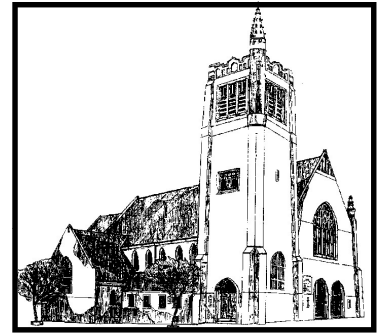




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

Part of the Cleveland Joint Pastorate, comprising the Hartlepool and Teesside, and East Cleveland Group of churches

Oct-Nov 2022



When I edited the last edition of the Newsletter, I never thought that we would be about to live through the ending of an era. We were all surprised to hear of the death of Queen Elizabeth II; it was something that we knew would happen but were not prepared for.

The outpouring of emotion was something which we could have predicted- the Queen was there for most of our lives, but I think many of us were taken aback by how personal it seemed. While she was there, we felt things were normal, that everything would be alright. When she spoke to us about the Covid Pandemic, it would be over one day. But why were we so touched? Why did we shed tears, possibly more than for people we've known personally?

I think we all saw something of our own humanity in her. She may have been Queen, but she was one of us. 400 years ago St Paul's Cathedral in London had a dean who is possibly better known as a poet than as a cleric, John Donne. He lost his daughter to an illness and caught typhus in 1623 which nearly killed him. During this time of convalescence he wrote many meditations. One of them has become very famous, though people have thought of it as a poem, not a sermon. He wrote

*No man is an island entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory
were,
as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were;
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.*

The words 'No man is an island' were embedded in a deeply Christian sermon about how human beings are connected to each other, and how important that connection is for the wellbeing and survival of any individual. When you hear the church bell tolling for someone who has died, don't ask who it is, Donne says, just know that it's tolling for you too because you are part of the same society and the death of anyone takes a part of your own life away.

Life goes on as normal, but it's a new normal. We will have to learn to sing "God save the King", but, I think we will never forget the late Queen, not just because of her position, but because she had qualities of faithfulness and commitment which showed what a follower of Jesus should be.

Chris

Dates for your Diaries - St George's

October

Saturday 15th Synod meeting at Monk Seaton, 10am until 4pm
 Thursday 27th Elders' meeting at 2.30pm in the meeting room

November

Saturday 12th Christmas Fayre at St Columba's, Billingham, 10am until 1pm
 Saturday 12th Remembrance concert in St George's, 7.30pm until 10pm
 Friday 18th Preparations for the Christmas Fayre from 2pm
 Saturday 19th St George's Christmas Fayre, 9.30am until 2pm
 Sunday 27th Church meeting after morning worship

Advanced Dates for your Diaries

Saturday 3rd December Annual Film Night with pea and pies, 4.15pm start. Tickets £6 for adults and £4.50 for children.
 Sunday 11th December Concert by former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir. Time and ticket details to be confirmed.
 Saturday 17th December Carols for Hartlepool. Time and ticket details to be confirmed.

Churches Together in Hartlepool

8.30am Prayer Meetings: 12 October St George's URC
 9 November Church of the Nazarene

All are welcome to attend these prayer meetings.

Coffee Rota

October	9	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	16	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad
	23	Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings
	30	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
November	6	Gillian Cartman, Brian Carter
	13	Sheila & Robert Harrison
	20	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	27	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad
December	4	Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings

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.





Project Africa

Thanks to some very generous donations, our funds stand now at £142.05.

At this rate, by the end of the year, we should be able to have bought a copse or even a small wood for Africa. This will help climate change in a small way and also help quite a few people to grow fruit or something to sell.

Thanks to every body. It doesn't have to be pennies; I'm happy to count anything larger!
Chris



Sports Report!

Many of you will remember that Sandra Hindmarch was going to Skegness for a very special set of matches.

She won 4 games and lost 1 shot on the last end of the semi-final. The score was 18-19 at 21 ends. You can't get much closer than that.

As President for Cleveland, Sandra was really proud to be there at the semi-final and we're proud of her efforts. Well done.



