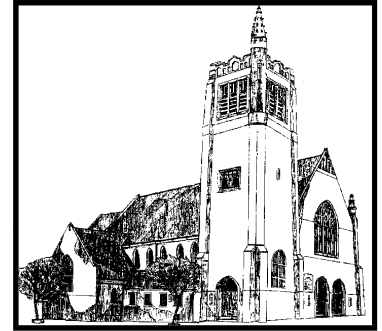




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Oct-Nov 2018



Dear friends

The harvest has been gathered and we have given thanks to God for his goodness, praising the God who is ever faithful, ever sure.

Our Summer was a delightful one. Alex and I spent two weeks cruising the Mediterranean Sea with our son James and his fiancée Lucy. It was hot! The day we were in Rome temperatures reached 34 degrees. It was a time to rest when at sea and to get out and see the sights in the ports along the way.

As much as I enjoyed the Summer, I love this time of year. After the hot sunny days, it is good to feel the cooler breeze of Autumn and to see the much-needed rain. I really enjoy watching the colours changing in the trees, the bright greens darkening and then changing into the glorious shades of oranges and browns we see today.

We have been blessed with an abundant harvest in the Manse garden. Redcurrants, blackcurrants, apples, pears, plums and tomatoes, have, somewhat miraculously appeared, some already made into jam and chutney and pies. The rest are in the freezer for us to cook later. We have had some amazing sunsets too with the sky lit up with red, fiery and bright.



I have been reading Psalm 104 for my personal study and meditation recently. It speaks so clearly of a God who creates the world and is pleased with all that springs forth.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

It has been a privilege to travel, to see new things, experience different landscapes, smells and noises. It was delightful to taste and proper Italian pizza, tapas in Spain and all that we have made from the fruits of the garden, using all our senses to experience the wonders of creation.

All these things speak of the beauty of creation and the stunning world God has given to us. It is important to recognise the responsibility we have in caring for the earth, tending to our own little corners and ensuring the health of the planet for future generations.

Enjoy all the God has provided for you and watch – as the seasons change, for God is making all things new!

Every blessing  
Sue



## Dates for your Diaries

### October

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> 10am Church Cleaning Session 10am - please do come and help/  
 Mon 8<sup>th</sup> 10am Elders' Meeting  
 Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Synod Meeting at Northgate Church Darlington  
 Sat 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Thornaby Mission 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration events (more details in the service sheets.)

### November

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Billingham Church Christmas Fayre - in the morning  
 Fishburn Brass Band Remembrance Concert – in the evening  
 Sat 17<sup>th</sup> 9.30am St George's Christmas Fayre  
 St Andrew and St George's Stockton – Christmas Fayre  
 Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Safeguarding Training Course 7pm – pm at Billingham Church

### December

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Thornaby Mission Christmas Fayre  
 Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Film Night with Pie and Peas  
 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Concert with FMHYC

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Churches Together

8am Prayer Meetings:	10 October	College of Further Education
	24 October	15 Mitchell Street
	14 November	College of Further Education
	28 November	St Columba's Church

All are welcome to attend these prayer meetings.

### Coffee Rota

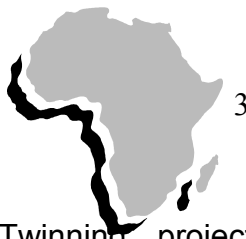
OCTOBER	7th	-	Service at St Andrews and St George's Church, Stockton.
	14th	-	Service at Grange Road.
	21st	-	Chris and Cathie Eddowes.
	28th	-	Val Rigg, Aileen Whittaker.
NOVEMBER	4th	-	Elma Welsh, Gillian Cartman.
	11th	-	Janet White, Wyn Parkinson, Dick Fletcher.
	18th	-	Paul and Gillian Rodgers.
	25th	-	Sandra Hindmarch, Enid Bushnell.
DECEMBER	2nd	-	Margaret Fraser, Kevin 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

The total for our "Toilet Twinning" project stands at £126.84p, enough to twin 2 of our toilets. Can we make it 3 by Christmas?

