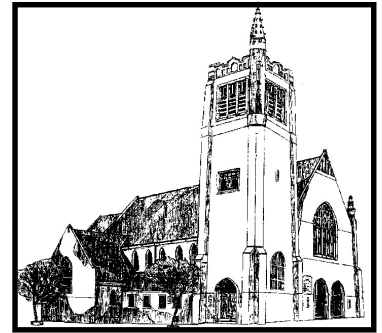




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool April – May 2022



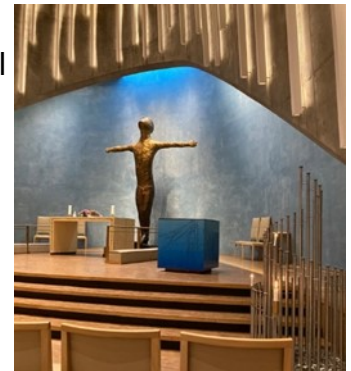
Dear Friends,



Many of you know that recently Richard and I returned from a cruise to the Arctic Circle. It was a revelation to me. I've never liked snow much- pretty but at a distance- and I was dreading feeling cold. I discovered snow is beautiful and dry cold is very different from what we experience and it can be exhilarating, if you're dressed for it. And, yes, we did see the Northern lights.

We also saw three beautiful churches. They were all very modern, mostly as a result of the destruction of World War 2, and very unlike anything I've ever seen before, apart, perhaps from Coventry Cathedral.

What all these churches stressed was light and upward movement, not surprising in a country with the Northern Lights and which spends much of the year with very short days; sometimes the sun doesn't get above the horizon.



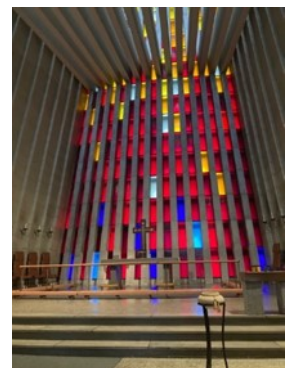
The figure of Christ in Alta is huge, bringing it from the sculptor in Italy was a real undertaking, and is at the same time a crucified Christ, but also a Christ triumphant.



The stained-glass window in Tromsø was not originally designed to be there. The architect wanted plain glass, but the congregation were overwhelmed by the illumination and couldn't see at all.

The coloured stained-glass windows in Kristiansund represent the move towards heaven as we get nearer to the one light and the colour changes gradually from reds and blues to yellows and gold.

I found all of these churches wonderful, sending my thoughts and spirits ascending, following the upward movement of the architecture. There was a sermon in each of these buildings, but don't worry, I won't. I just hope that as we approach Easter, that your thoughts and spirits will move upwards too. He is risen, indeed!



Chris

Dates for your Diaries - St George's

April

Sat 16th Easter Coffee Morning for Shoeboxes

May

Sat 14th Spring Fayre

Advanced Dates for your Diaries

July

Sat 2nd Garden party at Alan and Betty's, 2pm onwards

TBC Afternoon Tea party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the URC. It is hoped that people who can't usually get to church will be able to come to this event. If you would be interested in coming, but would need help to do so please contact Margaret H.

Coffee Rota

April	3	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	10	Sheila & Robert Harrison
	17	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
	24	Rose Hastings, Brian Carter
May	1	Gillian Cartman, Kevin Hoad
	8	Liz Moss, Margaret Fraser
	15	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	22	Sheila & Robert Harrison
	29	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
June	5	Rose Hastings, Kevin Hoad
	12	Gillian Cartman, Brian Carter
	19	Liz Moss, Margaret Fraser
	26	Paul & Gillian Rodgers



Saturday 16th April 10 – 12 noon. Easter fundraising coffee morning.

This is a joint event with the Scouts. We want to raise funds for the Shoe Box appeal and the Scouts. Traditional games, cakes, craft stall and raffle. Any donations towards the cake stall and raffle would be gratefully received. Helpers to serve tea and coffee are also needed. Please see Betty or Gillian R if you can help.

Saturday 14th May 9.30 – 12 noon. Spring Fayre.

Plant sale, cakes, raffle, tombola, crafts, luck dip bags, bottle stall and bric a brac. Any donations towards to the stall would be much appreciated.

The stalls will be set up on Friday afternoon from 2 pm. Please see Gillian R if you are able to help with setting up and or looking after a stall.





Project Africa

Keep the pennies rolling in!

What's the link between hedgehogs and stamps?



From the beginning of the 21st century, the people of St George's saved used postage stamps for the Council of World Mission who used the proceeds to further their work in mission.