Special dates for Shoeboxes

As we have done in previous years, we are preparing shoe boxes with gifts to go out to those in need abroad. If you have any shoe boxes you would like to pass on, please let Alan or Betty W have them as soon as possible.

Filling of shoe boxes.

Thursday 20th, Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd. October, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th October between 12.30pm and 2.30pm



Dedication of shoe boxes 30th October.

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.



We are all your people.
ISAIAH 64:9

So, what's happening soon, Paul?

There are quite a few happenings soon which are a mixture of fundraising and sharing our buildings and enjoyment with others. Can you help?

On Saturday 12th October there will be a craft stall selling Christmas goods at Dunelm in Hartlepool. This will be run by Ann and Gillian and will be in the foyer of the shop from 10.00 till 4.00 (provisional times). Please come along and support this.



On Saturday the 12th November St George's is pleased to welcome the Craghead Colliery Band for our annual Concert for Remembrance. Advance tickets are £8.00 or £10 at the door on the evening. See poster.

St George's Venue An Evening Concert for Remembrance

CRAGHEAD Colliery Band
and the poetry of Wilfred Owen

Saturday, 12th November 2022
Doors open at 6.45pm. Concert starts at 7.30pm
Park Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP

Tickets £8.00 online/advance
£10.00 at the door
www.brownpapertickets.com

BROWN PAPER TICKETS



The annual Christmas Fayre is to be held on Saturday the 19th November from 9.30 to 1.00. Setting up will be from 2.00pm on the Friday (18th November).

On Saturday 12th December we will be holding our 2nd Carols for Hartlepool Concert in St George's. More details will follow.



The concert by the former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir will be on Sunday 11 December 2022. As is always the case, they will rehearse on the Friday and Saturday evenings before the concert and again in the afternoon prior to the concert on the Sunday (9-11 December 2022).

Committed to supporting | our global partners | **ZIMBABWE**

THE ZIMBABWEAN DEBT CRISIS

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Zimbabwe, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled.

In 2019 Zimbabwean total debt stood at US\$17.69 billion with US\$7.7 billion of that being external debt. Only 25% is the principal amount, with the rest being interest accrued because of utterly insane, indeed immoral, interest rates. The global north, we note, is the primary beneficiary of a rabidly unjust, global financial and economic architecture.

The system beggars belief. Take the British foreign aid budget. The majority goes not to poor people but to a colonial-era investment firm called CDC that invests in luxury hotels, malls, and restaurant chains. In the end, only 3% of this aid goes to suppliers in the global south, with over 90% being paid to British firms. "This is the real scandal," says economist Jason Hickel. "Aid money is taken from the pockets of British taxpayers and sent straight into the already-gilded coffers of the British business elite. It's a shameful abuse of our most compassionate impulse," he concludes.



Together with Global Justice Now, Commitment for Life works to cancel the debt of the highly exploited nations like Zimbabwe. Thank you for all you do to bring about justice in our world through effective debt cancellation

Reflection on Jubilee

In October, the United Reformed Church celebrates its Jubilee year – 50 years since it came into being in 1972.

Jubilee came into being with the rise of the early City-State empires in ancient Mesopotamia. Their recently discovered debt-based credit system made shifting wealth from freshly conquered territories hugely efficient. But it came with problems. Ordinary people fell into debt way too easily, and the system gave rise of a class of oligarchs, whose newly acquired wealth and influence threatened the power of the kings. To cope with this threat, the kings used to declare a regular '*amarga*' (lit. 'return to the mother') or Jubilee that reunited heavily indebted peasants to their lands and families.

It's worth noting that Jubilee was originally implemented to protect the hierarchical system of Empire rather than as a redistributive mechanism. Jubilee was picked up in ancient Israel as a means of protecting the people against this debt system, but soon the powerful found ways of subverting Jubilee – and here we are today.

