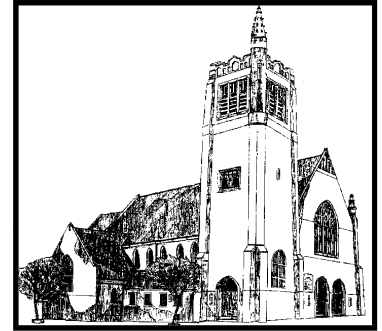




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Feb-Mar 2020



Dear Friends

Happy New year. It's always a puzzle to me how long we should say that for, but I do wish you God's peace and blessings in this new year.

New Year is a time for us to reevaluate what we are doing, as individuals and as a church. It's important that we take time to think about who we are and what as we strive to Walk the Way and live the life as Jesus today.

This year I want us to focus on making Holy Habits for living, and each month I will write something about a Holy Habit we can all try to make as part of our Christian Discipleship.

There are 10 Holy Habits, enough for us to think about one each month as we go through the year together as members of each church and as a group together. During my services with you we will focus on the month's 'habit' together. This month we will focus on sharing our resources.

We are part of a group of four churches, each have our own unique identity but all having an identity found in Christ. Together we share all of who we are and what we have, combined wisdom, experience, knowledge, and above all a commitment to share God's love with one another and with those we seek to serve in our local community. We already benefit from services of the lay-preachers in our group, enhancing our worship and offering us new perspectives as they open up the Scriptures for us.

We live in a world where we like to protect our privacy, strive for quiet times away from the demands of daily life and that often included shielding ourselves away from others. As we share the Good News of Jesus, we need each other's skills and talents and every one of us has something to offer. Whether we share in the tasks by making tea, cleaning our churches, reading, leading children's work or providing a listening ear and a word of encouragement, together we can and will achieve great things.

This month please think about what you can offer, how you might share your talents, your time, something of yourself with others.

This year let us form some new habits together, across the group, supporting and caring for each other in our churches and local communities.

A prayer for the month;

God of abundance, you have given each of us different gifts, talents and passions. We offer all these to you for your Kingdom.

Encourage and guide us as we work together so that we may all use what we have been given to further your work here on earth.

Amen

God bless
Sue



Dates for your Diaries

February

Mon 3 rd	Elders Meeting, 10am at the Church.
12 th – 14 th	Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am - 3pm Mammoth Sale – help needed with sale.
Thurs 13 th	Prayers for the Town, Church of the Nazarene, 11am – 12noon.
Sat 15 th	Removal of rubbish after Mammoth Sale – help needed.
Sun 16 th	Church Meeting and AGM following morning worship.
Sat 29 th	Re-seeding not Receding, 10.30am – 3.45pm, conference arranged by the Synod. See Margaret H for more details.

March

Thurs 5 th	Prayers for the Town, Church of the Nazarene, 11am – 12noon.
Sat 14 th	Synod Meeting, Sunderland, 10am – 4pm
Sat 14 th	Pipers Concert in aid of Ward 25 at James Cook Hospital, 7.30pm,
24 th -14 th	Knitted Bible exhibition at home from 24 th March until 14 th April, further details to follow.

April

Sat 4 th	Easter Coffee Morning, 10am – 12noon, as part of the Knitted Bible Exhibition
---------------------	---

Churches Together in Hartlepool

8am Prayer Meetings:

12 February	College of Further Education
26 February	St Columba's Church
11 March	College of Further Education
25 March	10 Clarkson Court

These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

Coffee Rota

FEBRUARY

2nd	Kevin Hoad, Margaret Welford
9th	Service at Grange Rd
16th	Rose Hastings, Sandra Hindmarsh
23rd	Val Rigg, Elma Welsh

MARCH

1st	Margaret Fraser, Aileen Whittaker
8th	Sheila and Robert Harrison
15th	Paul and Gillian Rodgers
22nd	Janet White, Wyn Parkinson
29th	Gillian Cartman, Kevin Hoad

APRIL

5th	Margaret Wellford, Rose Hastings
-----	----------------------------------

.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.



Project Africa



At the end of December the total for our "Khanyisa Trust" fund stood at £138.98 and we were able to give Moyra £135 to forward to the Trust. (I have heard they were delighted with our gift.)

