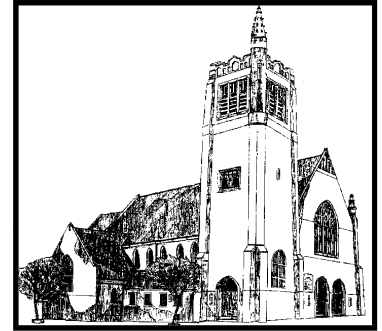




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool June-July 2019



Dear Friends

I remember when I was first hearing the call to ministry, I read a lot about the United Reformed Church and its theology and mission. At that time we were thinking about the Five Marks of Mission and I remember at one meeting someone using the tag-line,

‘transformed by the gospel, making a difference, for Christ’s sake’.

Those words have stuck with me ever since. They are for me the words I work by each and every day. What is the transformation I hope to achieve by doing x, y or z? Who will this make a difference for? Am I really doing it for Christ’s sake?

It is a continual challenge that keeps me focused on what I am doing, and I hope they are words that resonate with you too.

At our church meeting in March we were challenged regarding the financial situation of the church. In May we were able to confirm that your generosity has given us some breathing space, but how we use this time is crucial to the future of the church. We must now seriously consider our mission and ministry to the people of Hartlepool. We still have our audio/visual project ‘on the table’, but I know that some of you have other ideas – visions and dreams of what you believe God is doing in this place and inviting us to join in.

If we are to live as people transformed by the gospel – there is work to be done. How are we, members and friends of St George’s United Reformed Church, going to transform the lives of others by the gospel we share? How are we going to make a difference, for Christ’s sake?

These are questions we need to take seriously and work on the answers together. I really would appreciate hearing from you. Where do YOU see God at work around us? Where and how can we use our building, our time and our talents to join in?

Please share your views and ideas with me and the Elders. Together we have received so much, together we have so much to offer!

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

Psalm 96 1-4

Every blessing

Sue

Dates for your Diaries

June

Sat 15th Traidcraft 40th Anniversary Coffee Morning, 10am – 12noon
 Sat 15th Strawberry Tea, Thornaby Mission, 1pm
 Sat 15th Pie & Peas Film Night, 4.30pm
 Sat 22nd Ukulele Band Concert, 7.30pm
 Tues 25th Reading Group, The Nursery Inn, 5.30pm – 7pm
 Thurs 27th Pastorate Leadership Meeting, Norton, 7pm
 Sat 29th Garden Party for CWM at home of Alan and Betty,

July

Mon 8th Elders' Meeting, 10am
 Sun 21st Church Meeting following worship

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARTLEPOOL

8am Prayer Meetings –

12 June College of Further Education

26 June St George's URC

10 July College of Further Education

24 July Church of the Nazarene

These are open meetings and all are welcome to attend

Coffee Rota

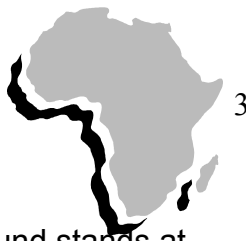
JUNE	2nd	Rose Hastings, Margaret Welford
	9th	Service at Grange Road
	16th	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
	23rd	Enid and Alistair Bushnell
	30th	Aileen Whittaker, Elma Welsh
JULY	7th	Robert and Sheila Harrison
	14th	Val Rigg, Margaret Fraser
	21st	Kevin Hoad, Liz Moss
	28th	Janet White, Wyn Parkinson, Dick Fletcher
AUGUST	4th	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 5 days a week for your refreshment and for Traidcraft supplies, cards, books etc.



Project Africa

Our "Khanyisa Trust" project fund stands at £59.62p. Thank you to everyone who is supporting our appeal. Please keep saving your coppers etc.

Thanks again
Wyn Parkinson

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.

Fundraising

Our Easter Coffee Morning money was split between the Church £210.00, CWM £169.30 & The Cystic Fibrosis Trust £203.05. This proved to be a very worthwhile event. The money raised for CF is going to buy board games for young adults. This has been requested by the CF nursing team at Hartlepool General Hospital.

