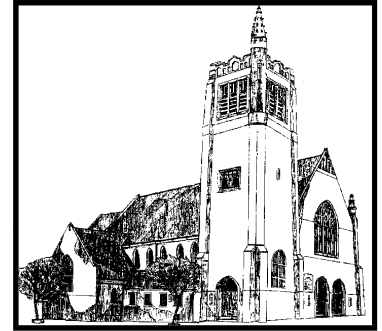




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Apr– May 2019



Dear Friends

One of the books I go back to again and again at this time of year is *The Things He Carried*, by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford. He was Bishop of Reading when he wrote this book.

In the book Bishop Stephen talks about the things Jesus carried with him to the cross.

The crown of thorns – a symbol of Kingship and yet it pierced his scalp and made him bleed. It was put on his head to make fun of him. They didn't want to identify with Jesus as a King, yet they made him a crown and bowed down in worship as they mocked him.

They made him a robe, like the robe a high priest might wear, seamless, light and expensive and yet his sweat and blood would stain the fabric.

He carried his followers' disappointments, for they had high expectations of where he would lead them and now it seemed to be coming to nothing.

He carried hopes and, sorrows, the broken hearts of the people and took them to the cross.

And still he carries our sorrows and our broken hearts and our hopes and our dreams not just through Lent and into Easter so that we can carry all that we are to him.

The book ends with a prayer which includes these words;

*Help is to follow in his way, deny ourselves and take up the cross he gives us, that
the world may learn his way of peace;
may his life and his purpose be alive in us this day and may we be alive in him.*

As we approach the season of Easter, may we look to the cross and remember all that our God has done for us in Christ.

Every blessing

Sue



Dates for your Diaries

April

- Sat 6th Hartlepool Male Voice Choir Concert, 7pm, tickets £5
 Sat 13th Easter Coffee Morning, 10am, for CWM & Cystic Fibrosis
 Mon 15th Elder's Meeting, 10am at Sandra's
 Mon 29th Pie and Pea Supper at Thornaby Mission, 7pm

May

- Sat 11th Spring Fayre, 9.30am – 12noon
 Sun 12th Christian Aid Week Sun 12 May – Sat 18 May, envelopes will be available in the church in the weeks leading up to this
 Sat 18th CWM Event followed by tea, 2.30pm
 Tues 21st 1st Book Group Meeting, 5.30pm – 7pm, see article for details

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARTLEPOOL

8am Prayer Meetings

- 10 April College of Further Education
 24 April St Joseph's Church
 8 May College of Further Education
 22 May Grange Road Methodist Church

These are open meetings and all are welcome to attend

Coffee Rota

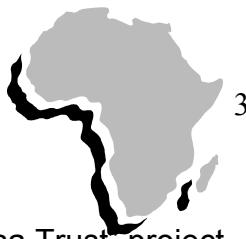
APRIL	7 th	Gail and Ashley Hoad
	14 th	Service at Grange Road
	21 st	Aileen Whittaker, Liz Moss
	28 th	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
MAY	5 th	Robert and Sheila Harrison
	12 th	Val Rigg, Gillian Cartman
	19 th	Margaret Fraser, Sandra Hindmarch
	26 th	Janet White, Wyn Parkinson, Dick Fletcher
JUNE	2 nd	Rose Hastings, Margaret Welford



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 5 days a week for your refreshment and for Traidcraft supplies, cards, books etc.



Project Africa

The total for our “Khanyisa Trust” project stands at £43.36p. Thanks to everyone who is supporting our appeal.

There are photographs on top of the piano of the 3 new toilets we are twinned with, so please have a look at them and see what your pennies have achieved.

Please keep saving your coppers etc.
Thanks again,
Wyn Parkinson



35th Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group

For their Safety Badge the Beavers have been learning about fire safety in the home, road safety and “Say no to Strangers”. Currently the Beavers are making Mother's Day cards and Easter cards.

The Cubs are working towards their “Global Issues” badge, and as part of this they identified the emblems of several charities such as British Red Cross, Water Aid, Save the Children, and Médecin sans Frontières and said what they understood about the work of those charities. For their First Aid badge they learnt CPR, how to put a patient in the recovery position, and how to apply different bandages. As well as doing badge work, the Beavers and Cubs enjoy playing team games and the Cubs also enjoyed playing a game of ‘Beetle’.