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our appeal. Please, please keep saving your coppers. I don't mind collecting silver—or maybe gold!

Thank you again,  
Wyn Parkinson

## Shoebox Appeal

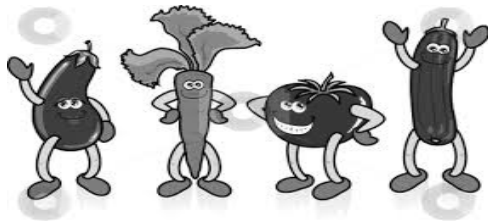
Many thanks to those who have brought gifts and kept the knitting needles busy and found a good supply of boxes. We are now packing the boxes during the Hobbies group please feel free to join us. The final checking and covering the boxes will take place at 6pm on 18th October we will need help. They will be dedicated on 28th October during the service and collected shortly afterwards. They will be sent to Eastern Europe and distributed to needy families by the Link to Hope organization.

Any further gifts may be placed in the box at the entrance to the church.  
Aileen.

## Healthy Eating.

Many thanks to all those who have left donations for fruit and vegetables and to those who have added to them over the summer months. As a result £110 has been added to church funds.

Frank and Aileen.



## Safeguarding

Margaret and Brian are offering a safeguarding training for group members at **St Columba's in Billingham on 22nd November from 7pm-9pm.**

Anyone who needs to update their training or is interested in undertaking this for the first time is very welcome

## Thank you

It seems a long time since my birthday, but I would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes. It was quite humbling when I saw the number of cards, it really topped off a very happy occasion.

I suppose this now gives me an O.B.E. (over blooming eighty)

Many thanks  
Bill White

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU.

Enid and Alistair Bushnell would like to thank our Church family for kind thoughts and prayers after the death of Enid's Sister Joan, also for the lovely flowers and cards of sympathy. Bless you all X

## Thank you

Chris and Richard Eddowes would like to thank the family of St. George's for their sympathy, prayers, cards and flowers on the deaths of Chris's brother and Richard's step-mother. It makes us feel blessed in our friends.

## Calendars

Paul Humberston will be producing replacement monthly calendar sheets for 2019. If folk would like one, let him know please.

Cost –same as last year, no inflation £1.00.



## Advent and Christmas

The minister is planning to arrange an Advent Bible Study course. Look out for further details in due course.

## Evergreen

Laizah is part of the Mthombowesizwe Garden project which means evergreen. The women always sing and dance to songs of welcome when visitors arrive. They use the songs to empower themselves and bind as a group. Culturally women and children in this area of Zimbabwe do not go to the local shops. This meant there was much discussion as to how they could take produce to market to barter. Through discussion, involving Christian Aid partner Silveira House, this has been resolved.

At present Laizah grows onions and carrots. She has 6 children to feed so the garden has made a huge difference to their meals. She puts onions amongst the carrots to stop carrot fly, which is something she has learnt from being in the project. Through selling her produce she has joined the savings group and has also been able to send her children to school as she can now pay the fees and travel costs.

Sophia, another member, means wisdom. She is using that wisdom to teach others about the benefits of growing crops using conservation farming, a technique which involves strict measuring, controlled weighing and using basic hand tools. The group have become stronger together and there is increased confidence among the women members, which is good news for the next generation.



## Eldon Grove Visits

At the end of September and again at the beginning of October St. George's played host to a total 139 children and 21 adults from Eldon Grove Academy.

The first years wanted to know about St. George's and the Christian faith followed by a mock wedding conducted by Sue. We have conducted this mock wedding several times over the years, with Eldon Grove, but to date not one of the young bridegrooms has had the courage to kiss his bride at the end of the wedding service. You never know, one of these days?