The **Spring Fayre** raised over £1,400. This was a fantastic result and I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped. Last year we held two events (the Spring Fayre and a separate Plant Sale) and raised £1,307.74

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 22 June at 7.30 pm Hartlepool Ukulele Group. Tickets, priced at £3.50, are available from Enid, the Cornerstone Coffee Shop or on the door on the night. Please see Sandra if you have any donations for a raffle.

Saturday 15th June – Pie & Pea film afternoon, starting at 4.30 pm. We will be watching Beauty and the Beast. Tickets are £6 for adults and £4.50 for children. Please Janet for tickets.

A barrow has been booked to sell craft items on **Thursday 27th June at Hartlepool General Hospital and Thursday 11 July at North Tees Hospital.** If you are able to donate anything to the stall or able to spare an hour or two to help please see Gillian Rodgers. We are also considering having a tombola, alongside the crafts – any donations would be very gratefully received. All money raised is for church funds.

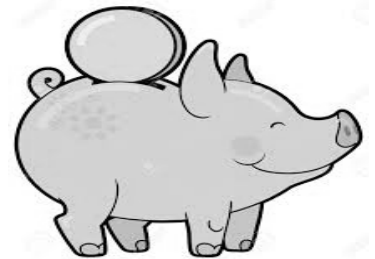
Thank you

Birthdays come round once a year for everyone but the best ones are always celebrated with friends. St George's folk always make memories special so many thanks to all the church family for the all of the love and best wishes on the occasion of my 60th birthday in April.

Paul Rodgers

Pledge/Gift Day

We are very grateful to everyone who supported this event. The church meeting is already aware that we managed to reach our target. Thank you for your generosity



St George's & Friends Cookbook

A number of years ago we published a very popular cookbook with recipes provided by church members. We are hoping to do this again and have the cookbook ready by the middle of November in time for the Christmas rush!!

We need starters, main courses, desserts, jams, pickles, sauces and anything else that you would like to share! Please either hand write your recipe or preferably type it and pass it or email it) to Paul Humberston by **Sunday 29 September 2019.** You can submit more than recipe, but Paul may need to have the final say if we have several of the same recipe submitted. Please ask family and friends to join in – the more the merrier!

Fundraising Group – an initial meeting to discuss the forthcoming events has been arranged for **Thursday 20 June at 12 noon** in the hall area. Please feel free to come along and share your ideas and thoughts about what as a church family we might be able to do to help with the ongoing fundraising activities within the church.



Gillian Rodgers

Every Day Struggles

“I don’t know what to do anymore,” said a desperate Leo (not his real name). “Things have got so bad.”

Leo is a wonderful and caring minister of the church now working in Harare. I studied with Leo at Rhodes University 25 years ago. Everyone got on with him. We all loved his gentle-giant kind-heartedness. But Leo has not been paid in over four months. When he does receive a stipend, it is only around a quarter of the agreed amount. His family is beginning to suffer.

Sadly, Leo’s story is not an isolated case. Almost everyone in Zimbabwe has seen her or his assets and wealth disappear. The country is suffering the accumulated effects of prolonged economic decline: poor governance, loss of income, a withering of democracy and - to add woe to misery - climate disruption. People are stretched to breaking point. “I injured my leg very badly,” said Leo, “and I can’t afford to see the doctor.” Zimbabwe does not have a socialized medical care system. Along with many other national assets, medical care has been privatised. Only the very wealthy can now afford doctors and medicines.



Systems Development (PMSD) approach is designed to reduce poverty and protect the environment. We want systemic change and transformation for the poor. Our programmes focus horticulture, sorghum, organic herbs & spices. Our programmes also empower people to anticipate and manage disasters. We build the [resilience](#) of poor women and men guided by the [resilience framework](#).

These efforts take time to filter through to people like Leo. Often it seems like a losing battle. But we are committed to doing everything we can to make a difference. . Your prayer and support are deeply valued

What is a church?

