2017 our project Africa Fund stood at £172.39. We have given £170 to the Samaritan's Purse "turn on the tap" appeal. Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal through 2017

Our 2018 project is to twin our 3 remaining toilets at St George's with the Tearfund Toilet Twinning programme (the cost of this is about £180— can we do it? I hope so.)

The total for this project stands at £18.18, which includes the £2.39 from 2017. Please, please keep saving your coppers etc' Thanks,
Wyn Parkinson



The Prudhoe Gleemen

This is a long established Male Voice choir with an excellent reputation. They have sung alongside the Hartlepool Male Voice Choir and the Felling Male Voice Choir in competitions all over the country. I heard them sing many times during the time I lived in Ryton and I am looking forward to welcoming them to St George's on 24th March, when I hope we will have a good number of people to listen to them sing.



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.

The Induction Service

The induction service for Rev Sue Fender, as minister of the Hartlepool and Teesside Group of Churches will be held on 3rd March at 3pm. The service will be held at St Andrew and St George's Church in Yarm Lane Stockton.

There is a list circulating at present asking who would like to attend this service, and who has seats in a car which can be offered to people who require a lift. Please add your name to this list, which is available at coffee time each Sunday. Should you be unable to do this, but wish to attend the service please let me know.

I must have final numbers by 14th February so that catering for the expected numbers can be arranged.

Thank you
Margaret

Elders Nominations

I am seeking nominations for elders. If you would like to nominate someone, please see me and I will give you to a form complete. This needs the of names of: the person being nominated, the person making the nomination and someone who will second that nomination. This could be a non-serving elder or someone who has not been an elder previously, but who is willing to let their name go forward for consideration.

The final date for nominations is Sunday 25th February



ZIMBABWE -No time to rest

Precious Moyo, the oldest of five children, is particularly proud and happy that he was chosen by his village to receive building training from Silveira House, supported by Christian Aid. He says, "I would like to thank you for your support. I can be someone and help my family."

Precious found the training extremely useful and at the end was qualified enough to be asked to build a shop for a local businessman. He is part of the Sonke Sakhile Builders cooperative. In the last few years, Silveira House has trained around forty-seven builders and carpenters, five of whom were women. Most are between 18 and 35 years old. The group operates out of a new building, which was given to them as part of the government workspace scheme lobbied for by Silveira House. Precious is now working with his brother, Sibongumuzi Nyathi, fitting out another shop in the same area. He especially likes the fact that he can employ others to take on such tasks as mixing the concrete or unloading.

He explains, "It is good to be at work as it means I am not hanging around home. I like it so much as there is no time to rest."

Working has meant that he can support his mother and father as well as buy himself some cows. Silveira House are particularly keen that those they train go on to get recognised qualifications. Precious understands this. "Upgrade yourself so you can train others. Do the formal training and then you can train others in your community."

Christian Aid partners see this form of multiplying as the key to helping a whole community develop and prosper. Helping others gives confidence and self-esteem. Precious Moyo, builder, knows that.

Scottish Parliament comes out in support of trade democracy

Global Justice Now just scored a win in our campaign for trade democracy. They have been fighting to make sure that parliament and the public get a say in international trade deals that affect our lives. Last week, thanks to their campaign, the majority of the Scottish Parliament voted in support of trade democracy.

Green MSP Mark Ruskell spoke about the importance of trade democracy during a key debate on Scotland's international policy framework and priorities for 2018. He praised the Principles for Just Trade Deals that Global Justice Now Scotland had developed with the Trade Justice Scotland coalition. Based on those principles, Mr. Ruskell introduced an amendment to the new international policy framework, saying that "trade deals should support rather than undermine human rights, labour and environmental standards and... should be based on solidarity and facilitating the two-way sharing of knowledge and technologies with the Global South". What's more, the amendment calls on the UK government to make sure that devolved administrations have a role in the negotiation and democratic scrutiny of future trade agreements.

