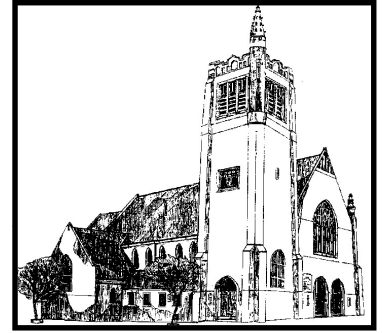




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Nov-Dec 2021



*No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon -
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -
November!*

It was T.S Eliot who wrote "April is the cruellest month" in his poem "The Waste Land", but I rather think that November has the edge. At least Thomas Hood wasn't impressed by it in his poem "November". It might seem like Autumn at the beginning, but it is the dying days of Autumn by the end of the month, when the leaves are off the trees and are now becoming a sodden mass instead of a crisp carpet that rustles when you walk through them.

It's no wonder that November is a month for remembering the dead. Obviously, it's the month when we celebrate, if that's the word, the end of the First World War. This was also called the Great War, not because there was anything wonderful about it, but because never before had so many nations been involved in a conflict nor so many people died. Never before had there been so many families involved or so much need to build memorials to the fallen, whether in the air, the sea, the land and all those other people who played their part without getting the glory. It's "glory" because we have to put a big spin on it. In reality there was no glory in the mud and the blood as is shown in the work of the poets who survived to the end.

Now, of course we have victims of many later conflicts to remember; just look at the number of petals that fall on the bowed heads of those assembled for the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall.

This year, the first time we have been gathered together in churches for a Remembrance Service for all since the pandemic began, we will also be remembering those people who are not with us this year. These are members of our church family and friends – and we miss them.

It is no coincidence that November ends with looking forward to better things. The end of November is also the beginning of Advent when, with the lighting of an extra candle every week, we move towards the light. At the same time, symbolic of our movement to the light, Mary and Joseph begin their journey to Bethlehem and the birth of their baby who would be, literally The Light of the World. In our time of gloom, let us give thanks that we are people of the light and that the new birth of Jesus brings life for us all- present and past.

Chris



Dates for your Diaries

2

November

Sat 13th The Seatones will be performing a Remembrance Concert at 7pm.
Sun 21st Church Meeting following on from morning worship.
Sat 27th Christmas Fayre, 10am until 2pm.

December

Sat 4th Movie Night with pie and peas. The film will be 'It's a Wonderful Life', starting at 4.30pm.
Sun 12th Concert by former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir, 4.30pm. Tickets are £5 and can be bought in advance or you can pay on the door. Includes refreshments.
Sat 18th Carol Service, 7pm.

St Andrew's and St George's, Stockton

November

Sat 20th Musical concert for the Young High Achievers, 3pm.
Sat 27th Musical concert for the Young High Achievers, 3pm.

December

Sat 4th Musical concert for the Young High Achievers, 3pm.

St Columba's, Billingham

November

Sat 6th Christmas Fayre, 1pm until 3pm.

The Mission, Thornaby

November

Mon 29th Pie and Peas, 7pm.

Group Secretaries

The Group Secretaries meet again via Zoom on Monday 22 November at 7.30pm.

Coffee Rota

Nov	7	Sheila & Robert Harrison
	14	Val Rigg, Enid Bushnell
	21	Rose Hastings, Kevin Hoad
	28	Gillian Cartman, Brian Carter
Dec	5	Val Rigg, Margaret Fraser
	12	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	19	Liz Moss, Enid Bushnell
	26	Sheila & Robert Harrison
2022		
Jan	2	Rose Hastings, Pam Branfoot



Project Africa

Money donated so far comes to exactly £37. I can't believe how neat this amount is! I am happy for it to be less neat if it's more so keep your small change coming.
Chris



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.

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. It was great to see such a generous amount of food provided for the food bank at our Harvest celebrations. Thank you.

Knitted Harvest

Our harvest service this year was celebrated on Sunday 26 September. The display of knitted fruit and veg was magnificent and exceeded expectations. Thanks are due to all those who contributed, as many of them were from other knitting groups in the town with no direct link to St Georges. At least one church in the town has already borrowed this display for their own Harvest celebrations.

Resurrection Voskresenije Choir of Saint Petersburg (Russian Choir)

Unfortunately this event has had to be cancelled. Due to the restrictions on travel still in place due to COVID, it was no longer practical for the Choir to travel to the UK and tour. The choir hope to be able to tour again next year and plan to come to St George's in November 2022

Thank You

Aileen and Frank would like to thank St George's for the lovely flowers and all the messages of support and continuous prayer as Aileen continues her battle with illness.

LINK TO HOPE shoe boxes

Many thanks for all your donations to the shoe box appeal, we have achieved One hundred boxes, well done. Dedicated on the 31st October and collected the 5th November to start their journey to Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

Looking towards 2022 !