On our recent holiday in Greece, we visited an island which has been abandoned. The last inhabitants left in the 1960’s. It had been used by first the Italians and then by the Germans as a base for soldiers and also submarines in the last war. There was no water on the island and the only way was to catch rainfall in underground cisterns. Life became increasingly hard for the goat and sheep farmers, so they left.

Since then it has been taken over by the military for exercises and the sheep are visited occasionally by the owners, though the government took their papers from them and now they have only family memories of which land is theirs. The army arrived while we were there; 4 small inflatable boats– with guns mounted on the bows (intimidating!)- and they proceeded ashore to replace the rather tattered Greek flag with a new one. Interestingly, the men weren’t very good at the knots and it took the woman soldier to get it flying.

We could see 2 small churches. I went to one, very dilapidated, and untied the rope on the door. To my surprise, inside, although not perfect, was clean, swept and ready for use; there was even a even a cup on the altar and a new icon in the screen.

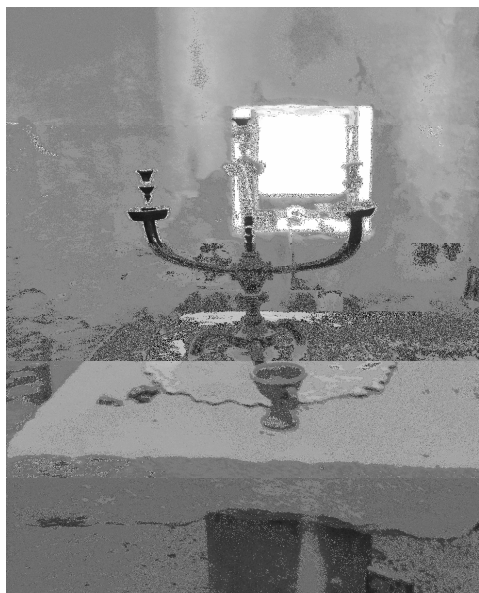
This church was still loved by the families who had built it and worshipped in it. They still go back for the christening of their babies

You could have put dozens of chapels the size of this into our St. George’s, but when I went in, sunlight was pouring through the yellow glass of the windows and there was a wonderful feeling of love and care

World Church and Mission Garden Party on
29th June 2.30 - 4.30
At Betty and Alan's



*Join us on
Saturday 15th June at 10am
for a
Celebration Coffee Morning with
cake
To mark Traidcraft's 40th birth-
day*



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2019

With last years successful appeal St Georges has again been registered with Link to Hope to pack family boxes. So please continue to bring in medium sized shoeboxes. Leaflets will be available shortly but all the usual items are required plus small games, candles and holders, toothpaste, crayons, small toiletries under 300 ml small note books etc. Our band of knitters have already been busy with the usual hats gloves and scarves but some talented ladies have made super pencil cases. We have also been fortunate in been given tennis balls, soft toys and toy cars as well as face clothes and soap. We will also be glad to take contributions of £2 a box to send them, Link to Hope manages to distribute them to needy Eastern European countries for this small amount.

Dates for your diary- Hobbies group on October 17th and 24th 10 to 12 and 24th October 6pm to cover the boxes feel free to join us to pack up. Dedication will be on 27th October ready for pick up early November.

Many thanks Aileen Whittaker

There's a sermon there, I thought. It's not the building, its decoration or glories but the love that people find there. Perhaps that's what makes a building a church

Chris



This Year Celebrates Traidcraft's 40th Birthday!

Traidcraft are the original fair trade pioneers in the UK, fighting for social, economic and trade justice, since way back in 1979. Traidcraft believe in fair trade, which means that the artisans and farmers (the people who make and grow the food and products we used every day) should be paid and treated fairly at all times.

Over the last forty years, Traidcraft have done many fantastic things for fair trade across the world; in the '80s, they brought the first fair trade tea from Africa, as well as coffee and sugar. They brought the first fair trade chocolate (from fair trade cocoa beans) to the UK in 1991, the first fair trade wine in 2001, the first fair trade cotton in 2006 and the first fair trade cleaning range in 2014. Traidcraft also believe in equality, meaning that everyone within the supply chain should be treated equally, regardless of characteristics like race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age.

