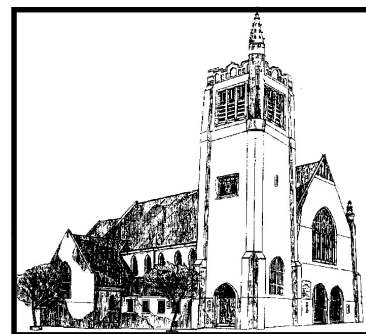




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool Feb-March 2022



We are now a few weeks into 2022, and may I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year. One of my blessings as a lay preacher is when preparing to lead worship, the lectionary passage is one that I have a great deal of love and respect for. To say it literally thrills my heart is no exaggeration.

On January 9th we had one of those readings Isaiah 43: 1 – 3 (7)

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”

For days I was singing the hymn taken from this passage and it is one we would do well to remember, as we are all in stages of vacancy as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic.

Are you thrilled when you read or sing the words, ‘I have summoned you by name, you are mine’ As we face a future with change all about us, how can we be full of worries when God assures us, he has called us by name and we are his.

The last couple of years many would agree we have been walking metaphorically through flood and fire, in some countries sadly it has been literal truth. We do not walk alone because he is with us, every step of the way!

Maybe you feel that with the new ways of being Church, you really do dwell in the exile of the stranger. If so, the words from Isaiah, shared in the hymn must bring comfort to you head and heart, ‘remember you are precious in my sight!!’

As I prepare for a service, it is usual for me to be singing one of the hymns chosen throughout the week, I believe that hymns and songs stay in our hearts and minds long after the sermon has been left in the mists of time. At the moment several are chasing each other through my mind but coming out on top are the words of the last verse of ‘Do not be afraid’ You are mine, O my child I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love’ **Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name, you are mine’**

As we move onwards into 2022 with all our questions to be answered, all our fears to be overcome, if we need reassurance as we continue on our Christian pathway, if we are depressed with all we are facing at the moment, then look no further,” I have called you by your name you are mine!!”

I will be interested to find out, how many of you are singing this hymn in the days to come. May 2022 bring you many blessings as it is sure to do, as we continue to be blessings to one another.

Maranny

Dates for your Diaries - St George's

February

Fri 4th Knitted Bible planning meeting, 9.45am in the meeting room
 Mon 7th Eldon Grove School visit, 9am until 12 midday, Symbols of Christianity

March

Sat 5th Official launch of the Knitted Bible exhibition, 11am
 Mon 7th Group Secretaries Meeting, 7.30pm via Zoom
 Sat 19th Synod Meeting
 Wed 23rd Meeting of the Officers of the Hartlepool & Teesside Group and the East Cleveland Group of churches, 10.30am

Coffee Rota

February	6	Enid Bushnell,	Val Rigg
	13	Liz Moss,	Margaret Fraser
	20	Paul & Gillian Rodgers	
	27	Sheila & Robert Harrison	
March	6	Rose Hastings,	Pam Branfoot
	13	Gillian Cartman,	Kevin Hoad
	20	Enid Bushnell,	Val Rigg
	27	Liz Moss,	Margaret Fraser

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.

Remember that it's Fairtrade Fortnight at the end of February and that we are a Fairtrade Church. Keep supporting the people who rely on us being fair in our shopping.





Project Africa

It has been suggested that we change the name from Project Africa (or Pennies for Africa, as it's known in our house) to legitimately widen our scope to other areas in the world.

I did wonder about Copper Bottom Fund (well, we have twinned toilets!) or possibly Change for the World. We do have several 5p pieces in with the pennies and twopences, which mounts the fund quite quickly. I don't mind what denominations people donate so long as it's legal tender and 5p pieces are such a nuisance, cluttering up your purses and getting lost in your trouser pockets!

If you have any other ideas about a change of name, even if it's to decide that you don't want one, please let me know.
Chris

Sylvia Turnbull

My sister Sylvia was certainly a character and she was always being told by her nieces "You can't say that Auntie Sylvia"

She first came to St Georges many years ago with my mother Evelyn Couchman and myself. She loved baking and always supported our fayres with cakes and corned beef slices and attended our concerts whenever possible. My neighbour was talking to her after one of the concerts in December.