We need all of your spare Christmas wrapping paper and any shoe boxes you may have during the year, Size matters, approx 30cm x 20cm x 10cm.

Thank you for all your support
Betty



Sandra's Bowls Update

My bowls is back to normal after lockdowns with Covid. I got to go to Newark again on the 6th October to play in the Quarter Final. I was out bowled by a lady from Nottingham-never mind-can't win them all. I am in the final again in March at Thornaby to go back to Newark in April. I have got my gold bar and brooch for the last game and also my trophy and cash in March on our presentation and AGM plus my presidency for another year.
Sandra Hindmarch



Ann Foster 1934-2021

Ann was Hartlepool born and bred, the second in a family of six children, with four brothers and one sister. Church played a prominent part in her life with Ann attending Sandringham Rd Presbyterian Church, the family church where she sang in the choir. As a child, Ann was evacuated to Whitby as were many children because of the war. It only lasted for 3 months as Ann's mum fetched her back but it must have been a very unsettling occurrence as she told the story of it when she had forgotten so much else.



Ann went to the High School, where she made, and kept lots of friends. This seems to have been one of her great talents as she still has friends she has known for years. From the High School, at the age of 16, she joined the tax office, then in Clifton Avenue, a job she held until the birth of Graeme.

She met Stan through mutual friends. Her friend Margo was courting her young man and his friend was Stan. They all used to go out cycling, riding tandem and I suppose you could say they rode tandem for the rest of their lives! They married in 1955 and two years later along came Graeme, followed in 1961 by Gillian. The family went to St John's, Park Rd- Sandringham Rd had joined them in 1958 – and when they joined together with St George's, that became their church. They both played a big part in the life of the church, Ann being a Sunday School teacher for a while and always being there when needed, though she never wanted the spot-light.

Ann, along with many other young women of her generation, joined St Luke's Young Mothers' Club. Again, many friends she made there were friends for life. It far outlasted the title Young Mothers and it became a social affair when they didn't need child-rearing help.

Ann had quite a varied life and interests. Her talent with numbers led to a job at Sportskit where she did the books, as she did for L&P Motors, where Stan worked. At one point she even manned the tea trolley at the FE College! She also helped as a volunteer with the Samaritans which takes a special sort of person.

Ann loved gardening. She was delighted when they moved to Eamont Gardens and she became the gardener while Stan became the groundsman- he loved his lawn. Even when Ann moved to the Sycamores, she continued her interest to the last, still wanting to deadhead the flowers when physically it was very difficult.

She was a wizard Scrabble player and none of the family really wanted to play with her as they knew they'd be beaten. Most of all, she loved reading and would always have her nose in a book. It often conflicted with cooking which really was not her favourite thing. She cooked because she had to, she read because she loved it. Potatoes would boil dry because Ann was engrossed in a book. She would merely suggest the family scraped the burnt bits off. A woman after my own heart. Gillian still can't look a jam tart in the face!

I remember Ann as a tall, elegant woman and it was a trouble when her hips made walking difficult. Although her mobility made life difficult, Ann always liked going out for a coffee, though it was probably the company she enjoyed, rather than the drink. Until Covid brought a break to it, Gillian brought her mum to the Hobbies Club here on a Thursday morning and she enjoyed a good chat, though her old hobby of knitting proved impossible.

Ann was part of the family- the one that was Graeme and Gillian and their other halves and their children and grandchildren, and also part of the church family here at St George's and the wider one of her friends. She will leave a huge hole in all of them.

From Ann's funeral service on 29th September

Remembrance Concert

Saturday 13th November 2021 - 7.00
 with the Seatones £6.00
 John and Joy Rennie
 Steve Lane
 St Hild's School Drama Group
 Compere - Mr Tim Ellingford

St George's Christmas Fayre

Saturday 27th November 2021 - 10 - 2
 With the Nursery Ukulele Group
 Soup lunches etc

St George's Movie Night

Saturday 4th December 2021 4.30
 It's a Wonderful Life, Pie and Peas

Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir

Sunday 12th December 2021 - 4.30

Carols for Hartlepool

Saturday 18th December 2021 - 7.00
 With the Hartlepool Brass Band
 Leap of Faith Music Group
 The Wilson Family
 St Hild's School Choir Free event

UPCOMING EVENTS**Christmas Fayre - Saturday 27th November 2021 from 10 am to 2 pm**

We are trying something a little different this year. We are extending our opening hours, offering a soup lunch and being entertained by a local ukulele group playing Christmas songs.

We will be setting up the stalls on the afternoon of Friday 26th November from 2pm. Any help would be much appreciated.

Donations for stalls are always needed:

Tombola prizes, white elephant, bottles, cakes, gifts and Christmas bags for the Christmas bag stall, toys, books, games, jigsaws and raffle prizes. With the exception of cakes, these are needed as soon as possible.