This amendment passed by 80 votes to 30, showing that MSPs are strongly committed to democratic and ethical trade. Building on this victory, they are calling on MPs and MSPs to stand up for trade democracy. You can join Global Justice Now in taking action here: <https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/dangerous-deals-are-being-done-dark>.

Concert

The concert held on the Sunday before Christmas with the former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir singing for us as they remember the 40th anniversary of their visit to the Holy Land over Christmas. This was an afternoon of excellent music, thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of people who attended. The proceeds were divided between Maggie's Cancer Charity and St George's.

What we did in January



On Thursday of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St George's hosted the soup lunch and prayers. We were joined by about 30 guests.



**WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH....
THE TOUGH EAT HAGGIS**

THORNABY BURNS NIGHT

On Wednesday 24th six of us from St. George's went through to the Mission at Thornaby for their Burns night celebration. There were about 40 folk there and the two pipers from Bishop Auckland to entertain us. The haggis was piped in to "A Man's a Man for A That" and was properly addressed. At this point I felt sorry for the haggis, the Skean Dhu was on the big side and the poor haggis just lay there unaware of what was happening to it. When "stabbed" it never murmured.

We had a lovely meal and finished with a raffle and as usual St. George's folk always come away with a fair share of prizes. We always get a lovely warm welcome at the Mission and Wednesday was no exception.

F.F.F. – Food, Fellowship, Faith in abundance.

Anon. (No relation to Robert Burns)

The Church January Christmas Party

On Saturday afternoon, 27th January, friends from Billingham joined us for a belated Christmas Party. We had a wonderful faith tea (we could have fed the 5,000) and lots of daft games. The sight and sound of everybody trying to find their animal "family" only using woofs, grunts and baaas had quite a few in stitches and you really get to know people when the prizes run out in certain games and you have to steal them from other groups. The afternoon was described as "slightly better than brilliant," by one of our guests. Thank you to everyone who came and joined in with such gusto.



Plotting which prize to steal

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 to return to work on a full time basis.

Please continue to pray for him as he tries to re-establish a good work /life balance.

We remember those of our fellowship who are under the weather at the present, or just beginning to feel better after a run in with the flu and other ailments, including Moyra Mudd, Margaret Goulding, Anne Foster and Rose Hastings.

It is lovely that Valerie Waite is sometimes able to drive her care.

We also think of those who are awaiting the results of tests or operations.

We are all thinking of you and remembering you in our prayers.

We must remember in our prayers Beryl Hutchings and her family from the Mission at Thornaby, who are mourning the death of Beryl's brother who died on 26th January.



Flower Donors

February 4	Mrs W Parkinson
February 11	
February 18	
February 25	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
March 4	
March 11	Mrs M Goulding
March 18	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall
March 25	Mrs P Simpson



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	4 th - Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	11 th Service at Grange Road	
	18 th Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
	25 th Kevin Hoad, Lewis Muldown	Brian Carter
MARCH	4 th Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	11 th Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
	18 th Dick Fletcher, Kevin Hoad	Bill White
	25 th Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	29 th (Maundy Thursday)	Brian Carter
	30 th Dick Fletcher Alistair Bushnell	Bill White (Good Friday)
APRIL	1 st Frank and Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker

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

Worship in St George's February

4 th	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes and Mr Alan Woodhall - Communion Service
11 th	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
18 th	10.30am	Worship Team
25 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston – Parade Service

March

4 th	10.30am	Rev Sue Fender – Communion
11 th	10.30am	Mr Brian Johnson - United Service with Grange Road in St George's
18 th	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones
25 th	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes
29 th	7pm	Mrs C Eddowes – Maundy Thursday Communion Service
30 th	10.30am	Rev B Hutchinson – Good Friday Service

April

1 st	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes – Easter Day Communion Service
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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 **March 25th** 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

Mar	Janet White	Bill White
Apr	Brian Carter	May Ord
All elders to help with clearing and washing up		

Creche Rota

Feb	4	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	11	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	18	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	25	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
Mar	4	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	11	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	18	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	25	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Apr	1	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	8	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend
E S Welsh