Her passing was so sudden and unexpected that it is taking some time to come to terms with it. I would like to say a big thank you for the flowers and the lovely cards we have received. It has been a real comfort to read the verses and words in them.

Thank you,
Sandra Twist

(I, for one, will miss her corned beef slices— as well as her.
Chris)

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



Annual Reports

Now that Christmas has past, could those who haven't yet done so, let me have their Annual

Reports as soon as possible. These need to be reproduced so that they can be distributed to members in time for the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 27 March 2022. Thank you, Margaret H.

Nominations and AGM

It is our practice to seek nominations for Elders in advance of the annual church meeting on Sunday 27 March 2022. As this is an even numbered year, the church Treasurer and church Secretary complete their current terms of office and will need to be reappointed at the AGM unless there are any other candidates forthcoming.

Moving stories

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in ZIMBABWE

When a Joke Bombs...

Sheila Murimoga, Senior Programme Officer for Gender and Inequalities for [Christian Aid Zimbabwe](#) writes:

'There is a joke circulating on WhatsApp suggesting that corruption is so endemic in Zimbabwe that if someone is supposed to procure a bomb, they are more likely to pocket the money and buy firecrackers instead.

It is not a funny joke. Two lives were lost and at least 45 people were injured when a bomb detonated at a rally during the 2018 elections. So why the dark sense of humour? My colleagues at Christian Aid Zimbabwe and I agree that the reason lies in an exhausted capacity to cope. For the last 10 years Zimbabweans have had to cope with multiple economic and political crises.

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches continues to expose human rights violations. It has developed a good working relationship with the Police Election Command Centre to enable swift action against those who interfere with elections. Christian Aid continues to invest in understanding the context, engaging partners on their security and planning ahead for every scenario, with the ultimate goal of promoting sustainable peace for Zimbabwe.'

Prayer Time

God, I am angry at the loss of innocent lives;
that people don't have enough to eat;
at the police for not executing justice,
with the very rich for hoarding wealth and then
oppressing the helpless;
at the stupid military forces for making people
homeless.

I am angry with the unequal distribution of resources around the world.

God, this is damn unfair! Amen.

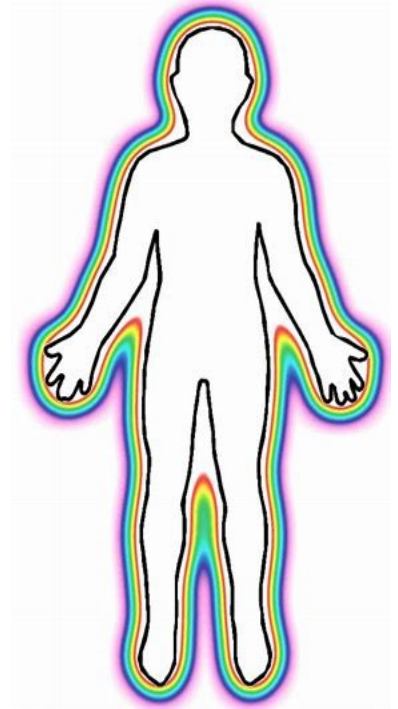


Christian Aid's partner CCMT got the national youth leadership from the main political parties to sign a peace pact.

Edited from *Liturgies from Below: praying with peoples at the ends of the world* p190. Claudio Carvalhaes

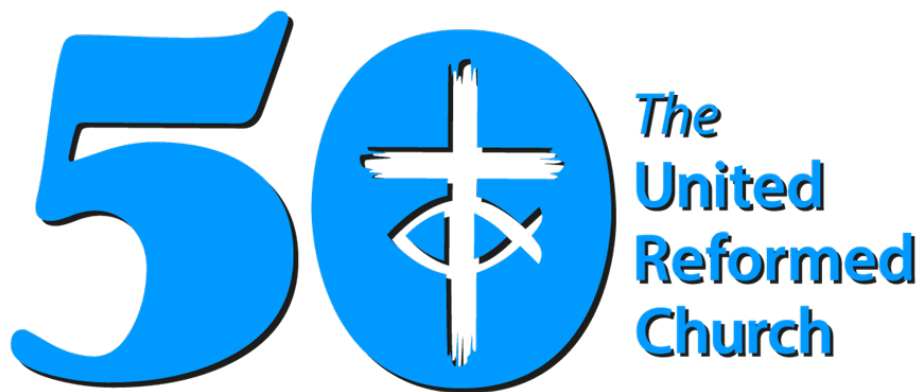
Parts of the body – which parts of the body fit these clues?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Weapons | 2. Personal pronoun |
| 3. Sacred buildings | 4. Shell fish |
| 5. Kind of flower | 6. Receptacle |
| 7. Taken on a long journey | 8. Tropical trees |
| 9. You stick with this | 10. Found in marble |
| 11. Negatives | 12. Extravagance |
| 13. Baby farm animals | 14. Carpenters use these |
| 15. Imperial measure | 16. Scholars |
| 17. Parts of a table | 18. Impudence |
| 19. Found in cornfields | 20. Cadbury's covers them in chocolate |
| 21. Flogging | 22. Blacksmiths use them |
| 23. Estuary | 24. Found on a saw |