The Scouts have been doing a variety of badges including Environment and Conservation, Photography and Artistry, and Electronics. For their Communication Badge they had to understand and use the phonetic alphabet and use radios and Morse Code

Thank you

A big “Thank you” and much love to everyone, for all the beautiful cards and good wishes I received on my 90th Birthday. I had a lovely day and really appreciate all your kindness

Margaret Rodgers

And “Thank you” too from Paul Humberston who received lots of cards, love and good wishes on his recent birthday. He hasn't caught Margaret up yet. (*Rodgers, not Humberston! Don't want to get him in trouble. Ed*)

Mothering Sunday

A thank you from the congregation to the Worship Teams, old and young, for a really lovely service on Mothering Sunday. It was much appreciated. And thank you too to whoever had the patience to wrap all those chocolates in cellophane and ribbon!



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.

Gift Day

Our usual pattern is to have our Gift Day as near to St George's Day as possible. This year there is a change and Chris has written an explanation for this. (see Page 5)

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Cycle Idai Devastates Eastern Zimbabwe

At least 89 people have died in Zimbabwe after Cyclone Idai tore across the eastern and southern parts of the country. Idai has deepened the suffering of a nation already grappling with economic and ecological woes. *(probably and understatement of casualties, but this is what I got from CforL last week Ed.)*

The scale of destruction is unprecedented. Chimanimani has been cut off. Torrential rains and 170km winds swept away roads, homes, bridges and knocked out power and communication lines.

Nick Mangwana, the secretary for ministry of information, confirms 89 deaths. Most affected areas are not yet accessible, with high winds and dense clouds hampering rescue flights. Two pupils and a worker at a secondary school in Chimanimani were among those killed. A boulder crashed into their dormitory. Soldiers helped rescue the surviving 200 pupils and staff trapped at the school.

Zimbabwe, a country of 15 million people, is already suffering. The UN estimates that 5.3 million people will require food aid. Christian Aid is well positioned to compassionately respond to crises such as this.

We wish our partners every blessing as they work to address this latest environmental catastrophe. Support the Christian Aid Cyclone Adai appeal at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/cyclone-idai-appeal>

Prayer for Zimbabwe (cf. Christian Aid)

*Jehovah-Jireh, Jehovah-Rapha, Jehovah-Shalom,
God of liberty and righteousness, God of peace and truth, you feed your people on the mountains, by the watercourses, and in the plains.*

Where there is hunger in Zimbabwe bring prosperity; where the economy has been ravaged, bring restoration and recovery. Let there be abundance in Zimbabwe and may all the people flourish. Amen.



From the Church Meeting



The Church Meeting on Sunday 24th March was not a particularly happy one. There was the usual friendly family atmosphere, but the news was not good, particularly the end of year accounts which showed that we are really living beyond our means,

In David Copperfield, Mr Micawber has his famous, and oft-quoted, recipe for happiness:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen [pounds] nineteen [shillings] and six [pence], result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

Unfortunately our accounts are nearer the second than the first and we really need to do something about it. We have a large deficit on the year and we need to turn this around. We are a hardy, cheerful lot who love our church and there is no doubt we can do this if we put our minds to it. However, as all debt counsellors know, you need to get things square before you can really tackle the problem.

In short, we need to see if we can wipe out the deficit. As it happens, April 23rd is St. George's Day and we traditionally celebrate this as our gift day. Our elders have suggested, that if we can afford it, we make a pledge of a gift of money to St. George's. Envelopes and forms were available at the meeting- and Sandra and Margaret still have some. The idea is that you return this on, or before Gift Day with either your gift (probably a cheque) or pledge for a future date. This is meant to be a one off gift- like a birthday present, not a regular occurrence, though it would delight the treasurer if you increased your weekly giving!

Let us make clear, you are not expected to do this, it is a gift freely given. Different people are in different circumstances at different times in their lives and only you know yours.

If you would like to do this, please ask for an envelope.

What's the URC all about?

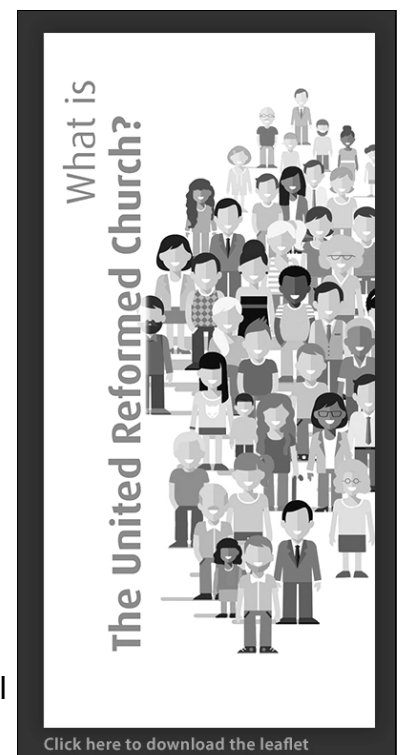
Do you really know what makes the URC different from other denominations? You may have been a member for a while or be a new one but not be entirely sure.

