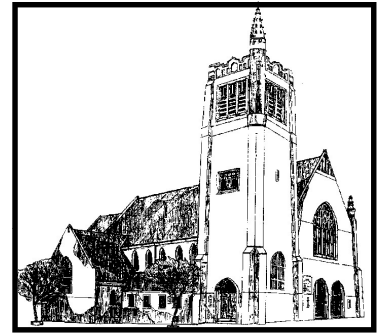




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

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

Dec 2022-Jan2023



I wonder. Have you written your Christmas cards yet? Have you even bought them? I know some of you have definitely got yours because you bought from Traidcraft. Believe it or not, I received my first Christmas card in September. The sender likes to get them all organised early. My only problem is I'm likely to lose it before it's my time to put them on display. Our second card came this morning, so perhaps I should start thinking about it.

Sometimes sending your cards is a moment to stop and review the year; sometimes you have to prune your lists when you realise someone is not there to receive a card anymore. Writing them is a trip down memory lane particularly if, like me, you are still sending cards to people you were at school with. And how to get a year's news in a few sentences?

What do you look for in a card? Humour? A pretty picture? A sentimental verse? Let's go mad and have a religious one! I came across this poem recently by one of my favourite poets, U.A. Fanthorpe. She was an English teacher, so that might have something to do with it. It's called ***Christmas in Envelopes***.

*Monks are at it again, quaffing, carousing;
And stage-coaches, cantering straight out of Merrie England,
In a flurry of whips and fetlocks, sacks and Santas.*

*Raphael has been roped in, and Botticelli;
Experts predict a vintage year for Virgins.*

*From the theologically challenged, Richmond Bridge
Giverny. A lugger by moonlight, doves. Ours*

*Cost less than these in money, more in time;
Like them, is hopelessly irrelevant.
But brings, like them, the essential message*

Love

The last couple of years with the threat and reality of Covid have taught us what we want most from Christmas- people we care about. The central message of Christmas has always been simply, love.

This edition of the newsletter comes to you with love from me. Happy Christmas!
Chris



Dates for your Diaries - St George's

Sunday 11th Concert by former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir. Starts at 4.30pm, tickets are £5 in advance or pay on the door. We hope that people will also bring donations for the food bank.

Saturday 17th Carols for Hartlepool. Starts at 7pm and admission is free.

January

Saturday 14th New Year's Party starting at 3pm.

Thursday 19th As part of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St George's are hosting a soup lunch. Others in the Hartlepool Churches Together may also announce dates for this in the coming weeks.

Thursday 12th Elders' meeting at 2.30pm in the meeting room.

Sunday 22nd The church meeting will follow morning worship.

Advanced Dates for your Diaries

For dates of concerts next year– see the piece from Paul Rodgers

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 16-20 January 2023

The prayers and soup lunch will take place in St George's on Thursday 19. The participating churches for the other days will be announced later.

Coffee Rota

December	4	Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings
	11	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
	18	Sheila & Robert Harrison
January	1	Gillian Cartman, Liz Moss
	8	Paul & Gillian Rodgers
	15	Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings
	22	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
	29	Sheila & Robert Harrison
February	5	Gillian Cartman, Liz Moss

Data Protection

To keep church records up to date and in line with GDPR requirements, if you change your address/telephone numbers/email address





Project Africa

Our total now stands at 167.68p. Just a bit more and we will be able to plant 17 more trees in Africa, bringing our total to 23 by the end of the year.

Lovely to think we are doing something for the climate and helping people earn a living at the same time.

Thanks,
Chris



The Posada

The figures of Mary and Joseph left the church on Advent Sunday to begin their journey around people's homes and will return on Christmas Eve at the Carol service. Thank you to all those who are taking part in this.



The Posada
sets off on its
Advent
Journey

Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank as you are able in these difficult times. The box is currently in the hall area, but will be moved into the meeting room when worship moves there for the winter. Thank you.

Link to Hope Shoe boxes

Well done and many thanks for your support in preparing NINETY SIX shoe boxes to be delivered to Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. I am sure the boxes will be appreciated more than ever this year.

Jim our pick-up driver will also be delivering the shoe boxes to those countries. He told us how delighted the people are when they receive their boxes and keep repeating "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Please pray that the boxes and drivers arrive safely and that the people are encouraged by knowing that we support them.



