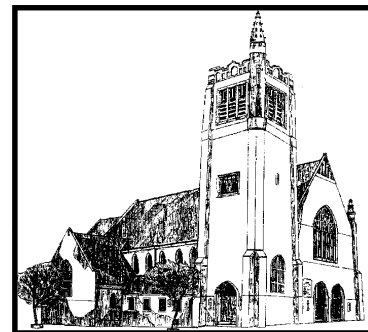




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

## Lockdown special Oct-Nov 2020



Sue, our Minister is on leave at the moment following her recent treatment. Sue thanks you all for your prayers and good wishes at this time.

*So, You've got me! Chris*

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,) for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"*

*2Corinthians ch 9 v 6-8*

Paul's letters are always interesting as we so often have to work out what's going on in the background. In this passage Paul is writing ahead of his visit warning that he will be collecting donations for the Church in Jerusalem. We don't know why; perhaps a famine or hardship among the members. Using his most persuasive methods, he talks of the abundant harvest.

Now the harvest this year is different for us- no mountains of fruit and vegetables in church to give but the Foodbank always welcomes tins and packets.

Farmers have warned that there won't be a good wheat harvest and the potato harvest depends on whether places have had too little, too much or just the right amount of rain. Yet many of us with gardens have had a bumper year for some crops. Our grape vine has failed miserably but the other fruit has been amazing. But just imagine living in a country where the harvest hasn't happened at all because there was no rain at all, or where your crop has been devastated by natural disaster or there is no food because of a corrupt or inept government.

This is the situation in many of the countries supported by Christian Aid and, for us as a fully signed up church, by Commitment for Life. To put the simple matter of food aside for one minute. Imagine living in a country where the Covid Pandemic isn't a huge inconvenience to our lives, but where hygiene is hard if water is a scarce blessing and where, if you fall ill, there is no hospital and you are lucky if there is medical help anywhere near. We are aggrieved at travelling miles and miles for a test, imagine doing that distance on foot with a sick child in your arms for treatment- if you can afford it.

We are lucky. We are shielded from the worst the world has to offer and what have we done to deserve it? Nothing except being born where we were. Paul says. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God"

As a church, we promised commitment. Let's commit to our harvest giving for Commitment for Life. ( see Page 5) And I suggest you read the rest of chapter 9 2 Corinthians

Every blessing, Chris



### **News of People**

We need to remember the Barlow family as they mourn the death of Will's mum.

Most of you will know that Dick is unwell after suffering a fall in which he broke his hip. His mobility is still very poor at the moment. The staff at the home are being very good and have arranged it so that Dick and Margaret can spend time together during the day separate to the other residents. This is particularly important to Dick as due to the recent changes in the COVID-19 restrictions, the home has again closed to visitors.

Paul Rodgers has been under the weather recently and spent a few days in hospital after a dizzy spell "working on the railway". He's home and feeling better now but we send our best wishes for a speedy full recovery.

I am sure that the buddy system means that people still hear 'on the grapevine' about anyone who is unwell and we hold them all in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Thank you**

A big thank you to one and all for all the cards and best wishes Margaret and myself received to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Thanks a lot and take care.

God Bless.

Brian and Margaret



Enid, Ian, Niel and their families would like to say a special thank you to all those who sent cards and flowers and for the many phone calls we received after our very sad loss. We also wanted to thank the kind people who stood outside the crematorium on the day of the funeral. It was very much appreciated. Your love and prayers have been a great comfort. At some point, when the Church is open again there will be a memorial service for Alistair in St George's. We hope all who are able and would like to will attend.  
Enid.

### **Project Africa.**

Due to the circumstances of COVID 19 (more contactless less cash), the Church being closed and my decision to give up running this project it has been decided that the fund will finish at the end of the year.

The total for Water Aid at the moment is £44.42.

Thank you to everyone who supported all our projects, we even made it into the "Mail" with the Knickers. Happy memories.

God Bless you and keep safe.



Wyn Parkinson

*(Thanks, Wyn, for your work on this over the years. When things get back to "normal" perhaps somebody would like to take this over. We all have small change in our pockets.)*

## Alistair Bushnell

Al was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1942 in Stonehaven, Scotland, the third of four sons, and, strangely enough, the only one without a middle name!

His father moved the family from Scotland when Alistair was 13 for better prospects for the children. He became the gardener at 4 Winds and the family lived in a cottage in the grounds. Al went to school at Elwick Rd and left when he was 15. His father changed jobs and the family moved to number 6 Kilwick St; Enid lived at number 8. She was 15 and he was 16 and the first thing he asked her was if she would like to play football. Little did they both know that this would lead to a life-long marriage a few years later.

Al became an apprentice at Richardson and Westgarth and became a machine turner, ending up as an inspector. He worked at Foster Wheeler, GEC and Kefco, becoming group quality manager from which he took early retirement.



Alistair and Enid were married in 1964. Ian came along in 1969 followed by Niel in 1970. He was a real family man, remaining close to his brothers and enjoying being with his sons. However the boys were not impressed by his cooking skills. If Alistair was left in charge of meals for the boys when they were young, his go to recipe was 'SMASH' with everything. To this day Ian and Niel remember this with a grimace. (There wasn't a second choice).

