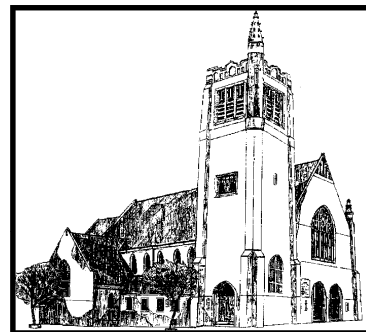


Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool April-May 2016



Dear Friends

When Easter eggs go into the shops just after Christmas – we are shocked. 'What! Easter eggs already! ' And yet maybe they are the wise ones, because it always seems to be Easter before we realise it. It catches us out. Despite it being a moveable feast, and this year earlier than most, we all long for spring, and Easter, to be fulfilled. The joy of spring; new life bursting from the sleeping ground, lambs in the fields and the birds searching out gardens for that little 'something' to soften their newly built nests.

As Christians, there is a danger that we hurry on to Easter Day too soon, for it is important to reflect on the journey. The season of Lent helps us to focus our thoughts on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem with his disciples. The pages of the gospels are filled with memories of those who witnessed the events of those days. Those who heard Jesus parables, so many of which begin, 'the Kingdom of God is like this', filled with the wisdom he freely shared, that showed us a new perspective on the love of God for us as his people. Through the words and actions of this young man, lives were changed in so many wonderful ways.

But we know there were those who opposed Jesus. To them, he was a dangerous man, and they feared their loss of power in the community. Love and hatred walked the streets of Jerusalem, and Jesus knew it – he spoke of his death, it must happen – the disciples were horrified and afraid at his arrest. Despite the passage of time, the image of Jesus beaten and hurt, crucified and buried can still bring tears to our own eyes, for to us he is a friend we have come to know. And yet, in that sacrifice he freely made, his courage knew no bounds, as he stood before Pilate that first Good Friday.

And then the quiet glory of the day of Resurrection, the fulfillment of God's purpose, seen in the light of dawn, just as at Jesus birth, all was light in the darkness. We wait now to celebrate the day of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, to enliven the disciples and new followers of Jesus into new ways of worship and service. They changed from being afraid, into people filled with zeal to share all they knew and believed – that Jesus Christ was alive in the world and goes ahead of them and even now – goes ahead of us – on our journey of faith into an uncertain future and an uncertain world that needs to know the message more than ever.

This is the great adventure of faith we have inherited.

May the love of God and many Easter blessings be with us all in these coming days, as we celebrate this wonderful season.

Margaret Harris

Dates for you Diaries

April

- Sun 3rd Church AGM following morning service.
 Mon 4th Property Meeting 7pm
 Thurs 7th TLS Lite 7.30pm in Billingham
 Sat 9th World Church Mission Coffee Morning with stalls 10am till noon
 Sat 16th Meeting with Assembly Moderator 3pm
 Sat 23rd Birthday group Event
 Mon 25th Elders' meeting

May

- Sun 15th Church Meeting after worship
 Mon 16th Christian Aid week begins – see Paul H. if you can collect in your street.
 Sat 21st Spring Fayre 9.30am – 12noon

CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings

- 13 April College of Further Education
 27 April 55 Hutton Avenue
 11 May College of Further Education
 25 May Grange Road Methodist Church

Coffee Rota

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|---|--|
| APRIL | 3 rd | - | Wyn Parkinson, Janet White, Kathie Thompson. |
| | 10 th | - | Service at Grange Road. |
| | 17 th | - | Chris and Cathie Eddowes, Rose Hastings |
| | 24 th | - | Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Margaret Welford. |
| MAY | 1 st | - | Aileen and Frank Whittaker, Sandra Hindmarch. |
| | 8 th | - | Paul, Gillian and Emily Rodgers. |
| | 15 th | - | Robert and Sheila Harrison, Moyra Mudd. |
| | 22 nd | - | Sheila Deacon, Valerie Waite, Rose Hastings. |
| | 29 th | - | Enid and Alistair Bushnell, Margaret Welford. , Brian Carter |
| JUNE | 5 th | - | Will and Kaye Barlow, Val Rigg. |
| | 12 th | - | Service at Grange Road. |
| | 19 th | - | Margaret and Andrew Fraser. Brian Carter. |
| | 26 th | - | Gail, Tarryn 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.