The hobbies group have already started knitting for 2023 and know that we can rely on the support of the Church.

Many thanks
Betty

Christmas Giving

We always support a charity with the gifts received on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. This year we are supporting the Chemotherapy Unit at Hartlepool Hospital.



The gifts in the manger for the Seafarers' Mission will be sent shortly after 4th Dec. Thank you for giving these.



St. George's United Reformed Church

Xmas Fayre

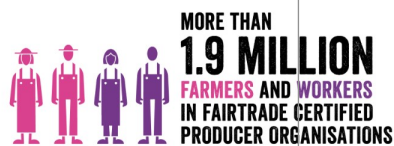
19th November 2022

2021	<u>Stall</u>	<u>2022</u>
125.50	Cake Stall	120.64
75.00	Hobbies Tombola	70.70
25.50	Junior Church	15.60
54.20	Scouts Tombola	74.50
68.00	Raffle	72.00
15.00	Jewellery	33.00
123.21	White Elephant	111.25
47.80	Crafts	152.50
11.50	Christmas	-
254.00	Hamper Raffle	312.00
50.00	Door	70.00
84.00	Bags crackers & pyramids	76.00
10.00	Hire of table	10.00
<u>72.00</u>	Soup & a bun	<u>59.00</u>
1,015.71		1,177.19
95.00	Donation	5.00
<u>1,110.71</u>		<u>1,182.19</u>

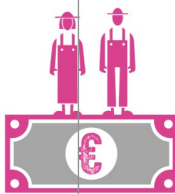
MOVING STORIES

Supporting | our global partners | **FAIRTRADE EDITION**

Facts 'n Figures on Fairtrade



ON AVERAGE EACH FAIRTRADE PRODUCER ORGANISATION RECEIVED MORE THAN £90,000 IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM



£169 MILLION IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM PAID TO FARMERS AND WORKERS IN 2020



Prayer for Fairtrade

God of Abundance, help our church to support Fairtrade. Put into leadership business leaders with a conscience. Help them place people before profit.

We pray for Fairtrade across the world but especially in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine.

Amen.

UK Retailers commit to Fairtrade

Commitment for Life supports The Fairtrade Foundation who work in partnership with 1.9 million farmers and workers globally to address the root causes of poverty. The good news is that more UK retailers are committed to Fairtrade. "It is inspiring to see that public trust in, and preference for, Fairtrade is at its highest ever," says Michael Gidney, chief Executive of Fairtrade Foundation.

Lidl is the biggest buyer of Fairtrade cocoa. It rolled out its 'Way 2 Go' chocolate across 400 stores. Aldi launched the Choco Changer, a new chocolate bar that commits to Fairtrade's Living Income Reference Price for cocoa. Aldi also provides opportunities for flower farm workers in Ethiopia to meet objectives on gender equity. Other Fairtrade cocoa conversions were made by SPAR. It introduced three new products on trial. Proper, building on their brand commitment as the 'only Fairtrade sweet popcorn' introduced two new Proper Chocolate Popcorn bars, while Asda launched a new FSI cocoa chocolate bar. 100 percent Fairtrade brand Tony's Chocolonely also launched in major retailers in 2021.

Since 2005, Greggs has sourced Fairtrade coffee beans for all its coffee products. It has since added bananas, apple juice, orange juice, sugar sticks, sugar syrup, hot chocolate, black tea, mint tea, and green tea as part of its Fairtrade commitments. In August 2021, Greggs announced a switch to using only Fairtrade chocolate in its own products, which include Milk Chocolate Cookies, Caramel Shortbread and Chocolate Brownies.

**FAIRTRADE
CHOOSE THE WORLD
YOU WANT**

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE?

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 27th Feb – 12th Mar 2023



Events Past...

Concert for Remembrance 2022

The Concert for Remembrance held a few weeks ago was a great success with the Craghead Brass Band, the students from Miss Toni's Academy and Mr Tony Green as the compere. We had a decent turnout and after making payments to the band and the other artists we made a small profit. I am pleased to report that Miss Toni's Academy have suggested that they might like to hold a concert in St. George's next year. We look forward to this and hope that it will be something that will be well attended and supported by church members and by the public.