The original fair trade products were widely sold on church stalls and in markets, which is still the case to this day – you may even spot some fair trade goodies being sold at your own church! Forty years on, their range has come a long way, and now includes a

wide collection of crafts, fashion and even groceries suitable for vegans (people who don't use or eat anything animal related).

In recent years, Traidcraft are placing more importance on looking after our planet than ever before. The earth's surface temperature is increasing at an alarming rate due to factors such as CO2 emissions and greenhouse gases, both of which contribute to global warming. This is very dangerous for the future of our planet.

Traidcraft are doing all they can to protect and fight for our fragile environment; often craft products are created using recycled materials for example, and many of their grocery products are farmed organically, where no chemicals, fertilisers or pesticides are used and the soil remains happy and healthy.

Traidcraft have even produced the first sustainable, organic and fair trade palm oil, which is extracted from the little red/orange fruits of the palm tree. Plants are encouraged to grow naturally rather than intensively farmed, supporting the growers and protecting the environment surrounding the palm trees.

News of People

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 and are particularly happy to learn that Anne L's operation is over and her convalescence is going well.

Ian Humberston is 40 on June 4th, Alan Woodhall is 80 on June 5th and Elma Welsh will be 80 on 30 July.

Chris and Richard Eddowes celebrate their Golden Wedding on 27th July. Congratulations for all occasions.

At the annual undergraduate conference of Bournemouth university, Eleanor Daniel, a final year B.Sc (hons) physiotherapy student (Mary's grand daughter) was awarded the top prize of a master's fee waiver for the best overall contribution. Congratulations to Eleanor and her proud granny.

Emily Rodgers has nearly finished her 3 years' training and will start nursing in the Special Care Baby Unit at the RVI in autumn. Well done, Emily!



Flower Donors

June 2	Mrs A Foster
June 9	Mrs R Jackson
June 16	Mrs S Twist
June 23	Mrs M Mudd
June 30	
July 7	
July 14	Mrs P Branfoot
July 21	Mrs W Parkinson
July 28	Mrs S Turnbull



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
JUNE	2nd	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	9th	Service at Grange Road	
	16th	Paul Humberston, Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	23rd	Aileen Whittaker, Sandra Hindmarch	Frank Whittaker
	30th	Pam Branfoot, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
JULY	7th	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Bill White
	14th	Aileen Whittaker, Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	21st	Alistair and Enid Bushnell	Alistair Bushnell
	28th	Paul Humberston, Dick Fletcher	Frank Whittaker
AUGUST	4th	Sandra Hindmarch, Pam Branfoot	Brian Carter

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

Worship in St George's

June

2 nd	10.30am	Rev Sue Fender – Communion Service
9 th	10.30am	United Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
16 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes
23 rd	10.30am	Rev John Elliston
30 th	10.30am	The Worship Team – Parade Service

July

7 th	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones - Communion Service
14 th	10.30am	Mrs Jan Harper - United Service with Grange Road
21 st	10.30am	Rev Sue Fender
28 th	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones – Not Parade

August

4 th	10.30am	Mr John Drew - 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 **28th July** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

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FREEWILL OFFERING TREASURER

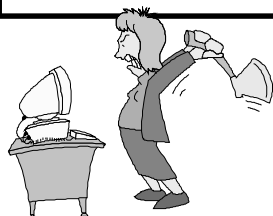
Mr W White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986

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



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Church office

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TS26 9LS
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Creche Rota

June	2	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs ES Welsh
	9	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs ES Welsh
	16	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	23	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	30	Mrs M Ord	Mrs E S Welsh
July	7	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	14	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	21	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	28	Mrs M Ord	Mrs E S Welsh
Aug	4	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	11	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh

PLEASE ARRANGE OWN SUBSTITUTE IF UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Communion Rota

July

Mrs M Ord Mrs S Twist

August

Mr B Carter Mrs C Eddowes

All elders to help with clearing up.