Answers page 8

(Thanks to Rev Bev. Hollings for giving me this)



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

The URC is 50 years old this year and St George's is 120 years old.
Any ideas for celebrations?

The Knitted Bible



After a long wait the Knitted Bible is finally returning to St George's for display in March. The official opening will be on Saturday the 5th March although there will be a private 'by invitation only' event on the 4th March. The new 'community scene' will be unveiled by our guest on the 5th March.

Throughout the 2 weeks, the exhibition will be open between 10 and 3. To do this we need volunteers to be around to keep an eye on things. Please see Betty if you are able to help.

We are sending invites to local schools to see if they would like to bring their classes along to see the scenes. This is being coordinated by Margaret and we will keep you informed if any schools take up the offer.

On Wednesday the 9th March, Keith Robson will be giving a talk entitled the 'Confessions of a Cartoon illustrator' Keith worked on the Beano and Dandy comics and is a great enthusiast for the children's comic genre. This lecture will be approximately 45 mins with a Q&A at the end. Starting at 7.00pm.

The following week on the 16th March local author S. J. Martin will be launching the 4th part of her Breton Horse Warrior book series. This series is highly regarded for its historical accuracy and easy flowing style. If you are interested in English history then I recommend this talk to you. As before 45 mins with a Q&A and signing opportunity. There will be no charge for these events and we will be serving refreshments.

On Saturday the 12th we are having a coffee morning from 10 till 12. This will be an opportunity for all of the church people to come together for a natter and to bring their friends along to see the exhibition.

The last day of the exhibition will be Saturday 19th March. We will need helpers to get the Knitted Bible back in its boxes before it once again goes on its travels.

Regards

Paul Rodgers



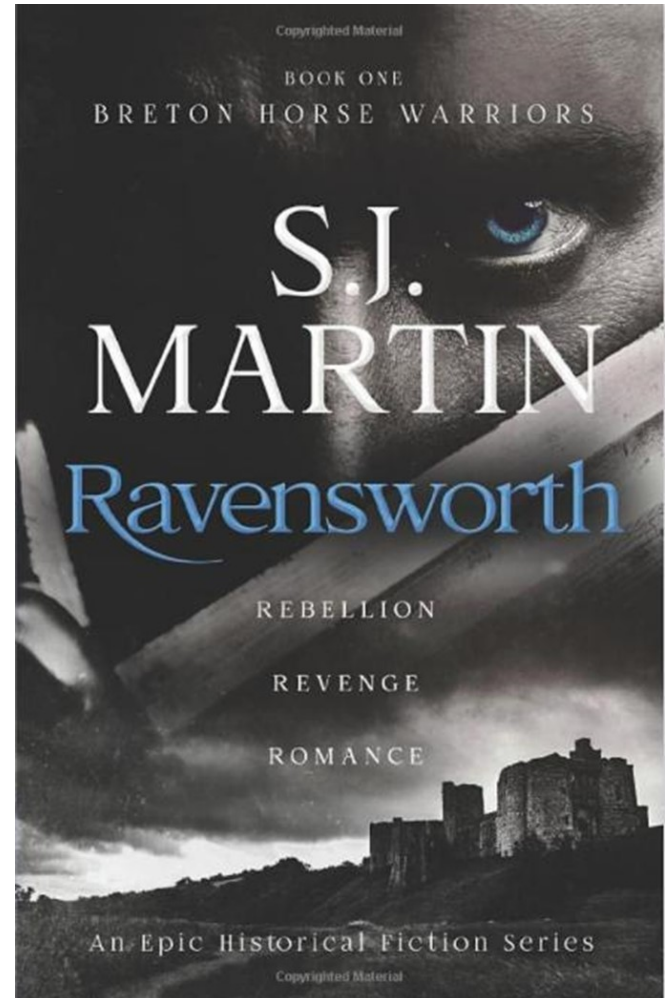
St George's presents ...