When they stopped collecting stamps, you started saving them for the Hartlepool branch of the RNLI. When their collecting ended, your stamps went to help Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We have recently moved on to support the Hedgehog Foundation who gratefully received a large carrier bag of stamps donated by yourselves. Well done for supporting 4 quite different charities over many years.

Please keep saving your used stamps (with at least a ¼ inch border) to support the Hedgehog Preservation Trust.

Betty.

Food Bank

The box for items for the Food Bank is in the meeting room when the service is held in there and in the hall area when the service is being held in the church. At present with the cost of living and food rising so quickly it is more important than ever that we support this. We would appreciate any items that you would be able to provide. Thank you.



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.

Thank You

Thank you for the lovely church flowers, and for all the cards sent for my 80th birthday. Much appreciated.
Gillian Cartman

Dick would like to thank everybody for the cards and best wishes for his recent 95th birthday.

Safeguarding Training Dates

As Safeguarding is everybody's concern, we are all encouraged to undertake at least the foundation level training for Safeguarding. There are two dates currently available: Wednesday 13 April 2022 from 1pm until 3.30pm and Monday 16 May 2022 from 10am until 12pm. Both courses are via Zoom and can be booked via the Synod office. Please see Margaret H if you want their contact details.

Christians Against Poverty.

CAP is a charity which provides advice and assistance to people who are in difficulty because of debt. Over 300 CAP debt centres are run in partnerships with churches and one was formed through Grace Church in July 2020 in Hartlepool. Currently the centre is not operating but CAP is seeking to restore the Centre and deliver a variety of services.

This is needed more than ever at the present time.

Violet Reed, the CAP representative in town, would love to see more churches working to fund and help with volunteering to support the delivery of CAP services in town. She would love to see help in helping with funding, hosting courses and providing voluntary support towards clients.

Oxford Rd Baptists will be hosting a CAP money management course in April. Many other agencies, voluntary and public, will be working with them.

If you would like to help in any way, or if you can think of how St. George's can help CAP, you can contact Violet on 07575323213.

Aileen Whittaker

Maranny began the tribute to Aileen by telling how welcome she was made to feel by Aileen on her Lay Preaching placement at St. George's and how she felt she had made a friend. This continued until she last saw Aileen a week before her death. Aileen was such a special person, she loved people and was an encourager and enabler and Maranny was pleased to begin this tribute to her but the rest which follows was written by her family.

'Aileen would often say, "it is always better to include than exclude" in fact this was a core value that ran through her like the words in a stick of rock. This sentiment is something she led her life by and in the last few weeks it became clear just how loved and valued she was. Not many 78 year olds get over 50 birthday cards!

Born on the 7th February 1944 in Stockton. Aileen's early years were very much shaped by the war. She was the first child of Ralph and Doris Appleton. Her Dad served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was granted a 48 hour leave to visit his wife and new baby. During that time Aileen was christened in Yarm Road Congregational Church after which her Dad returned to his unit and was not to see Aileen again until he was demobbed in August 1946 some 2 ½ years later.

Aileen was very aware of the hardships that her parents' generation had endured during the war and would often talk about the challenges her own father had seen whilst serving. She was very proud of the fact that he chose to serve in a unit that saved lives rather than take them. She spent her early years living with her Nana and Grandad and they clearly played a large part in her life. Moving to a prefab in Norton at around the age of 2 and a half and finally into a house in Roseworth a few years later. Mum attended Sunday school from the age of three at Norton Congregational Church and she was deeply involved in the work of this until it closed in 2005. At the age of 10 mum was delighted to welcome a much wanted sibling when Stephen was born. Aileen was a massive support in his early life and it has been wonderful that Stephen and Helen have been able to do the same at the end of Aileen's life.

Aileen attended Richard Hind and always considered herself to be extremely lucky to get the last place in the senior school. She had an excellent memory and chatted to Emily and Daniel about her school days – the French teacher that had never been to France and the young Maths teacher that brought in a pie to teach fractions were her favourite stories. Aileen left with a number of O levels and a great appreciation of the value and importance of education.

I wonder how many of us knew that Aileen enjoyed three very different careers. At the age of sixteen she began work as a librarian in Stockton Public Library. She enjoyed her work and through a series of promotions was appointed Children's Librarian for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. She introduced a number of innovations including story time and a reading club.