Our project this year is for "Water Aid" a very worthy cause, I'm sure you will agree.

The total for our new project stands at £18.02 which includes the £3.98 from last year.

Thank you to everyone who supports our appeal and please keep saving your coppers etc.

Wyn Parkinson

35th Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group

The Beavers are currently working on their Space Explorers badge. They made paper rockets and then took part in a game where the rockets took off and orbited the moon. They will also be learning about the planets and taking part in other space related activities.

The Cubs are working on their Astronomy badge. They discussed solar and lunar eclipse and the orbits of the different planets. They hope to visit Wynyard Planetarium and Observatory in February, possibly accompanied by the Beavers. Some of the cubs remembered seeing the moon rising when they were at camp in North Yorkshire last year, as the sky was clear and there was no light pollution.

The Scouts are working towards their Local Knowledge badge. They have looked at a street map of Hartlepool and worked out how to reach different places in town, such as the railway station to find out the time of a train from the timetable and the cinema to find out the time of a film. They also planned how to get to St George's from their homes and if the church was closed, how they would find out how old the building is.

Thank you

Rita Jackson (and family) would like to say thank you very much for the lovely flowers. They were a great surprise and really appreciated. It was very thoughtful and felt lovely to be remembered by old friends.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Owton Manor Baptist Church, Friday 6 March at 6.30pm. Praying with Zimbabwe.

AFTERNOON LENT COURSE

'The Beauty of the Cross'. Daily reflections for Lent from Isaiah 52 & 53 by Tim Chester.

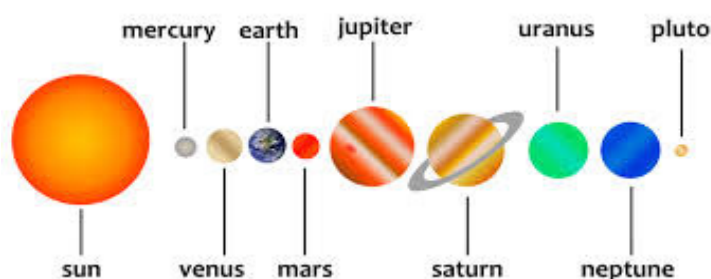
The course will be held at the Church of the Nazarene, Lowthian Road, at 2pm on Tuesday March 3, 10, 17 (not 24) 31 and April 7. Print copies of 'The Beauty of the Cross' are available from Cath and Dave Thompson, 01429 232195. Price £5.

PRAYERS FOR THE TOWN

Prayer sessions will be held at the Church of the Nazarene on Thursday 13 February and Thursday 5 March from 11am to 12 noon. There will be a soup lunch to follow. These sessions are open to all.

Knitted Bible

The Knitted Bible will be back home from Tuesday 24 March 2020 until Tuesday 14 April 2020. We intend to have the exhibition open from 10am until 3pm during this time and plan to invite the schools to visit. Obviously we will need people in the church to help during the times the exhibition is open. I would be grateful if you could add these dates to your diary and be prepared offer your help with this once the details are finalised. Thank you, Kathryn H.





Fair Trade

You may have noticed that there is a fair trade stall at the back of church, mostly when I can be there. If you could help me by selling goods when I am preaching elsewhere, please let me know.

People tend to buy different stuff from stalls than they did in the shop. Could you let me know what you would like me to stock so we can avoid out of date products.

We are coming up to Fairtrade Fortnight so it would be good if we could make a big effort, particularly as we are a Fairtrade Church. I hope you've seen the new certificates in church.

Another way to help is to donate to the **Live Fair Box scheme**

- **Your £8 monthly donation helps farmers fight for a fairer deal in a market stacked against them. Let's take the fight against exploitation to the next level.**
- **Every three months we'll send you a box of fairness as a little 'thank you', full of Fair-trade treats, tips and recipes. We'll help you think outside the box!**
- **Find lots of tips and ideas in every box, helping you live a little fairer every day... Join the Live Fair movement, and make living ethically a (chocolate) cake walk!**

I'm doing this and it's really interesting— who would have thought you could make brownies from coffee grounds!