There is a large black box under the table in the church entrance where any non-perishable goods/gifts can be left. Please let me know if you need anything collecting and I can arrange this.

Gillian Rodgers

35th Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have resumed their meetings after the enforced break due to Covid Restrictions. The Beavers and Cubs have been enjoying creative craft work relating to Halloween and are involved in the ongoing discussions on the theme of 'anti-bullying'.

The scout section is focusing on 3 badges at present. Art, Hobbies & Musician. Since returning from the Covid break, our numbers have dwindled and as a group we are taking things slowly while we regroup and settle. We look forward to joining in on the parades and getting back to full strength.

The Group is now on Facebook. Places are available in all sections.

The group is also taking a more supportive stance on bullying, assisting the children and parents of those young people who are affected. We will be hosting a bullying forum where leaders from all backgrounds can help those youngsters who are suffering in silence. These days bullying is seen as just another part of life, this is a simply disgusting thought and we as a group are proud to be supporting the community to change this.

David Croll

35th Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group Leader

Moving stories

.Poverty Facts: Zimbabwe

- Poverty affects [76.3% of Zimbabwean children](#) living in rural areas.

Roughly 74% of the population lives on £5.00 a day and the [average wage per month](#) is around £230.

- Half of Zimbabwe's 13.5 million people live [below the food poverty line](#). - About 3.5 million children are chronically hungry.

- Approximately 1.3 million Zimbabweans were living with HIV as of 2016. However, the number of HIV cases has been declining since 1997 because of improved prevention, treatment and support.

- About 60% of rural Zimbabwean women [face period poverty](#), meaning they lack access to menstrual supplies or education. Girls who experience period poverty miss an estimated 20% of their school life.

- Due to famine and the HIV/AIDS crisis, the average life expectancy for a Zimbabwean was only 61 years as of 2018. However, life expectancy has steadily risen since 2002 when it was only 44 years. In 2019, [two million Zimbabweans](#) had no access to safe drinking water due to drought.



Commitment for Life has supported Christian Aid's work in Zimbabwe for decades. Sometimes it feels like just a drop in the ocean, but for tens of thousands of Zimbabweans, your prayers, advocacy, and generosity can be the difference between life and death. Thank you for your support!

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Prayer Time

Heaven and earth are filled with your praises, O Creator God! You taught us to love to lilies, the birds, and our neighbour.

Help us forgive all debt as You taught us in prayer; to lives beyond the reaches of unjust economic systems that devastate the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

No Debt @COP26

We pray for a big commitment to be made at COP 26 for the unconditional cancellation of debt for the global south. This will help countries invest in climate adaptation and mitigation, and help frontline communities stay in their homes as Climate Chaos threatens to displace them.

Cancelling debt will also help global south governments to rebuild public services and buy Covid-19 vaccines.

Debt cancellation would help atone for the climate and ecological debt owed by the global north to the global south. Commitment for Life joins Global justice Now in calling for massive debt write-offs with immediate additional finance to

Flowers

There is a list on the wall showing the weeks of the ⁷ year for donations towards the cost of the flowers. The flowers are purchased each week from a supermarket costing between £12.00 and £15.00. You will see that there are a number of spaces especially as we are not going to Grange Road. A number of years ago the flower fund was transferred to general funds as the cash coming in each week together with wedding donations for flowers was sufficient to cover the cost of the flowers. Sadly for some time now the donations have not covered the cost. When there are no donations if you wish flowers to continue in the church the money will have to be taken from church funds. Perhaps you might find a date that has a special meaning to you and feel able to make a donation towards the flowers.

Sandra Twist

From your Treasurer

We are now entering the time for buying presents for Christmas. Please remember to use the easy-fundraising donation scheme. You will be surprised at the number of outlets who will make a donation and it adds no extra cost to your purchase. If I want something from Argos instead of going into the shop I order on line and this gives a donation to St. George's. Just one example, there are hundreds more.

To register:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Support a good cause

Choose a good cause (St. George's URC Hartlepool)

Support

Complete details

Install the find & remind tool.

Sandra

A brief report from the Synod Meeting held on 16th October 2021 via Zoom

The morning began with worship followed by a bible study led by Rev Rosalind Selby, the Principal of Northern College, based on Mark Chapter 1 verses 14 and 15. She also outlined various opportunities for spiritual development within the college, some of which are online.

The Synod is working towards a Joint Safeguarding Committee with the Yorkshire Synod.

A report from the URC (Northern Province) Trust Limited informed the meeting of the way in which the URC planned to address the major deficit in the URC Ministers pension fund. This would potentially mean a contribution from the Trust of £3 million over 9 years.