If you met Alistair you would think that he was a very quiet man. He was, though he had a dry sense of humour and his one-liners were worth waiting for. He was never one to be the centre of attention and Enid remembers that whilst on holiday in Florida for Alistair's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday GOOFY sang happy birthday to him. This happened as they were waiting in a queue for a theme park and was arranged by his brother as a surprise. As you can imagine Alistair's face was beetroot.

Alistair enjoyed his garden and holidays, particularly in the Mediterranean when the boys had left home and the couple were foot-loose and fancy free. His brother moved to Crete for a while and Al enjoyed visiting him there. He particularly liked growing fuchsias and pelargoniums (geraniums to most of us) and he had a greenhouse for them, winning prizes in shows.

Rev Val Towler, our minister at the time, suggested that he might like to join the Retired Men's Forum. Frank Whittaker proposed him as a member and so that took care of his Thursday mornings. The lovely photo of him above was taken there.

Alistair enjoyed church activities, being one of those people who would be there manning a stall. He was good at White Elephants! He had gone with his family to St. John's Presbyterian Church and it was natural that Enid went with him. He was an elder there, though he became non-serving when work commitments got too much. When St John's joined with St George's, Enid and Alistair joined the newly formed church and have been there ever since, quietly joining in and helping where they could.

Perhaps the thing that was said about his father possibly sums Alistair up best. "He was a gentleman and a gentle man."

**From the Foodbank**

*We, as a foodbank, would normally be contacting you at this time of year for Harvest. We know that churches are keen to support us but given the current climate I appreciate this year will be difficult. Therefore my request, this year, is for people to continue to pray for us and the work at the foodbank. We Praise God for the generous donations we have constantly received throughout this pandemic both in food and monetary contributions. We have been blessed enough to share what we have with other organisations.*

*Can I suggest that any individual who may want to contribute to the foodbank to maybe drop a donation into our baskets in the stores, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons or to us at Church Street. There is no pressure, prayer support is just as important.*

*We send our thanks to the Churches for their continued and ongoing support.*

*Thank you.*

*God Bless*

*Kind regards, Lisa*

Lisa Lavender  
Foodbank Coordinator  
Hartlepool Foodbank  
Tel: 01429 598404  
[info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk)  
[lisa@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:lisa@hartlepool.foodbank.org.uk)

**From the Treasurer**

I would like to thank members and friends who have continued to support our funds by Standing Order direct to the bank or by cheques. This is greatly appreciated.

We were not able to hold a spring fayre this year but a number of people ordered hanging baskets tomato plants and bedding plants. The total raised was £365.

We have received two legacies this year the first for £2,000 and the second £500. We are grateful for these but of course it is sad that we have lost friends.

The bank details for anyone wishing to pay direct to the bank are:

The Co-operative Bank	
Sort Code	08-90-51
Account No.	50492642
Account Name	St. George's URC

On a happy note I am pleased to announce that Abbie was in lockdown with us following the closure of the university and completed her degree and gained a BSc. (Hons) in equine and veterinary bioscience. She has managed to get a job working in the stables of her old school in Bath as a groom. They will help her further her career as she is hoping one day to be able to go to Vet School. She has always loved horses, animals and music.

Sandra Twist



# Commitment for Life

5

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



[Rebecca Kapaira](#), is from the village of Shamva in Zimbabwe. “Being a single mother, I have to work doubly hard,” she says. “Our economy is so unstable it becomes difficult for us to survive.”

Under lockdown, Rebecca fears not being able to put food on the table. Rebecca is a farmer, and like most Zimbabweans, she depends on just one, increasingly unreliable rainy season each year.

However, climate-induced droughts mean only one season in five has normal rainfall. Experts predict that the upcoming 2020 harvest will be even poorer than those preceding it. “For the past two years we haven’t harvested anything,” says Rebecca. “Our community hasn’t been able to predict rainfall patterns. Our timing seems wrong every time. The crops never mature enough to make it to harvest.”

Life has become harder each day for Rebecca and her children. Hyperinflation has sent food prices soaring. Rebecca is one of the over four million Zimbabweans experiencing emergency food insecurity.

“At the end of the day, women and girls are at the receiving end of the coronavirus. It will affect us more than anyone else. Why? Because it’s us women who do the household chores all the time.”

“We are the ones who fetch firewood for cooking from the bush. We are the ones who fetch water from unprotected wells, and it needs two to three people to pump it. We cannot do social distancing. We are the most at risk.”

Commitment for life supports Christian Aid’s phenomenal work in Zimbabwe, which includes implementing the [Resilience Framework](#). This framework focusses on climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management, in addition to the sustainable management of land, water, soils, forests, agriculture and agro-pastoralism that reduces poverty and hunger in the face of climate change.