Shortly after she started work the church launched a youth club which she attended and so did Frank. He has memories of her being involved in everything – a thread that was to continue throughout her life, she was an active member of the Girls' Life Brigade and participated in a number of activities, the summer camps were a highlight. Although Frank and Aileen had been aware of one another for many years it was only now that they began to talk and their friendship developed Frank had started work at ICI and described their friendship as a "slow burner" as both attended night school several nights a week. However, their friendship developed and on Aileen's 21st birthday they became engaged marrying 15 months later in May 1966 at Norton Congregational Church. After a honeymoon in Spain on a very tight budget they settled down in the house they have lived in all of their married life. Helen says Mum and Dad had a special marriage equally happy to go off and do things independently but never tired of each other's company unless the football was on the radio!

In 1971 Helen was born and as was the case in those days Aileen left work. Three years later in 1974 Simeon was born. Aileen always loved having children around her and having her own was the icing on the cake. Aileen returned to college and trained to teach in FE colleges. After moving to Alma Centre where she worked with a range of people with complex needs including teaching a blind man to sew. She undertook a range of positions eventually leading to Deputy



Manager of the centre. A common thread in all of her work was that it was people centred and she was able to show great empathy and compassion to anybody irrespective of background. This skill never left her and she developed a wonderful bond with the carers who looked after her so well in the final few weeks.

Aileen was proud to see both of her children happily married and settled, Helen in Jersey and Simeon in Cheshire. She instilled a hard working ethic into both children and was delighted that last year Helen was appointed Assistant Head teacher in a large secondary school in Jersey and that Simeon achieved his ambition to fly big jets worldwide

Despite loving her work Aileen would often say being a Mum and a Grandma were the best two jobs in the world. Nobody loved being a Grandma more than her and despite the distance her determination to develop a positive relationship with all four of her grandchildren shone through. Mum would often say she had “two big uns” and “two little uns.” I remember her coming straight off the plane in Jersey and picking Emily up from nursery school, her biggest fear was that Emily would not recognise her – of course there was no chance of this and Mum was met with Emily and a group of children at the gate all shouting “Nanmar” She was always interested in their school work and enjoyed working with Dan on a history project which he completed on her Dad. She never tired of reading to Joseph and Lucy even if it was the same story over and over again. Perhaps most importantly Mum was a brilliant role model her work ethic and integrity underpinning every aspect of her life.

She had so many talents, she was an accomplished seamstress and would spend hours at the sewing machine creating a new dress or pair of trousers and also a skilled knitter something which she continued to do until the last few months. She was also incredibly interested in family history and spent hours researching and exploring the backgrounds of previous generations. A lover of fresh air and the outdoors she liked nothing more than to spend an afternoon harvesting produce at the allotment. She had a love of travel and after retirement visited many places from Iceland in the north to South Africa in the South and from California across to Thailand and Vietnam. A very special trip was to Canada to see her childhood friend Freda. Although Aileen enjoyed the simple pleasures in life she would also be up for an adventure. The last time she visited Jersey enjoying a trip on a rib boat to the Minquiers reef and swimming in the sea.

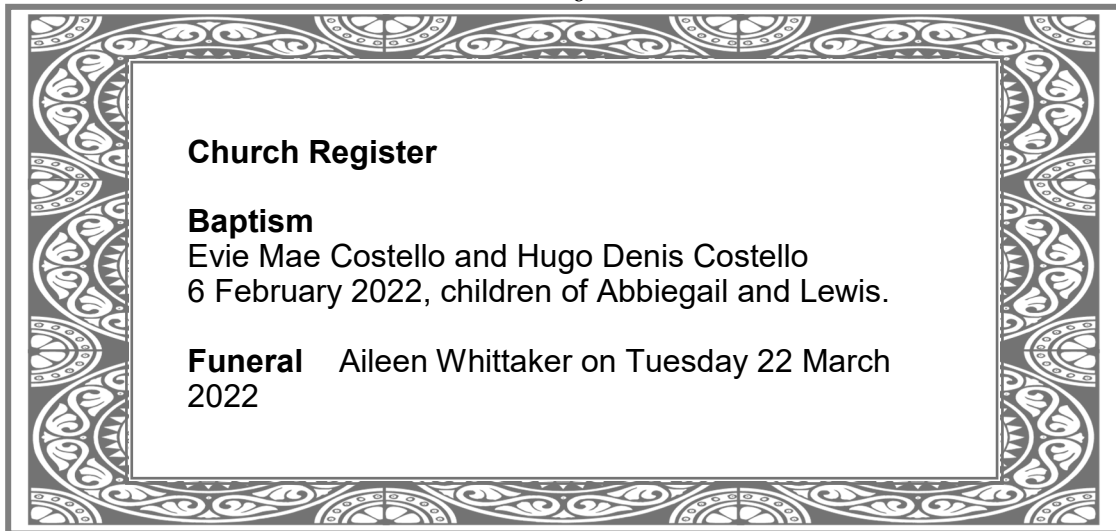
Aileen was always a champion for the underdog and made a difference to the lives of many people in a quiet off the radar kind of way. She supported many smaller bespoke charities; coordinated the shoe box appeal to send to Rumania, knitted hats and gloves for the Seamen’s Mission and sponsored olive trees grown in the Lebanon. Fighting off ovarian cancer 22 years ago she was a keen supporter of Ovacome and always tried to give hope to other sufferers.