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

Project Africa

We have received a letter from the Send a Cow appeal thanking us for our donation of £205 towards a local cow. This has helped people like Abebe and his wife Dagnesh.

"Before the project I used to worry all the time because I didn't know hoe I can feed my kids daily. Now there is no worry as we are skilled and confident enough to produce vegetables and crops"

People like Abebe are able to diversify and grow even more produce such as spices



3

Thank you

A big thank you to all who helped in any way at the recent Eldon Grove Academy, Christian Symbols, session held at St. George's.

The teaching staff, from Eldon Grove, stated it was just great and asked me to pass on a big thank you to St. George's and all who helped in making it a great learning experience for all the children.

Thanks a lot.

Brian



Thank you

Thank you to those people who came to the Big Fair trade Breakfast on March 6th. I didn't ask for donations, but people were kind enough to put money on a plate. I have been able to send a cheque for £55 to Traidcraft Exchange. This helps producers develop their products so they will sell well in a western market and also farmers to diversify so they are not just dependent on one crop.

Thanks again and don't forget to buy your breakfast essentials from The Cornerstone!

Chris



which generate an even greater income. And because they can share their knowledge and skills they can empower others in their community to do the same.

Visit of the Moderator of General Assembly

As we reported in the last newsletter, the Moderator of General assembly Rev David Grosch Miller will be visiting St George's over the weekend of April 16th and 17th.

On Saturday 16th at 3pm we will be meeting with David, who will talk to us about the challenges which face churches with the changing patterns of ministry. There will also be the opportunity for a question and answer session. This is a very important issue, and one which although impacting upon us now, will also have further challenges as we move into the possibility of a new ministry. The other churches in what will be our new pastorate, have all been invited. We will be serving tea/coffee and scones at the close of this session.

David will lead our worship on Sunday 17th and we have now moved our Gift Day to that weekend to coincide with his visit.. Envelopes are now available in the church. If you receive your newsletter as a hard copy, then you should find an envelope in this copy.

We are serving lunch after this service. Tickets are available £5 each.

We will have several visitors for this service, and our Methodist friends, as well as the churches at Billingham, Thornaby, and Stockton have also been invited. It would be great if we could also have a large turnout of our own congregation to welcome them.

YEARS TOGETHER

*Frank and Aileen invite you to join them for a buffet lunch
following the service on
Sunday 22nd May 2016 to celebrate their golden wedding.*

If desired a donation for church funds would be welcome.

R.S.V.P.

CHRISTIAN VISION FOR MEN

The next meeting of the CVM forum will be held at 7.30pm at the Duke of Cleveland on Monday 18 April. Members choose a meal from the menu (approx £10). The speaker will be David Smith, a retired Methodist minister who will speak about his work in prisons on restorative justice. New members are welcome.

PRAYERS AT PENTECOST

A 'prayers-for-the-town' event will be held on the afternoon of Sunday May 8. More details will be available later.

EASTER DAY SUNRISE SERVICE

This service will take place on the Headland at 6.30am on Sunday March 27





The 3 Organists

You've heard of the Three Tenors, well we had The Three Organists at a wonderful concert on February 27th to celebrate the restoration of the organ and also the life of John Ross. I suspect he would have wanted it to be put in that order.

This was an excellent evening, with some wonderful music played. John and Connie's family, Nigel and Julia, along with Elisabeth and Jane were able to be present, which made the evening even more special.

Nigel spoke a little about John and his time as our organist, and Chris Haresnape, spoke a little about the work which was done to renovate the organ. Chris as well as being one of John's former pupils, was one of the team who carried out the work on the organ.

We are very grateful to the organists who gave of their time and talents to play for us that evening. Ian Pounder, Chris Haresnape and Peter Walker all had connections with John during his time as our organists, and they made this concert into a fitting tribute.

We are very grateful to Peter Walker, who as well as playing, worked with the other organists to ensure a programme was produced which did not have any duplications – no small task. So thank you Peter.