The third years wanted to know more about St. George's and the use and purpose of the Christian symbols which are used in the Church. All the young people, staff and helpers thoroughly enjoyed their visit and had a good time learning about Christianity and the love of God.



A big thank you to all who helped in any way. Without your help and support the visits would not have a great success.

Thanks again, Brian

## The Posada

Over recent years we have organised the Posada during the advent period. This has been well received and I propose to do this again this year.

The figures of Mary and Joseph will leave the church on Advent Sunday and return for the carol Service on Christmas Eve. A list will be circulating in due course to give everyone who wishes the chance to have the figures in their homes overnight, before delivering them to the next person on the list the next day. Please do join in this time of personal preparation for the birth of Jesus if you are able.

Thank you, Margaret

## Traidcraft may cease trading after 40 years

Traidcraft plc, the Fairtrade pioneers whose church-based retailers have transformed shopping in the UK, subject to consultation, could cease trading by the end of 2018 unless a solution can be found in the coming month.

The plc, which generates £10m in annual sales was founded by six people in Newcastle in 1979. It's now in formal consultation with staff and other stakeholders following recent poor trading figures. The business has experienced shocks caused by the decision to leave the EU, and along with other retailers, sales have been hit by economic uncertainty and stagnating wages.

Chief Executive Robin Roth said:

"We are the sort of business that pays up front – that's in our nature as an ethical business. So when the pound fell after the Brexit referendum, we took a hit. We also stand by our published prices, so unlike other retailers we stood by our customers, absorbed a lot of the additional cost, and kept price rises to a minimum."

These factors, together with a disappointing online relaunch, contributed to the decision by the Traidcraft board to propose to cease trading at the end of the year unless a solution can be found. Traidcraft plc's charity arm, [Traidcraft Exchange](http://TraidcraftExchange), is a separate organisation and will continue its work with producers and in campaigning and lobbying for trade jus-tice in the UK regardless of what happens to Traidcraft plc.

All the plc's 68 staff, based at Traidcraft HQ in Gateshead, are facing redundancy.

Traidcraft's 4,300 Fair Traders, 85% of whom are motivated by faith, account for about half of Traidcraft's revenue. Their sales of tea, coffee, cards and crafts at church fetes and school fairs have even changed the buying decisions of major supermarkets.

"Our wonderful, committed Fair Traders make a daily difference in the life of fledgling enterprises in hard-to-reach parts of the world", says Robin. "Because of their love for the cause, Fairtrade got on the High Street, and a new generation is growing to understand justice as an everyday matter."

Fair Traders, customers, and supporters have been encouraged to continue supporting Traidcraft plc as a good autumn season is a pre-requisite if the company is to have a future model.

Alliances between Fair Traders and Traidcraft's charity arm will continue, by means of fundraising events, donations and campaigning for change, even if trading ceases.

The Chief Executive wants people to get in touch with ideas for a future for Traidcraft plc: [lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk)

*What this will mean for our fair trade shop, I don't yet know, but if there is anything you need, let me know ASAP as if the worst happens, when stock runs out in Gateshead, we may not be able to get anymore.*

*Chris*

### Church Register

**Weddings** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August **Andrew to Kelly**

**Baptisms** Miley Catherine Simpson – daughter of Jenna and Connor on 5.8.18  
 Miyah Hassan - daughter of Ellie and Callum on 26.8.18  
 George Edward Bennison – son of Sarah and Mark on 23.9.18

## The Great War 1914-1918



*Two views of Port Sunlight war memorial; soldiers preparing to fight and a woman and her children waiting for news.*



This summer, Richard and I went to somewhere I've always wanted to visit, Port Sunlight, the village William Lever built for his workers in the Wirral. I'd particularly wanted to see the art gallery, but it was the war memorial that transfixed me.