It was in January 2021 that she was diagnosed with two cancers - one of them ovarian. She bravely fought through four different chemotherapy treatments none of which were successful. Life became a series of hospital appointments and short stays. In December 2021 she was told there was no further treatment and she was placed in palliative care. Her health deteriorated and it was the ovarian cancer that was to claim her life. Her wish was to die at home and thanks to the wonderful care from the carers, nurses and the palliative care team Frank was able to fulfil this wish.” ‘

Aileen had a strong faith. It would be fair to describe her as a Christian in action with many strings to her bow, courage in the face of adversity being one which was shown at the very end. Her final words to Frank were “ I am ready and my heart is full of love”

Our lives have been enriched by knowing Aileen, her love and faith touched us all. Aileen chose a reading from Luke for her funeral. Frank read this to Aileen shortly before she was called to Glory, We who are left know that she did depart in peace. We also believe that she has heard those words from Matthew 25, verse 23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

(From Aileen’s funeral)



The Knitted Bible

The Knitted Bible has now been packed up and taken away to its next exhibition venue in Lancashire. We were sad to see it leave but wished it well on its travels. The good folk of St George's got together on Saturday when the doors closed for the final time after the fortnight and carefully packed the numerous boxes with the scenes for their journey south. St George's welcomed the knitted figures back to the church for the first time since 2013 and over the 2 weeks that the church doors have been open, we have had a steady stream of visitors passing through. We opened on Saturday the 5th with a big launch and unveiled the community scene for the first time. This scene is now on its travels along with the other 35. During the period of the exhibition, we welcomed Keith Robson, former cartoonist from DC Thompson who spoke of his work on the Jonah cartoon amongst others and we also hosted a talk by local author SJ Martin, who talked about the challenges of being an author to-day. Both evening events were very successful. All in all, the return visit of the Knitted Bible to its home town of Hartlepool was a great success. Looking at the diary it is unlikely to revisit Hartlepool for quite a long time unless a church in the town invites it back of course. Thanks to everyone from the town, and from the St George's hobbies group who contributed to the community scene and The Road to Emmaus. Both scenes are welcome additions to the travelling exhibition.

Paul



Val unveiling
the new scene
The Feeding of
the 4000

News of People

We send our love prayers and sympathy to Frank W and his family as they mourn the death of Aileen.

We are thinking about Margaret W, Margaret F, Dick F, Cathie T, Elma W, Janet and Bill W. Please remember them and anyone else who may need them, in your prayers.



Frank W will be 80 on 16 April and we hope he has a good time spending it with his family.

Flower Donors

April 3	Mrs C Eddowes
April 10	Mr and Mrs A Ord
April 17	Miss M Rodgers
April 24	
May 1	Mr and Mrs W White
May 8	
May 15	Mr F Whittaker
May 22	Mrs E Welsh
May 29	



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
April 3	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Brian Carter
10	Alan Woodhall, Liz Moss	Paul Humberston
17	Sandra Hindmarch, Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall
24	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Brian Carter
May 1	Liz Moss, Sandra Hindmarch	Paul Humberston
8	Kevin Hoad, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
15	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
22	Kevin Hoad, Liz Moss	Paul Humberston
29	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
June 5	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
12	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad	Paul Humberston
19	Alan Woodhall, Sandra Hindmarch	Brian Carter
26	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall

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

Worship in St George's

April

3 rd	10.30am	Rev Val Towler - Communion
10 th	10.30am	Rev Jane Rowell - Palm Sunday.
An infant Baptism will follow this service at 12.30pm.		
14 th	7.30pm	Mrs Chris Eddowes - Maundy Thursday
15 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston - Good Friday
17 th	10.30am	The Worship Team - Easter Sunday
24 th	10.30am	Mrs Hannah Middleton

May

1 st	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones - Communion
8 th	10.30am	Mr Andrew Tinkler with Mrs Margaret Humberston
15 th	10.30am	Ms Helen Cooper
22 nd	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes
29 th	10.30am	The Worship Team

June

5 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes - Communion
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From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **29th May** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

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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	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

Easter Sunday

Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

May

Paul Rodgers Gillian Rodgers

June

Brian Carter Paul Humberston

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

Mrs C Eddowes
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TS26 9PP
(269412)