If you're interested I'll give you some info

Chris

Hands Up For Hartlepool

At Hartlepool Foodbank we provide over 15,000 emergency meals each year and these are a lifeline to people in crisis. However we recognise that these cannot lift people out of poverty or help them to change their lives for the long term. **Hands Up For Hartlepool** is a new project designed to complement our emergency food provision to vulnerable people in the town through information, advice and guidance for Foodbank users and the wider community. We hope to be able to offer support on topics as varied as debt, health, money management and housing.

We plan to hold a session each Wednesday in our new unit in the Middleton Grange, inviting our network of expert agencies to attend and support people on a drop in basis. In future we hope the space will also become somewhere for us to hold seasonal events like school uniform banks. We are incredibly lucky to have such a large network of support organisations in the town and we hope the project will provide a central hub for them to access those who need them most.

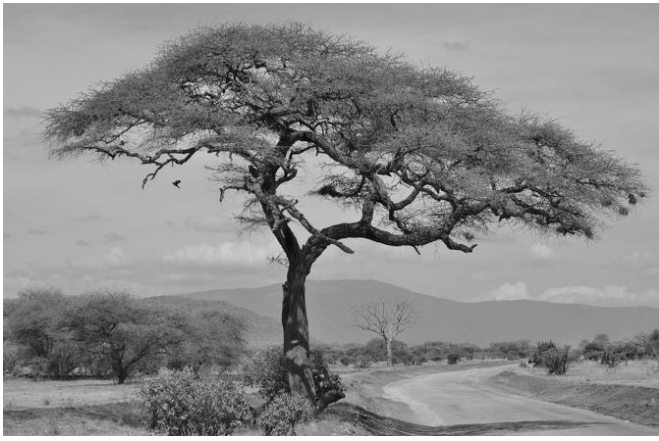
We are currently looking for volunteers to help support the project. Volunteering would be on a Wednesday (either weekly, fortnightly or monthly from February if possible) and full training will be given. A variety of roles will be available from providing advice and support to administration to making teas and coffees for visitors.

We are holding an open day on **Wednesday 5th February** to explain more about the project. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering or finding out more about the project please feel free to pop in anytime between **10am - 2pm. We are on the upper level of the Middleton Grange shopping centre, next door to The Galleries Cafe.**

Please let me know if you would like to attend. If you have any questions please contact me on info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk or call 01429 598404.

Abi Knowles

We would also very much appreciate your prayers for the project and for the work of Hartlepool Foodbank. Thank you so much for your continued support



Safe Water in Matabeleland

This month we highlight the superb work done by one of *Commitment for Life's* Christian Aid partners in Zimbabwe, Dabane Trust.

Dabane Trust operates in the south- western areas of the country - Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North. These regions are classified as arid and semi- arid rangelands. Here, Dabane Trust develops and supports sustainable low technology community initiatives. It is a leading, non-governmental organization dedicated to establishing water and food secure communities.

Dabane has what they call 'Water Workshops' which involve teaching and learning about water. Water sanitation and hygiene are especially emphasised.

Communities are encouraged to have clean kitchens, pit latrines with handwashing facilities and and and well organised refuse pits. Communities are also encouraged to draw water for domestic purposes only from approved water sources. In addition, Dabane is involved in borehole rehabilitation and and and construction of Rowa pumps.

Dabane works with rural communities to develop clean, palatable water supplies for household use, stock drinking and small-scale irrigation system. Communities are assisted in developing alternative and and and sonal water resources for sustainable domestic use, sanitation and hygiene. Learn more at <http://dabane.org>

News from Zimbabwe

President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently launched the annual, national tree planting day in Goromonzi at the 18th National People's Conference.

Zimbabwe has planted 12 million trees so far out of an annual target of 15 million trees. The government wants traditional leaders and churches must allocate land for forestry in their respective areas. However, tobacco farmers and tree-logging firms continue to log unabated, devastating the environment.

The statistics for overall deforestation in the country make for grim reading. See <https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Zimbabwe.htm>

Commitment for Life February Prayer

Prayers of the prophets

'All I ask of you is this: act justly,
love tenderly, and walk humbly
with your God.'