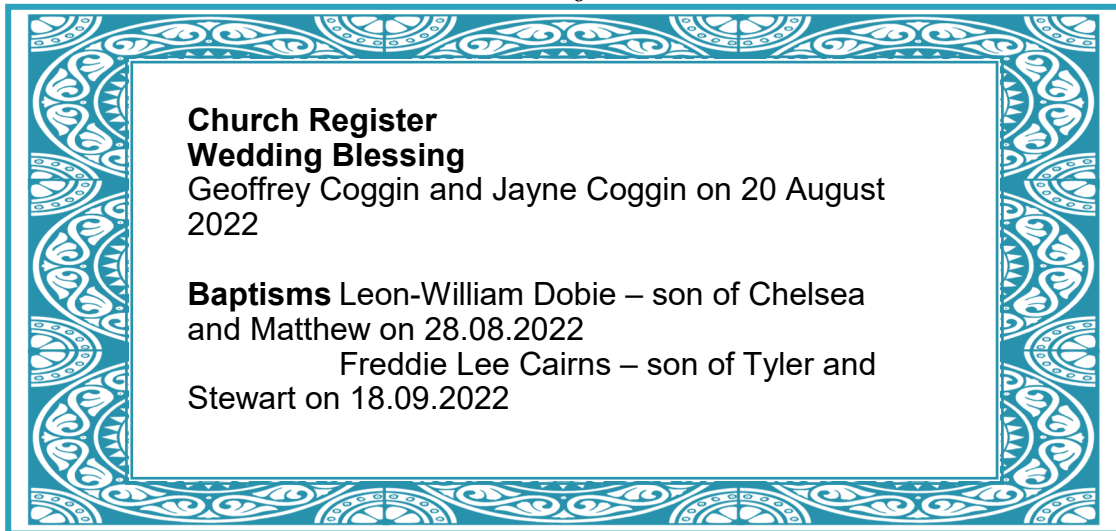
It may well be time for us to leave behind debt as a basis for our economy, given how destructive it is – as Jesus fully understood...

Prayer for Jubilee

God of Abundance, help us find alternatives to debt. Give us the wisdom, means, courage to forgive debt, thereby subverting empire's economics for the sake of your kin-dom..

We pray for Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine; all are caught up in a web of debt that suffocates everyone, even the planet.

Amen.



The Christmas fayre will have the ukulele band again – date Saturday 19th November. They are called NUTS! The Nursery Ukulele Team Strummers!



An Evening Concert for Remembrance



CRAGHEAD Colliery Band

and the poetry of Wilfred Owen

Saturday, 12th November 2022
Doors open at 6.45pm. Concert starts at 7.30pm
Park Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP



News of People

We are thinking about Bill and Janet W, Brian C, Mary D and Kathy T who are unwell. Please remember them, and anyone you know who may need them, in your prayers.

Mary Daniel wishes to share with the church family the happy news that her youngest granddaughter (Benjamin's daughter)Emily has been successful in gaining admission from a local state school in Leeds to Worcester college in Oxford university to do a degree in Politics, philosophy and Economics starting in October. Congratulations!

And well done too to Emily Hoad who is studying History at Durham University. We've got a clever bunch.



Flower Donors

October 2	Mrs E Welsh
October 9	
October 16	Mrs M Watson
October 23	Mrs S Hindmarch
October 30	Mrs M Welford
November 6	Mrs E Bushnell
November 13	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
November 20	Mr F Whittaker
November 27	
December 4	Mrs M Mudd



The Flower Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help on any particular day—just offer.

Stewards Rota			Keys
Date	Stewards		
October	9	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
	16	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
	23	Kevin Hoad, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
	30	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
November	6	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
	13	Kevin Hoad, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
	20	Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
	27	Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
December	4	Pam Branfoot, Kevin Hoad	Brian Carter

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

Worship in St George's

October

2nd 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones, Group service at Stockton followed by the AGM. **THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE IN ST GEORGE'S THIS SUNDAY.**

9th 10.30am Rev John Durell

16th 10.30am The Worship Team

23rd 10.30am Mr Andrew Tinkler

30th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes – not Parade

November

From Sunday 6th November worship will take place in the meeting room unless the church has been heated on the Saturday for another event.

6th 10.30am Mr John Drew - Communion

13th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones – Remembrance Sunday

20th 10.30am The Worship Team

27th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes – Advent Sunday and Parade

December

4th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes - Communion



From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **27th November** please (or earlier) **Reach me by e-mail on:**
chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

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

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

November

Sandra Twist Paul Humberston

December

Brian Carter Liz Moss

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

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