This five-session course is designed for small groups of young people or adults in local churches; those preparing for church membership, those who are new to the United Reformed Church or for those who, for whatever reason, want to deepen their understanding of our traditions and beliefs.

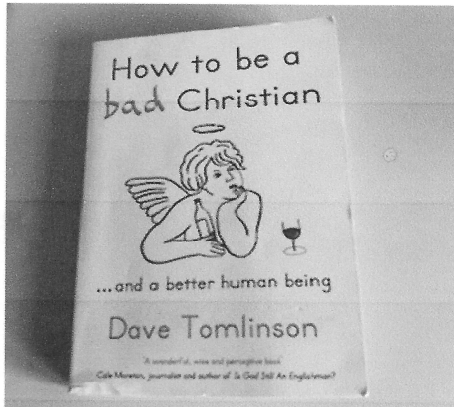
You can learn much more by discussing things in a group and we already have one person who is trying to struggle with this course on her own. Would you like to join her?

I am proposing that we try this together so a small group of people would be very welcome. Times and dates will be arranged to suit those taking part.

If you're interested, get in touch with me, Chris, and we'll have a go at finding some answers. I don't have them all, so we'll struggle together!



Advanced notice of our new book group.



We would like to invite you to join our new book group, we intend it to be a welcome addition to our church life. We hope it will help us grow our church family whilst helping us read and think about our own faith and life in the 21st century.

We have chosen 'How to be a bad Christian... and a better human being' for our first book (group members will be able to nominate books for our future reads). *It is an easy read and it asks us ...*

"Would you describe yourself as spiritual but not religious?"

"Do you want to think with your soul rather than trying to follow the rules"

As the number of people who attend church in England continues to fall, do we draw from that that people are less good, less spiritual? we think not!

We all know many people who follow a Christian life but never enter a church. This book asks us to think about modern life and what it means to have a life of meaning and contribution. This book looks at things through a Christian eye and we hope subsequent books will look from other perspectives.

We are encouraging people to recycle books and buy pre-owned ones if you can. If you are struggling to get hold of a copy / or struggling to afford a copy please get in touch we want our group to be accessible to all.

How to be a bad Christian ... and a better Human Being

by Dave Tomlinson

The group will begin after Easter. We are currently working out the detail and so far, we have agreed the following:

- We are going to meet in the community at the Nursery Inn (Hopps Street, TS26 8RA)
- Each meeting will be from 17.30 – 19.00 (dates to be confirmed)

We are going to treat this first book as an experiment in running our book group and see how it goes! While we work out the finer detail, please get the book and start to **READ AND THINK!**

Book Group hosts - Liz Moss and Maxine Craig

First meeting: Tuesday 21st May 5pm-7pm

A Rubbish Evening



The Peace and Justice group has been trying for months to arrange a meeting about recycling- what and where. Finally, in February, a representative from the Council came and gave an interesting talk and answered questions. So are we now clear what and where?

No easy answer, really, though some things were made clear. Envelopes, which started the whole discussion, can be recycled, unless there is too much glue, in which case, just tear off that bit and recycle the rest. Black plastic is a no-no in Hartlepool as the machinery which sorts it cannot see it on a black conveyer belt. If you live in Durham, you can recycle it. On the whole, hard plastic, which has the recycle symbol, can be put in your recycling bin, but the thin film which wraps many magazines can't. Things like bread wrappers can be recycled in supermarkets who take carrier bags for recycling.

Pizza boxes, if not too greasy are ok, but not egg boxes as they are made with too much glue. Confused? If you aren't sure, put it in the rubbish bin as it costs a lot to fish things out from the recycling- but DON'T take this as an excuse not to recycle.

Really, the government needs to act by banning some plastics in packaging, but they seem a bit pre-occupied by other things at the moment to do something which really is important.

St George's would like to become an eco-church and we all need to play a part in this. If you are throwing something in the bin in the kitchen, ask yourself if it can be recycled. If it can- take it home. Do you need to use a throw-away cup. It's more eco to wash up- and sociable too. Basically, use your brain and care about the environment; we'd like to leave a decent planet for our grand-kids.

Chris Eddowes

to ask



What! Christmas already!

It has been suggested that a simple way to give a gift for Christmas to our church would be to save in a jar. Nothing new in that, you will say, but have you had a specially decorated jar the purpose?