It was lovely to see so many people in the church that evening. We had provided supper, and as the people kept coming in we were beginning to doubt that we had enough food. However, in true Biblical fashion – we had twelve basketfuls left at the end of the evening.

I am also pleased to report, that the evening raised just short of £1000 – truly a successful evening.

Paul Rodgers recorded the concert, and if anyone who was unable to be present would like to hear it, please speak to me and I will loan you a copy.

Margaret

ZIMBABWE

As we mentioned last time, Zimbabwe experienced two poor agricultural seasons resulting in a huge loss in household incomes and therefore the ability to purchase food people can't grow themselves. Christian Aid's Zimbabwe office is working on finalising a Country Level Emergency Preparedness Plan, which will go a long way to improving the resilience of poor men and women. It will help with anticipating, coping and recovering from shocks and hazards such as the prevailing food insecurity.

Programme integration is now more key than ever, as the effectiveness of long term development interventions will now depend, to a large extent, on how the programme will respond to the immediate food security situation. In anticipation of drought, the program has supported communities in dry areas to produce drought tolerant crops, such as sorghum and rosella, all with firm links to commercial markets. In addition the program continues to promote disaster risk reduction and preparedness among communities, as well as agriculture which conserves moisture in times of low rainfall.

While these measures and other income generating activities are strengthening household and community resiliency, the severity of this year's drought has had an adverse effect on these communities as well. The program is likely to be affected as the farmers spend time and energy chasing food, at the expense of land preparation and managing their crops during the season.

Following extensive needs assessments and consultations, Christian Aid partners are seeking to support vulnerable households in the form of monthly money vouchers to address their basic and immediate needs. These will be paid via mobile phone banking to purchase the World Food Programme food baskets from local markets. These typically contain 6kg of cereal, 2kg of pulses, 750ml of cooking oil, 2kg of child formula and 0.5kg of sugar. These baskets are currently available in-country at local markets that have the capacity to respond to this increased demand. The cash transfers and food handouts will help farmers to access food and quickly get back to focus on the crops.

Their program also brings together initiatives that promote sustainable, thriving and resilient livelihoods where communities are shown how to prepare for shocks and manage the risks. Some projects are supporting girls' and boys' education, in and out of school, to raise their numeracy and literacy skills and fight child abuse. They will promote life and vocational skills development, promote entrepreneurship, market development as well as preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Why do I need to buy Fair Trade?

Recently a visitor in Fairtrade Fortnight told various groups what a difference selling fair trade coffee made to her life and those who live and work near her in Colombia. Jenny Medhurst, a passionate Fairtrader for years found herself asking a question.

"While loving Luz Marina's enthusiastic support for the benefits of Fairtrade, I was very upset to learn that her farmers needed to use the Fairtrade premium to fund school breakfast and lunch clubs for their children.

I thought that the Fairtrade coffee price should have enabled them at the very least to feed their families.

I should have asked Luz Marina herself, but I have just checked with the Foundation – and her co-op is only able to sell 35% of what it grows at the Fairtrade price – so that, and the fact that it is felt the coffee price can't be raised or we wouldn't buy it, is the reason they are having to use the Premium, for which there will be so many other calls, to feed the children.

So thank goodness for Fairtrade – but we need Luz's energy and commitment to get more people understanding who pays the price for our cheap food and buying Fairtrade."

Put the date in your diary!

The Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 21st May 9.30am to 12 noon.

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or are having a spring clean, donations to the stalls would be very gratefully received.

If you have any items that need collecting please let me know.

Gillian

World Church Mission Coffee Morning with stalls April 9th 10am till noon.

This helps pay for our MOM which is our share towards the running of Ministry in the URC

Please come and support it and bake cakes if you can

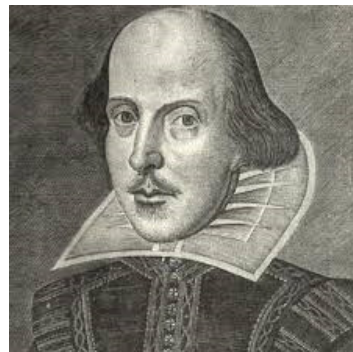
**The April, May and June Birthday Group
Invite you to a Celebration of Being English on St George's Day**

(other nationalities welcome, including Scots!)