The KNITTED BIBLE

Exhibition
Open - Monday to Saturday 10 - 3
Sat. 5th March to Sat. 19th March



St George's United Reformed Church
Park Road
Hartlepool
TS26 9HP
FREE ADMISSION



Answers to body quiz

- 1.arms 2.eyel 3.Temples 4.Muscles 5.Iris 6.chest 7.trunk 8.palms
 9.gum 10.veins 11.nose 12.waist 13.calves 14.nails 15.foot
 16.pupils 17.legs 18.cheek 19.ears 20.fingers 21.lashes
 22. anvil 23.mouth 24.teeth



Church Register

Wedding Jake Vasey to Allana Lorimer 22.01.22



The Shop Window

Hopefully, you will have spotted the shop window in St George's has taken on a new lease of life, letting people know that we are a living church– and things happen here.

We are planning to keep it fresh and topical, changing it every couple of weeks and showcasing the life and happenings in the church. We

have quite a lot of ideas but might need to borrow things from you occasionally– or we might ask you to create things.

As you will have seen, the Knitted Bible is coming home for a visit soon and we want to reflect that in the window. Obviously, we want to advertise, it and the figures which already exist are part of the exhibition. So, we would like some new figures to star in the window display. A lot of you have already got the pattern from when we created the Knitted Bible, but if not, Paul Rodgers has the pattern. However, we would like them very soon, so please get your needles clicking if you can.

It's surprising how quickly the lighted window has become something to look forward to and when we very briefly had an empty window, it was much missed. So please help to keep it current.



News of People

We are sad to hear of the death of Joe Michna from the CAB who died recently. We offer our sympathy to Sandra Twist on the sudden death of her sister Sylvia. We remember the family of the Revd Ruth Crofton who also died in January. We are thinking about Frank and Aileen W, Dick F, Cathie T, Elma W, Janet and Bill W. Please remember them and anyone else who may need them, in your prayers.

Gillian Cartman will celebrate her 80th birthday on 16 February, Betty Woodhall will celebrate her 80th birthday on 2nd April. And Dick Fletcher celebrates his 95th birthday on 23rd Feb. Congratulations to them all.



Flower Donors

February 6	Mrs W Parkinson
February 13	
February 20	Mrs M Daniel
February 27	Mr and Mrs F Whittaker
March 6	Miss M Rodgers
March 13	Mrs M Goulding
March 20	Mrs P Simpson
March 27	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall
April 3	Mrs C Eddowes



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	6	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
	13	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
	20	Kevin Hoad, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
	27	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
March	6	Sandra Hindmarch, Kevin Hoad	Paul Humberston
	13	Liz Moss, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
	20	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
	27	Sandra Hindmarch, Kevin Hoad	Paul Humberston

Worship in St George's February

6th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones – Communion & reception of new member
A service of Infant Baptism follows this service at 12.30pm
13th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
20th 10.30am Mrs Judith Winn
27th 10.30am Mr Charles Jolly



March

6th 10.30am The Worship Team – Communion
13th 10.30am The URC Service led by Mrs Margaret Humberston
20th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
27th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones – Parade

April

3rd 10.30am Rev Val Towler - Communion

From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by
lunchtime **27th March** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

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CHURCH TREASURER

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tel 273447

HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD

Liz Moss

lizmoss1916@gmail.com

Correspondence to:

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tel.07714044568

St George's Regular Activities

Sun 10.30am Family Worship
Mon 6.00pm Beavers
6.30pm Cub Scouts
7.0pm Scouts
Thur 10am Hobbies Club



Church office

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

Communion Rota

March

Brian Carter Liz Moss

April

May Ord Sandra Twist

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

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(269412)

