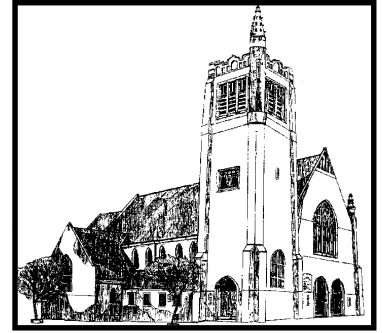




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Sept-Oct 2021



*Matthew 10.29*

*Are not two **sparrows** sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.*

I was reminded of this verse this morning when I walked out into our garden. It's been a bit of a mixed year, to say the least, but it has been a terrific year for sparrows in our garden. We've had very few recently but this year there is always a flurry of wings as you go outside. This morning, however, there was panic going on. I realised it wasn't me- they usually ignore me- but I realised, as one nearly flew into me as it struggled to escape, there was a sparrow hawk in the hedge, and it was hungry.



This was followed by a complete silence, a very unusual occurrence. This lasted for ages until, at last, the fear disappeared and normality returned, but a very subdued normal. We, of course, sympathise with the sparrows and forget the sparrow hawk, even though he has to feed too.

As I write this, the news is on the television with scenes of panic in Afghanistan and we feel angry, exasperated or just sad at the situation. We have seen the situation in Haiti after the appalling natural disasters but this is in danger of being forgotten as other newsworthy events happen. Even Covid is not the news that it was, even though case numbers and deaths still rise. We settle down to a new normal, like the sparrows.

We are very good at forgetting, yet some things cannot be forgotten. We are not overly affected as yet by Climate Change; we are lucky we live where we do, but Climate Change will affect everybody in the world for generations if we don't do something about it. It has already made huge differences to Partner Countries in our Commitment for Life Scheme increased floods in Bangladesh and drought in Zimbabwe. All this will be in the news this autumn as Britain hosts the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, but when it boils down to it, whatever governments decide, much of it will be up to us- you and me.

This is something we cannot ignore and it is our duty to act. We are provided with food and care and, most of all, a beautiful world by God but we have to do our part. Make it your resolution, for what seems like a new year, to play your part in leaving the legacy of a wonderful creation for our children and grandchildren.

Chris

## Dates for your Diaries

### September

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobbies Group, 10am  
 Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Elders Meeting, 2.30pm at the Church  
 Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Church Meeting following worship

### October

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Group Service at St Andrews and St George's Stockton  
 Followed by lunch and group AGM  
 It may be possible to arrange transport for people who wish to attend. See Margaret H.

### November

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Concert by the Resurrection Voskresenije Choir of Saint Petersburg, time not yet confirmed. This is the Russian choir who gave a concert here in 2019, they were due to come last year but COVID prevented them.  
 Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre 10am-2pm

## Food Bank

In the past we have supported the Food Bank by placing items in the box in the hall area of the church. This is just a reminder that now we are open again, the box is there and we would appreciate any items that you would be able to provide. Thank you.



## Coffee Rota

We will send this on to those concerned as soon as it arrives.





### **Project Africa**

Thanks very much to Wyn who has collected the money and organised this since we first collected for a goat for Africa. She has decided that it is time for her to pass the job on to somebody else, but who?

The answer came very near to home— me! My youngest grandson always brings any money he has found and always asks if he can put it in the “Pennies for Africa” jar, so how could I tell him we weren’t doing it anymore? I couldn’t.

So, could you pass on any spare money you have cluttering up your pocket or your purse to me and we’ll have a look at what we are going to save up for next. So far we have £5.64p in the kitty. Look forward to receiving some more!

Chris



### **News from the Scouts**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool (St George’s) Beaver, Cubs and Scouts will resume their meetings at the beginning of September.

### **Alistair Bushnell - Memorial Service.**

Enid and her Family would like to thank all those who were involved with planning and organising Al’s Memorial service especially Margaret Humberstone who was very patient and understanding, Chris for a sensitive and personal service, Janet for a beautiful Scottish recital of ‘My Heart’s in the Highlands’ and Frank for his skilful organ playing. Thank you also to those who attended and those who were with us in thoughts and prayers. We were deeply touched to receive a lovely flower arrangement so thank you to the Flower Ladies.