**The URC’s very own Diana Paulding** is part of Christian Aid’s Prophetic Activist Scheme. These young Christians are working for climate justice. The activists launched the Stop Fuelling the Fire Campaign, which is petitioning the UK government to end using UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel projects overseas. Diana feels strongly about this issue, and with training from Christian Aid has, in collaboration with other activists, organised a petition to Boris Johnson. Please do sign their important petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/SFTF>

Don’t forget that Commitment for Life is what we support and Zimbabwe is our partner country. Usually our harvest giving is devoted to this cause— and there’s no reason we should limit our commitment this year. Please send cheques to Sandra, made out to St. George’s but making sure you say it’s for Commitment for Life. If this time is bad for us— it’s worse for them.

Chris

## **From the Church Secretary**

### **Grange Road Methodists**

Grange Road Methodist Church are currently holding services every two weeks. Their next service is Sunday 11 October at 10.30am. This will be their Harvest service, but instead of people bringing goods as gifts, there will be a collection for Christian Aid. If you wish to attend this, or future services, you must contact Katy Bosworth on 01429 293233 to book your place as numbers are limited.

### **Christmas Present for the church**

Last year some of us took away decorated jars in which we were encouraged to save £1 a week, which was then be donated to the church as a Christmas gift. Some of us are still carrying one with this. If you are doing so, can you send Sandra a cheque instead of the cash at the start of December, as this will make it easier for her to bank the gift during the current restrictions.

### **Returning to worship at St George's**

You will all by now have received information from Rev Sue and myself concerning the possibility of reopening the church for Sunday worship. Whilst a good number of you have returned the forms as requested there are still a fair few outstanding. Please could those of you who have yet to do so return there forms to Margaret H as soon as possible. A lot of work has already been done to prepare for any possible return including a very comprehensive Risk Assessment. The Elders meet again (via Zoom), in early October, when we hope it may be possible to make a decision on when it might be practical to reopen, if that is the wish of the majority of the church family. We will let you have more information on this matter once the Elders have met.

### **Mission to Seafarers**

As it won't be possible to send shoe boxes away this year, please can you consider donating to the Mission to Seafarers annual Christmas appeal instead. Usually we have the crib in the church for you to place gifts in, but for the present time, if you have anything you wish to donate please ring Margaret H, and she will arrange for them to be collected.



### **Shoebox Appeal.**

Due to the closure of the church it has not been possible to pack up the shoeboxes. We had made such a good effort with knitting and collection prior to the lockdown.

Link to hope asks us to keep on planning to do them. When this is over there will be an even bigger need for our boxes full of lovely gifts to send out to needy homes. So please continue to save any empty medium shoeboxes to make up the deficit.

Many thanks  
Aileen

### **Sunday Worship.**

I was leading worship at St. Columba's, Billingham yesterday and asked Sue, their church secretary if we could join them on Sundays. She said we would be welcome but needed to ring her to see if there was room. Don't be offended if the answer is no, but the offer is there.

### Get Ready for Christmas

**Hand-made Christmas Cards** -pack of 5 for £6 or two packs for £10. The pack will include 1, 8 x 8 size card plus 4 different sized cards. Ann is making the cards with all profits to Church Funds.

**Face Coverings** – thank you to family and friends who have bought face coverings. There is currently £250 in the kitty. I have new fabrics, including Halloween, Tartan and Christmas material. Adults and children's available – all £2 each.



Please contact [Rivendell-15@ntlworld.com](mailto:Rivendell-15@ntlworld.com) / 01429 234517 / 07811 312403 if you could like to order face coverings of Christmas cards.

Gillian Rodgers

### Free to good home

While we were clearing some stuff out of the loft, I came across a box with "Miss W White" on the address label. (Hands up if you remember Auntie Winnie!) It contains rolls of embossed shiny paper in festive colours. If anybody is making things for Christmas and would like it– or some let me know.

I cleared out a book shelf too and there are quite a few cookery books– Nigella Lawson, Paul Hollywood's baking book, Low Fat by Rosemary Conley and a complete book of Chinese cookery by Kenneth Lo. There's also an encyclopaedia of health. If you are interested in any, let me know.

### Not Free but Worth it.

I have jars of Blackcurrant Jelly and Bramble Jelly for sale for Church Funds. £2 a jar. Get in touch if you want some. Bramble Jelly will be in production again soon, so save the jars, please.

Chris

### Anagrams, Anybody?

#### Capitals

Mat dreams

Open change

Bad set up

Lock moths

Basilar vat

Java rose

Less rubs

Like shine

Hasten

Bun lid

#### English Counties

Fresher do bid

Ghostlier rescue

Tenk

Mixed sled

Starfish of red

Rickshaw wire

Hips or hers

Nightmarish note

Prime hash

Hybrid seer

*Answers over page.*

*Answers to anagrams***Capitals**

Amsterdam

Copenhagen

Budapest

Stockholm

Bratislava

Sarajevo

Brussels

Helsinki

Athens

Dublin

**English Counties**

Bedfordshire

Gloucestershire

Kent

Middlesex

Staffordshire

Warwickshire

Shropshire

Nottinghamshire

Hampshire

Derbyshire

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