We will be celebrating:
St. George's Day
William Shakespeare's 400 year anniversary
H.M. The Queen's 90th birthday

with that most wonderful invention—English afternoon tea

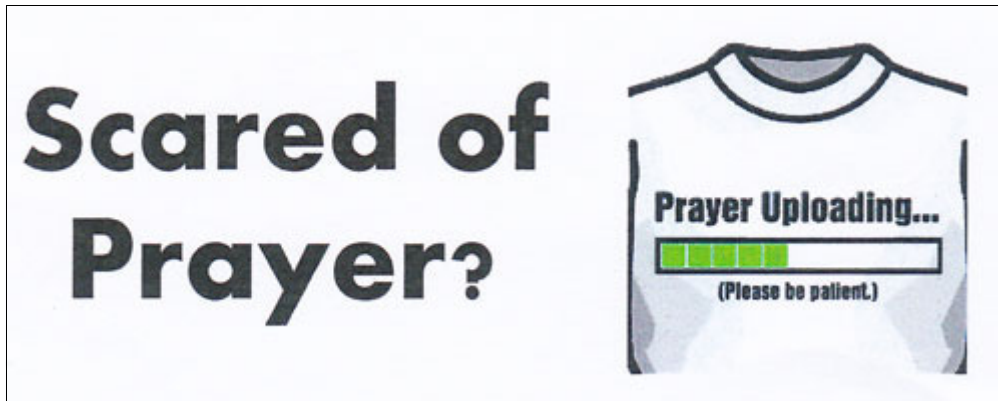
Music, Drama and a Quiz !



Come in national dress— prizes for the best
Saturday 23rd April 2.30pm

Invitation from Grange Road

We are holding a Community Quiz Night on Saturday 7th May at 7pm. There will be a bring and share supper at Grange Road Methodist Church and you are invited to bring a team. This event is part of Grange Road Methodist Churches Community outreach program



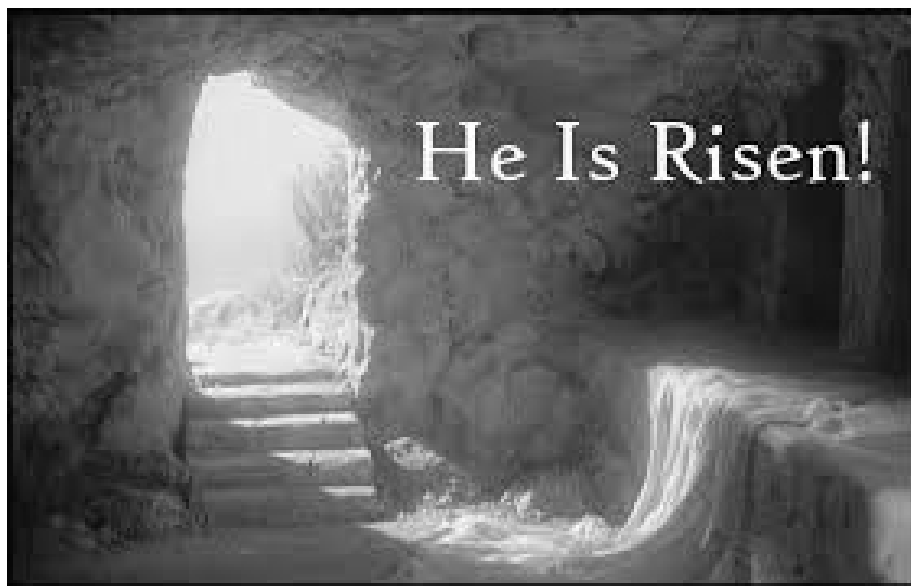
Scared of Prayer

May 4 @ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Waddington St. Durham

We are sure God never intended praying to be so difficult. Find out you're not alone in this and realise it's not as hard as you think. Take a step of faith and come along.....