Wyn is using her creative talents to decorating special Christmas jars which she will let you have for free! The idea is that you put your gift in the jar each week and then, just before Christmas, we bring them along to church and have them dedicated and then see the smile on our treasurer's face.

If you save, say £1 a week, you would have at least £35 in your jar!

We have a lot about money in this issue- and that is not what church is about- but we have to face up to the facts that if we wish St. George's to continue, we need to find some.



St George's



Fayre
Saturday 13th April
 Open 10 - 12 Admission £1.00

Cake & Crafts

**Cystic
 Fibrosis Trust**

 a partnership
 of churches
 in mission

St George's

Spring Fayre

Saturday May 11th

9.30 ~ noon

Bedding plants

Bric a brac,

Cakes

Toys and Games

Nearly New

Tombola and Raffles

Crafts

Admission including refreshments
£1.00

CWM

May 18th at 2.30pm

Meet Jane Rowell Synod Rep

Hear the latest news from Council for World Mission

Followed by tea

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Saturday 13 April 2019 10 am – 12 noon Easter Coffee Morning, supporting CWM & The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. £1 entry including refreshments. Donations of cakes, raffles prizes and bric a brac would be gratefully received.

Chocolate Quizzes. Please see Rose or collect a quiz sheet from the Cornerstone Coffee Shop. £1 each. The correct sheets will be put into a hat and drawn at the Easter Coffee Morning.

Spring Fayre Saturday 11 May 2019 9.30 – 12 noon. £1 entry including refreshments. This is one of our main fund raising events of the year and we need both helpers and donations. Please see Gillian Rodgers if you can help.

Saturday 22 June 2019 – Ukulele Concert – Save the Date: More details to follow.

Watch this space for details of **Film Nights** (or maybe afternoons!), and the re launch of the **St George's Cook Book**.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts – it is very much appreciated.

Gillian Rodgers

News of People

Ian and Maxine will be welcomed into membership by transfer from Boldon on Easter Sunday.

We send best wishes to those members of our church family who have been or are currently unwell, we think about them and miss them.

Rev Margaret Robb will be retiring from Ministry at the beginning of May. We are invited to attend her retirement service on Sunday 5 May at Jesmond URC, please see Margaret if you wish to go

Notable birthdays this edition are:

Paul Rodgers will be 60 on 10 April

Ian Humberston will be 40 on 4 June

Alan Woodhall will be 80 on 5 June

Many happy returns to you all.



Flower Donors

April 7 Mrs C Eddowes

April 14 Service at Grange Road

April 21 Miss M Rodgers

April 28

May 5 Mr and Mrs W White

May 12 Mrs E Welsh

May 19 Mr and Mrs F Whittaker

May 26

June 2 Mrs A Foster



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
APR 7 th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
14 th	Service at Grange Road	
18 th	Brian Carter (Maundy Thursday)	
19 th	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall (Good Friday)
21 st	Kevin Hoad, Dick Fletcher	Bill White
28 th	Aileen and Frank Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
MAY 5 th	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
12 th	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Brian Carter
19 th	Liz Moss, Sandra Hindmarch	Alan Woodhall
26 th	Aileen and Frank Whittaker	Frank Whittaker-
JUNE 2 nd	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell

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

Worship in St George's

April

- 7th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes – Communion Service
 14th 10.30am United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
 18th 7.00pm Mrs Chris Eddowes - Maundy Thursday Service
 19th 10.30pm Rev Sue Fender – Good Friday Service
 21st 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes – Easter Day Communion Service
 28th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones – Parade Service followed by lunch

May

- 5th 10.30am Rev Ruth Crofton - Communion Service
 12th 10.30am Rev Sue Fender - United Service with Grange Road
 19th 10.30am The Worship Team
 26th 10.30am Mrs Judith Winn – Not Parade

June

- 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 **26th May** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

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 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986

HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD

Mrs J White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel.: 280986

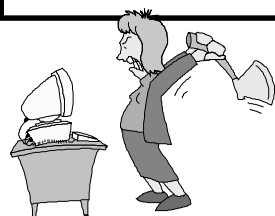
St George's Regular Activities

- 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



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 (425847)



Newsletter Editor

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 TS26 9PP
 (269412)

Communion Rota

Easter Sunday

Bill White Janet White

May

Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

June

Paul Rodgers Gillian Rodgers

All elders to help with clearing up.

Creche Rota

Apr 7	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh
14	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
21	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
28	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
May 5	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs ES Welsh
12	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
19	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh
26	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
June 2	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
9	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh

PLEASE ARRANGE OWN SUBSTITUTE IF UNABLE TO ATTEND.