Micah 6:8

God, we hear the prophets' call to justice, peace and action. We invite you to pierce our complacency, fire our hearts and strengthen our wills. This world is hurting, broken and wounded. Use our feet to stride towards justice. Use our hands to bring about healing. Use our mouths to preach Good News.

Use our gifts to usher in peace, equity, reconciliation and love. Dear God, acting justly is not easy. Yet this is what you ask of us. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.

Amen

Could you be a trustee?

Schools and churches (PCCs) are not the only organizations that need to recruit governors. There are opportunities to serve God by becoming a trustee of a registered charity. Specifically, the foodbank has vacancies that we would very much like to fill. Here are some questions and answers about this:

Q. what sort of people are we looking for?

A. People very much like you – people with a heart to serve God by helping people who are finding life difficult at the moment. Maybe you already do voluntary work, but would like an opportunity to contribute on a more strategic level.

Q. Are there any specific skills that you need?

A. Obviously you need to be articulate and able to see the “bigger picture” than just the person in front of you at the moment. As is the case for school governors, people can contribute with a wide range of skills and experience that complement and build on what other trustees bring. At the moment we would be especially interested in somebody well acquainted with social media. Someone with experience in administration, secretarial work, or management would also be very welcome. However if you don’t tick those boxes that doesn’t mean you should not consider applying. Let us know what you are able to bring and help us decide with you whether God has a role for you in this work.

Q. Don’t trustees have some statutory responsibilities?

A. Yes they do, but the legal stuff is shared and the Board has corporate responsibilities, not individual trustees.

Q. I already have a day job. How would it work around that?

A. Meetings are held in the evening. If you were not available during the day you wouldn’t be able to get involved with the day-to-day operation of the foodbank, but then that’s not what trustees are really for. The Board of Trustees deals with strategic direction and manages the foodbank through our paid employees, who report to the Board.

Q. I’m already very heavily committed to other things. How much time will it take?

A. Attending about 4 meetings/year and the AGM. That’s the minimum. Of course to be effective, we would expect a trustee to take an interest in the work of the foodbank, in our employees and volunteers, supporting them in particular ways. You could become the Secretary, or Communications link or Health & Safety representative on the Board – that would take more time – but this is not required. Maybe there’s something else you need to give up in order to enable you to take on a new role, supporting God’s work outside of the church.

Q. I’m interested but not ready to commit yet. Where can I find out more information?

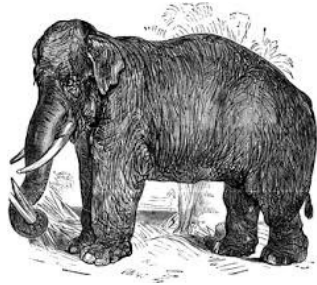
A. Why not have an informal conversation with one of the existing trustees: Rev’d Clive Hall (278504), Rev’d Andrew Craig (422461) or Mrs Susan Atkinson (428558)?

Q. How do I apply?

A. Send us an e-mail requesting an application form (info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk). In response we’ll send you all the information you need.

We look forward to meeting you

Mammoth White Elephant Sale



**Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th Feb
From 10am to 3pm each day**

**St. George's Church, Park Rd
bargains, books, household goods
Free entry**



Copies still available

Saturday 4th April 10 – 12 noon **Easter Coffee Morning** as part of the Knitted Bible Exhibition.

Saturday 16th 10 – 1 pm May **Spring Fayre** – with music provided by the Hartlepool Ukulele Group and lunch available to purchase

We are hoping to hold a Tombola Stall at North Tees Hospital in March – date to be confirmed. We have a number of concerts planned and holding a raffle has proved very successful in raising money.

Prizes Please!

As we are having more events in the church we are having more tombolas and raffles. If we are to have sufficient prizes we need your help. Please would you try to bring possible items for the tombola and raffles regularly and put them in the box near to the church info Table.