The Pastoral Committee reported on the call of several new ministers in the Synod. Lay presidency training is provided by the Ministries and Development Committee. Refresher training is needed every 6 years for those in this role.

The convenor for the Children and Youth Work Committee reported on a new strategy that they are developing to re-ignite our approach to children and youth work.

2022 sees the 50th anniversary of the formation of the URC. A resource pack will be available to churches from January and several celebratory events are already planned across the denomination.

Our own Chris Eddowes is the Commitment for Life advocate for Synod and she reminded us of the upcoming COP26 meeting in Glasgow.

The meeting then moved on to patterns of ministry – the way forward to 2025, when Northern Synod would have an allocation of 12 ministers of word and sacrament (we presently have 9 ministers in post which includes the Synods mission enabler).

A discussion followed on how this would work out in practice. These changes will require an alteration in the expectation of both ministers and congregations to avoid stress and overload. It was noted that ministry is constantly evolving and there would need to be a willingness to think creatively. This change would need to be discussed at local church level before the next Synod meeting on 22nd March 2022 when a resolution will be presented.

The Moderator announced he would be stepping down when his current term expires in 2 years time

The Moderator led the meeting in closing devotions based around 1 Peter Chapter 2 verses 1-9.

Church Register

Deaths Mrs Anne Foster died in⁸ September. Her funeral service was held in the church on 20th September at 1.15pm.

Baptisms Sydney Rose Barker-Platt – daughter of Stephanie and Lewis on 24.10.21



Cost £9 (240 pages)

From 60 weeks of the pandemic, a resource to help us all get through the everyday ups and downs of life. All profits to the Waddington St Street Resource Centre, Durham, a mental health charity.

The author, Ruth Crofton is a Retired United Reformed Church Minister living in Durham. The work is a compilation of Thoughts and Prayers sent out over a wide area during the Pandemic and is fully illustrated with photographs and some original artwork – example below.



Social
Catherine

Distancing©
Richardson

Copies can be ordered via Paul H

We are thinking about Frank and Aileen W, Dick F, Mary D, Cathie T, Elma W, Janet and Bill W and Sandra H. Please remember them and anyone else who may need them, in your prayers.

We send our love and sympathy to Gillian and Graham and their families following the death of Ann.

Kathy Thompson will celebrate her 80th birthday on 11 December and Claire Carter will celebrate her 50th birthday on 21 January. Congratulations both!



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 H know. Thank You.

Flower Donors

November 14	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
November 21	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
November 28	
December 5	Mrs M Mudd
December 12	
December 19	
December 26	
January 2	
January 9	
January 16	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
January 23	Mrs S Harrison
January 30	
February 6	Mrs W Parkinson



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
Nov 7	Sandra Hindmarch, Pam Branfoot	Paul Humberston
14	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad	Brian Carter
21	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
28	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
Dec 5	Kevin Hoad, Pam Branfoot	Paul Humberston
12	Paul Humberston, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
19	Sandra Hindmarch, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
24	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad	Paul Humberston
25	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarch	Brian Carter
26	Liz Moss, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
2022 Jan 2	Kevin Hoad, Sandra Hindmarch	Paul Humberston

If unable to attend, please arrange own substitute

Worship in St George's November

7 th	10.30am	Rev John Durell - Communion
14 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes, Remembrance Sunday This service is followed by an infant Baptism at 12.30pm
21 st	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones – The Church meeting follows this service
28 th	10.30am	Mrs Hannah Middleton – Parade Service



December

5 th	10.30am	The Worship Team – Communion led by Mrs Margaret Humberston
12 th	10.30am	Rev Val Towler
19 th	10.30am	Nativity
24 th	6.30pm	Mr Brian Carter and Mrs Margaret Humberston – Christmas Eve
25 th	9.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes – Christmas Morning
26 th	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones

January

2 nd	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes - Communion
-----------------	---------	-------------------------------

From the editor

I hope there will be a Christmas special shortly before Christmas. I hope to get back to our regular routine on the last Sunday of January and then every two months.

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

MINISTER– Vacancy
CHURCH SECRETARY
Mrs M Humberston 25 Belmont Gdns
TS26 9LS tel 425847
CHURCH TREASURER
Mrs Sandra Twist, 17, Granville Ave
tel 273447
HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD
Liz Moss
lizmoss1916@gmail.com
Correspondence to:
20 Hart Lane, TS26 8NN
tel.07714044568

St George's Regular Activities

Sun	10.30am	Family Worship
Mon	2.00pm	Monday Meeting at Grange Road
	6.00pm	Beavers and
	To 7.pm	Cub Scouts
	7.30-9pm	Scouts
Thur	10am	Hobbies Club



Church office

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



Newsletter Editor

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

Communion Rota

Dec	Sandra Twist	May Ord
Jan	Paul Rodgers	Gillian Rodgers

All elders to help with clearing up.