Booking helpful but not essential via [Wendy at Synod Office](#)

Also May 7th 10.00 am at Alnwick and Darlington



A blessed and happy Easter to all our readers.

News of People

We remember all those of our church family who are housebound, and assure them of our prayers.

We especially think of Simon Burgon, Martin Ross, Keith Gorton and Kathy Thompson and Irene Walton, Andy Waterhouse and Tony Ingham, who are all unwell at the moment. We keep them all in our prayers.

We rejoice with Aileen and Frank Whittaker who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 21st May.



Flower Donors

April 3
 April 10 Mrs C Eddowes
 April 17 Mrs E Welsh
 April 24 Miss M Rodgers
 May 1 Mr and Mrs W White
 May 8
 May 15
 May 22 Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
 May 29 Mrs S Twist



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

Stewards' Rota

April 3	Mr. A. Bushnell	Mrs. E. Bushnell	
	Miss E. Rodgers	Mr. G. Parkinson	* Mr. F. Whittaker *
17	Mrs. G. Hoad	Miss A. Hoad	
	Mr. W. White	Mr. P. Humberston	* Mr. G. Parkinson *
24	Mr. K. Hoad	Mr. R. Fletcher	
	Mr. F. Whittaker	Mr. G. Parkinson	* Mr. P. Humberston *
May 1	Mr. A. Bushnell	Mrs. E. Bushnell	
	Miss E. Rodgers	Mr. R. Fletcher	* Mr. A. Fraser *
8	Mrs. G. Hoad	Miss A. Hoad	
	Mr. A. Fraser	. F. Whittaker	* Mr. W. White *
15	Mr. A. Bushnell	Mrs. E. Bushnell	
	Mr. R. Fletcher	Mr. P. Humberston	* Mr. G. Parkinson *
22	Mrs. G. Hoad	Miss A. Hoad	
	Mr. A Fraser	Mr. G. Parkinson	* Mr. P. Humberston *
29	Mr. K. Hoad	Mr. R. Fletcher	
	Mr W White	Mr P Humberston	*Mr A Fraser*
June 5	Mr A Bushnell	Mrs E Bushnell	
	Miss E Rodgers	Mr G Parkinson	*Mr W White*

If unable to be present, please arrange own substitute.

Stewards marked * will be responsible for locking and unlocking fire exit doors and main entrance door. All stewards please help with collecting and putting away hymn books after the service.

Worship in St George's

April

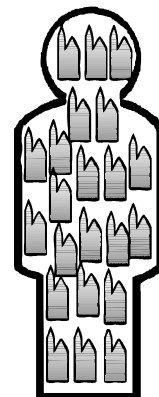
3 rd	10.30am	Mrs M Jones (Communion Service.)
10 th	10.30am	Worship at Grange Road Church
17 th	10.30am	Rev David Grosch Miller – General Assembly Moderator
24 th	10.30am	Miss Dorothy Thompson

May

1 st	10.30am	Mrs C Eddowes (Communion Service)
8 th	10.30am	Mrs M Jones - Grange Road with us.
15 th	10.30am	The Worship Team
22 nd	10.30am	Rev Ruth Crofton
29 th	10.30am	The Junior Worship Team.

June

5 th	10.30am	Dr Donna Moore (Communion Service.)
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From the editor

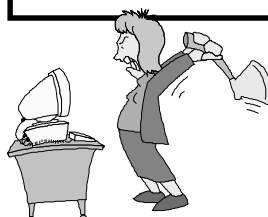
Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **Sun May 30th** please (or earlier)

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 Tues in month		Prayer meeting 11.00am
Thur	10am	Hobbies Club
	6.00pm	Pilots



Newsletter editor

Mrs C Eddowes

65 Hutton Ave
TS26 9PP
(269412)

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



Church office

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

Communion Rota

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

May Betty Woodhall Alan Woodhall
Andrew Fraser Brian Carter

June May Ord Sandra Twist
Janet White Bill White

Creche Rota

Apr 3	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
10	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
17	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
24	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
May 1	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
8	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
15	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
22	T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
29	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
June 5	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
12	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend.

Mrs E S Welsh