Workers were encouraged to join up at the outbreak of the First World War with the promise their jobs would be there when they came back. They joined one of the first Pals Battalions, which were good for companionship, but meant that casualties in battle were often friends and neighbours. Over 4,000 of Lever's employees had served in the war and, of these, 503 were been killed. As early as 1916, Lever started planning a memorial and he wanted the best to be had. It was finished and unveiled in 1921. He didn't want an "eminent person to unveil it so a ballot of all the Lever ex-servicemen was held, and those chosen were Sergeant Eames, who had been blinded at the battle of the Somme, and Private Robert Cruickshank who had been awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in Palestine.

Not everyone liked it. Some thought the inclusion of women and children was inappropriate (!) Presumably they thought that war had no effect on them, yet they were the ones to pick up the pieces. The theme of the memorial was the "Defence of the Realm", an unusual theme for war memorials. As an invasion would threaten the people left at home, Lever was keen to invoke a sense of social cohesion, and so figures of women and children would be included in the memorial as well as military personnel.

It's one of the most beautiful, poignant and thought provoking war memorials I've ever seen and I encourage you to visit the memorial and the village.

Having visited Port Sunlight, I must admit the houses were far finer than the terraces I was brought up in and we would have thought we were in heaven. Perhaps it's no coincidence that William Lever was brought up a Congregationalist and the church he built is now a United Reformed church.

### **Bored on a Monday afternoon?**

On Monday afternoons starting at 2pm and carrying on until 3, the Women's Fellowship meets at Grange Rd Methodists. The meeting is not just Methodist women, but since St. George's folk worshipped at Grange Rd while alterations were done to our buildings, they have all met together. It was decided that it was much more fun and friendly.

The afternoon is a short informal service and includes a variety of speakers on all topics under the sun— and very good some of them are too. All polished off with tea and biscuits. Why not join them? You'll be very welcome.



## FROM YOUR TREASURER

At the last Church Meeting there were a number of topics to discuss and I am giving a summary of these so that members and friends who were not at the meeting can be kept up to date.

### 1 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds comprise donations or money raised for a specific purpose but without any legal document stating that the funds can only be used for that purpose. This money is held in the National Savings Account.

Our accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 show the following designated accounts:-

Organ Fund	2,427.50
Flower Fund	384.82
Furnish & Fabric Account	1,104.25
World Church Mission	38.30
Benevolent Fund	234.78
Junior Church	250.00
Pilots	700.11
Total	5,139.76

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 our cash funds were as follows:

National Savings Account	7,998
Current Account	2,528
Deposit Account	168
TOTAL	£10,694

I need to transfer £5,000 from the National Savings Account to our current account and therefore require permission from the Church Meeting to transfer the following funds from designated funds to general funds.

ORGAN FUND	2,427
FLOWER FUND	385
FURNISHING & FABRIC ACCOUNT	1,104
PILOTS	700
TOTAL	£4,616

This transfer was agreed.

### 2. RESERVES POLICY

In the accounts to the end of December 2017 I said that at the end of June I would look again at our reserves policy.

AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE WE HAVE BANK BALANCES OF 10,694

DESIGNATED FUND	S 5,139	
3 MONTHS RESERVES	10,227	15,366
<b>DEFICIT IN GENERAL FUNDS</b>		4,672

IF WE REDUCE THE DESIGNATED FUNDS BY £4,615 THIS WILL REDUCE OUR RESERVES **DEFICIT** TO **£57**  
This was noted.

### 3. GROUP FUNDS

The original group budget did not take into consideration the setting up expenses / removal expenses and a new boiler for the manse.

I AM REQUESTING PAYMENT FROM THE CHURCHES AS FOLLOWS;

ST. GEORGE'S HARTLEPOOL	990.65 (49.53%)
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A. & G. STOCKTON	579.44	(28.97%)
ST. COLUMBA'S BILLINGHAM	429.91	(21.5%)
	£2,000.00	

This was agreed.

#### 4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

OUR MAIN EXPENDITURE FOR 2018 IS:

M&M	21,564
SYNOD LEVY	2,076
INSURANCE	4,677
GROUP EXPENSES	3,799
	£32,116

Just to cover the above expenses I should bank **£617** each week.