It meant so much to us all. Love Enid and Family x

### **FROM YOUR TREASURER**

#### **Insurance Claim**

We have had a result from our insurance claim for loss of income. The loss adjuster looked at the amount spent on distributing service material for Sunday worship during the lock-down together with any items of equipment we had to purchase to conform with the coronavirus legislation. Our income for the years 2019 and 2020 were compared and after deducting expenses which have been reduced because we were closed they have agreed that we should receive £12,618.95. This has been paid into our bank account.

#### **Group bank account**

Following Sue’s departure all payments relating to Sue and the Manse have now ceased and I have instructed the group treasurers to cancel their standing orders into the account. The account will remain open to pay any expenses relating to our interim moderator during the vacancy.

#### **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.

**Why Poverty?** It is important to understand the context that fosters inequality in Zimbabwe. The poorest are embedded in systems of governance that are repressive, and sometimes violent. The space for civil society action is shrinking. The drivers of poverty, says a Christian Aid Ireland report on adaptive programme management, are linked to inequalities between elite power holders and marginalised communities, violations of human rights, and lack of public accountability. Political violence is common in the informal sector and areas affected by mining. The overall goal of Christian Aid is to contribute to remove barriers to the realisation of the human rights of poor and marginalised groups, paying particular attention to reducing gender inequality. Your support for Commitment for Life plays a vital role in achieving these aims. Thank you!

suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk [www.bit.ly/URCFL](http://www.bit.ly/URCFL) kevin.snyman@urc.org.uk

### Prayer Time

All of creation praises you, O God! You fill us with love and the good things of the earth. Help us share your legacy of love with the whole world, through Jesus.

Amen

### Commitment for Life

Envelopes for Commitment for Life that we support with our monetary gifts at harvest are available in the church. These may be returned in the weeks before and after Harvest via the offertory plates.

### Harvest Gifts

Our harvest service this year is Sunday 26 September. The Elders have agreed that this year we would ask people to donate tinned and packet items of food only. It is our intention to donate the harvest gifts to the Food Bank so fresh items would not be suitable



### Knitted Harvest

As mentioned above there will be no fresh gifts at this year's harvest service. So that we still have something to display we are preparing a knitted harvest.

You will see examples of this on the screens in the hall area on Sundays, and there are also some actually examples on display. Everybody who had agreed for their email to be shared should have already received a copy of the patterns. If you haven't had a copy and would like one, please see either Paul or Gillian Rodgers. Wool and stuffing are available in the church.





## SHOEBOX APPEAL

As we had made such good preparation for 2020 and have lots of boxes and non perishable goods we will be supporting Link to Hope 2021 appeal. Please May I remind you MEDIUM size boxes only and do not cover the boxes until they are filled. Please place any gifts or suitable boxes in the large box under the table in the entrance. Donations for sending them or to buy items may be given to Betty or Aileen.

Suitable items for the family boxes are ,soap, facecloth, toothpaste and tooth-brush ,candles and holders, small games, gloves scarves and hats, knitters please keep busy. Sweets with date of June 2022. Also pencils note pads crayons, small toys ,soft toys tape measures, hair brush, comb etc.

Please see Betty if you are able to help her. Each box needs to be filled, items listed on the form and covered  
Many thanks. Aileen



## Christmas Fayre Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 10 – 2 pm

We are proposing to hold our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November (restrictions permitting).

We would like to extend our opening hours a little to enable people more time to browse the stalls, listen to a local music group play for us during the Fayre and offer a soup and a bun lunch.

We need helpers please. If you can help with setting up stalls, making soup, contributing to any of our stalls (cakes, tombola, raffles, a craft stall, bottle stall) please do get in touch. There is a large box in the entrance to the church for any tombola / raffle donations – thank you to those that have already started to leave things in the box.

We will also need people to look after the stalls on the day.

Our stocks are very low as we sold quite a bit online during lockdown – we did a roaring trade in jigsaw puzzles! If you are having a sort out at home please remember the church White Elephant Stall would welcome your donations.

Sandra Twist will be organising the Christmas food hamper raffle and will circulating a list of suggested items nearer the time.