It is really important that we work together and put lots of things in the box as this will enable us to do more fundraising and thereby have many more years of successful events and worship in St George's



In memory of Brian Fisher
Money raised to go to
Ward 24 JCUH

A Night for Brian

Tickets from:-
Paul - 07971 572072
John - 07904 416236
Dave - 07810 668975

Saturday 14th March 2020 7.30pm

St George's, Park Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP

Featuring

Andy May ★ *Catherine Ashcroft* ★ *Cleveland Pipers*
John Frater ★ *DogWatch* ★ *Sylviane Bartkowiak* ★ *Tony Wilson*

Advance tickets - £5.00 - At the door - £6.50

On-Line - £5.00 + booking fee (1.04p)

ON-LINE TICKETS FROM BROWN PAPER TICKETS.COM

A Night for Brian

A charity concert is being held in St George's to raise money for Ward 24 at JCUH in Middlesbrough. The concert is a showcase of music played on the pipes with a couple of other musical instruments to give a bit of variety. Andy May on the Northumbrian pipes is the star of the show. Andy is one of the best Northumbrian pipers in the country and has agreed to come to play for the concert. Brian Fisher was a good friend of mine who played and made Northumbrian pipes. When he died late last year, I promised his widow Margaret I would stage a concert in the church in his memory. Musicians have been very kind and have donated their time to come to the concert. There will be something for everyone with Scottish, Northumbrian, French, Flemish and Irish pipes being played during the evening. There will also be a guest appearance from Shaun the Sheep, Accordions, Guitars and maybe even a banjo. Oh and a little storytelling too. Something for everyone.

Date – Saturday, 14th March 2020

Venue – St George's

Time – 7-30 – 10.15

Tickets from Paul Rodgers

Don't miss it. Its for a very good cause and be an excellent evening of music and entertainment.



will

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. January saw the funerals of Craig Sangster and Tony Ingham. We send our sympathy to their families and friends



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.

Flower Donors

February 2	Mrs W Parkinson
February 9	Service at Grange Road
February 16	Mrs S Turnbull
February 23	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
March 1	Miss M Rodgers
March 8	Mrs M Goulding
March 15	
March 22	Mrs P Simpson
March 29	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall



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
FEBRUARY	2nd	Sandra Hindmarsh, Paul Humberston	Bill White
	9th	service at Grange Rd	
	16th	Kevin Hoad, Pam Branfoot	Brian Carter
	23rd	Liz Moss, Maxine Craig	Alan Woodhead
March	1st	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarsh	Frank Whittaker
	8th	Pam Branfoot, Kevin Hoad	Bill White
	15th	Aileen Whittaker, Paul Humberston	Frank Whittaker
	22nd	Liz Moss, Maxine Craig	Alan Woodhall
April	29th	Sandra Hindmarsh, Pam Branfoot	Brian Carter
	5th	Paul Humberston, Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall

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

Worship in St George's

February

- 2nd 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes & Alan Woodhall - Communion
 9th 10.30am Joint Service at Grange Road Methodist Church
 16th 10.30am Rev Sue Fender
 23rd 10.30am The Worship Team – Not Parade

March

- 1st 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes - Communion
 8th 10.30am Rev Sue Fender - United Service with Grange Road
 Includes Baptism during worship
 15th 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes
 22nd 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones
 29th 10.30am The Worship Team - Parade

April

- 5th 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes – Palm Sunday and Communion



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 **29th March** 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

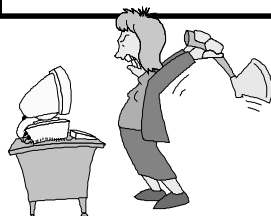
Mr W White 43 Grosmont Road Seaton Carew
 Hartlepool TS25 1EP tel. 280986

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
 7.00pm Scouts
 3rd Tuesday in month Prayer meeting 11.00am
 Thur 10am Hobbies Club



Newsletter Editor

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



Church office

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

Creche Rota

Feb 2 nd	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
9 th	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
16 th	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
23 rd	Mrs M Ord	Mrs T Kirkpatrick
Mar 1 st	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
8 th	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
15 th	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
22 nd	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
29 th	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Apr 5 th	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
12 th	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh

PLEASE ARRANGE OWN SUBSTITUTE IF UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Communion Rota

March

Sandra Twist Brian Carter

April

May Ord Janet White

All elders to help with clearing up.