Our usual total is between **£200 and £400.**

Required from each member just to cover above expenses:

	2018	2019
M&M AND SYNOD LEVY	446	411
GROUP EXPENSES AND INSURANCE	160	170
TOTAL	<b>£606</b>	<b>£581</b>

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 our investments are valued at £10,655.

Clarification was asked relating to the M & M (Ministry & Mission) payment.

The M & M is payable by St. George's Church whether we have a Minister or not. In addition now that we have a Minister we also have to pay our share of expenses relating to the Minister together with our share of expenses relating to the Manse.

#### 5. BUDGET FOR 2019

A QUICK LOOK AT A DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2019 SHOWS:-

TOTAL INCOME	22,458
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,363
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>£13,905</b>

CASH AVAILABLE:

INVESTMENTS	10,655
BANK ACCOUNTS	2,998
	<b>13,653</b>

**If our bank account continues to decline I will have to raise cash from the sale of our investments and I am requesting permission from the Church Meeting to do so when required.**

This was agreed.

**Members ordering items from the internet were reminded of [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) . There is a long list of outlets who support this and it is at no extra cost to the purchaser. Access [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), register to support St. George's URC Hartlepool and download the APP which will remind you if you are purchasing from an outlet in the scheme. It is only a small percentage we receive but it all adds up.**

**A committee is to be set up to look at finance / fundraising activities. Please see Brian if you can help.  
Sandra Twist**



## News of People

We remember Chris and Richard Eddowes and Enid and Alistair Bushnell who have suffered bereavements during the last few weeks.

We send our congratulations to Dominic who has been successful in recent examinations.

It is good to know that Lewis is enjoying his new job in Wales – we miss him but wish him well.

To any of our members and friends who are feeling under the weather at the moment, we send our love and prayers. Particularly we think of Gillian who took ill on holiday and has still not fully recovered, and Pam who is due to have an operation on her knee this week.



## Flower Donors

October 7	Mrs E Welsh
October 14	
October 21	Mrs S Hindmarch
October 28	Mrs M Welford
November 4	Mr and Mrs A Bushnell
November 11	
November 18	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
November 25	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
December 2	Mrs M Mudd



*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
OCTOBER	7th	Service at St Andrews and St George's Church Stockton.
	14th	Service at Grange Road.
	21st	Aileen Whittaker, Paul Humberston.
	28th	Kevin Hoad, Dick Fletcher.
		Frank Whittaker. Bill White.
NOVEMBER	4th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.
	11th	Gail and Ashley Hoad.
	18th	Sandra Hindmarch, Paul Humberston.
	25th	Aileen Whittaker, Kevin Hoad.
DECEMBER	2nd	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.
		Alistair Bushnell.

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

## Worship in St George's

### October

7<sup>th</sup> 11am 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.**

### October

14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Service at Grange Road Methodist Church

21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Mr John Drew

28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am The Worship Team

### November

4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev Ruth Crofton Communion Service

11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes Remembrance Sunday United Service with Grange Road

18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev John Elliston

25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev Sue Fender Parade Service

### December

2nd 10.30am Rev Sue Fender 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 **25th November** 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

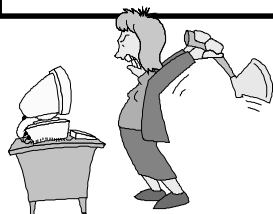
3rd Tuesday in month Prayer meeting 11.00am

Thur 10am Hobbies Club



#### Church office

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



#### Newsletter Editor

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

#### Communion Rota

Nov Mrs M Ord Mr B Carter

Dec Mr W White Mrs J White

All elders to help with clearing up.

#### Creche Rota

Oct	7	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	14	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	21	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	28	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
Nov	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
Dec	2	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	9	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend  
E S Welsh