This is one of our main fund-raising events and we are keen to arrange a successful event, but we will need your help.

Gillian Rodgers



## Safeguarding Training

All Elders are Trustees for the local congregation. Farrer and Co are now able to provide additional dates for the Trustee Safeguarding Training that they deliver. Five of the Elders attended one of the earlier courses. I would appreciate it if those who have yet to do this course could arrange to book themselves on one of the following dates: Wednesday 17 November 2021 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, Tuesday 23 November 2021 from 11am to 1pm, and Tuesday 30 November 2021 from 11am to 1pm. The link to book is available in the Synod Newsletter dated 6 August 2021.



### **Resurrection Voskreseniye Choir of Saint Petersburg (Russian Choir) – looking for people to host the choir**

As you may remember, this choir came to St George's as part of the 2019 Great Britain Tour. They had been booked for a return visit last year but had to cancel due to COVID. I am please to tell you that they are able to come this year and the concert will be held on Saturday 20 November 2021. Start time and ticket details to follow once known.

As was the case on their previous visit, we will need to provide a meal before the concert and overnight accommodation afterwards. The choir numbers around a dozen and are a mix of men and women. I would greatly appreciate it if anyone who can help with accommodation lets me know as soon as possible. The concert last time was absolutely excellent and I would encourage everyone to make an effort to attend this time.



### **Want to celebrate being church again?**

**Take a Moment 2021** is an evening of worship and fellowship led by Rachel Price and Apple-tree. Stranton Church, Sunday evening, 19 September.

### **Pray for Afghanistan**

O God of mercy and of peace,  
 We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.  
 Be living bread to those who are hungry each day  
 Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic  
 Be their true home to all who have been displaced  
 Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views  
 Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.  
 Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,  
 Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care  
 Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and  
 Hold us all in your unfailing love.

## **News of People**

We remember Frank and Aileen Whittaker, Margaret Welford and Dick Fletcher who are not in the best of health at the moment. Please remember them in your prayers.

We congratulate Mark Carter on gaining three A\* grades at A level and wish him every success in his studies at Newcastle University.

Margaret Goulding will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Alan and May Ord will celebrate their Golden Wedding on Aug 28th  
Congratulations!



( I went to see Dick last Saturday. It was lovely to see him in the flesh, as it were, for the first time for 18 months. He was his usual perky self and sends his love to everybody at church. Chris)

### **Flower Donors**

August 29	Mr and Mrs A Ord
September 5	Mrs G Cartman
September 12	
September 19	Mrs S Twist
September 26	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall
October 3	Mrs E Welsh
October 10	
October 17	
October 24	Mrs S Hindmarch
October 31	Mrs M Welford
November 7	Mrs E Bushnell
November 14	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
November 21	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
November 28	



*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**

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

Coming as soon as possible

## Worship in St George's

### September

5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes - Communion  
 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev John Elliston  
 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev Ruth Crofton  
 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones – Harvest  
 Church meeting to follow worship

### October

3<sup>rd</sup> 11am Group Service at St Andrews and St  
 George's Stockton  
 Followed by lunch and group AGM  
 Rev Trevor Jamieson, Synod's Green Apostle  
 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mr John Drew  
 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones  
 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Christine Eddowes  
 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am The Worship Team

### November

7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev John Durell - Communion



#### From the editor

There will be a regular Newsletter going to press on the last Sunday of November but there may be something earlier if necessary. Reach me on [chris.richard.eddowes@ntlworld.com](mailto:chris.richard.eddowes@ntlworld.com)

#### Church Officers

MINISTER– Vacancy  
 CHURCH SECRETARY  
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 TS26 9LS tel 425847  
 CHURCH TREASURER  
 Mrs Sandra Twist, 17, Granville Ave  
 tel 273447  
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 Liz Moss  
[lizmoss1916@gmail.com](mailto:lizmoss1916@gmail.com)  
 Correspondence to:  
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 tel.07714044568

#### 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



#### Church office

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 (425847)



#### Newsletter Editor

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 (269412)

#### Communion Rota

Oct: service at Stockton  
 Nov: Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

All elders to help with clearing up.