We will definitely be having another concert next year for remembrance however I was hoping that the Wilsons would be able to perform at that event however they are booked so I have asked them to come in 2024.



Coming Soon..

Carols for Hartlepool

Arrangements are well underway for Carols for Hartlepool being held on Saturday 17th December at 7:00 pm. As I write this, I have just confirmed that the compere for the evening will be Pastor Dave Russon. The Hartlepool Brass Band are confirmed to be playing and we are pleased to see that our own Liz Moss will be part of the band this time. Our church organist Frank Whitaker will be playing the organ for three of the carols and the brass band will combine with Peter Craggy at the organ for the final Carol which this year will be O Come All Ye Faithful. We are also pleased to welcome the Vocalise choir who will be contributing with some interesting interpretations of carols and Chris Milner, Singer songwriter from Middlesbrough. This event is free and everyone is welcome



Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir

We mustn't forget the ex Hartlepool Youth Choir who will be performing their standard carols concert on Sunday the 12th of December at 4:30 in the afternoon. Tickets for this event are £5.00.



And Next year

Over the last few weeks, I have been talking to members of the Hartlepool Music Society and plans are underway to move their grand piano from the Hartlepool Town Hall into St. George's church. To do this it will require us to remove two of the front pews so that the piano can be moved to the centre of the church for concerts. This is an exciting venture, and we are really pleased that the Hartlepool Music Society have agreed that they want to site their piano, which I understand is a very high quality, in St George's.

Lent Classical Concert Series

In March 2023 we are hosting a series of Sunday afternoon classical concerts featuring well known classical musicians both locally and from around the area. Firstly, on the 5th of March we will showcase the St George's church organ and the organist will be Mr Ian Pounder.

On the 12th of March we will be joined by the Auckland Duo. This is a guitar and flute duo.

On the 19th of March we welcome the Kildale Quartet which is a string quartet featuring two violins, one viola and a cello and finally on the 26th of March we are absolutely thrilled to welcome two musicians who are at the top of their field playing classical violin. We welcome Philippa Mo and Hannah Perowne who are internationally recognised violinists and we are very privileged to have them in St George's. Tickets for all these concerts will be £5 each and the concert will be held from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the afternoon each Sunday. We will start at 2:30 with tea, coffee and light refreshments with some cakes and generally have a time to socialise and the concerts themselves will begin at 3:30 and will last for approximately 1 hour.



Maz O'Connor

Squeezed in the middle of these concerts is a concert with highly acclaimed folk singer Maz O'Connor. Maz has Irish roots but currently lives in Barrow in Furness and has been singing for a few years and released three highly acclaimed albums. She has won BBC Radio 2 awards and has a beautiful singing voice, plays guitar, ukulele and also piano so it will be nice to be able to showcase the new Music Society piano at this concert.

This concert is to be held on Friday 10th of March at 8:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now priced at £8.50. These are available online and from myself or in the CAB.



Paul Rodgers

What do you call a snowman in the summer?
A puddle.

What do you call a snowman in the tropics?



What do snowmen wear on their heads?
Ice caps!

What do snowmen have for breakfast?
Snowflakes!



Annual Reports

Sorry folks, at the risk of being called “The Grinch”, it’s that time of year again. Could the leaders of all groups and organisations please let me have their reports by Sunday 22 January 2023. I am more than happy to receive them by email. Thank you, Margaret.

Craft Stall at Dunelm

A craft stall was held in the entrance to our local Dunelm store recently. We raised approx. £200 selling craft items along with a tombola stall. Ann has been selling her goods to family and friends, so along with the money raised at the Dunelm store we have been able to donate £400 to church funds. Thank you to Sandra, Frank, Mercia and Betty for all their help.



Christmas Fayre

Many thanks once again for everyone involved in our recent Christmas Fayre. The event takes a lot of planning and organising, and I am very grateful to those who contribute in any way; from making soup, donating gifts, encouraging family and friends to come along, opening up the car park, setting out tables and moving chairs. It really is a team effort. It is always very pleasing when all the hard work results in such a fantastic total.

We are also planning to hold an Easter Fayre on Saturday 8th April 2023 and our Spring Fayre will be on Saturday 13th May 2023.

Don't be shy!

We pride ourselves at St George's on being a family and the things families do is to look out for each other. Some people are hesitant about coming to church happenings as they are dependent on buses or taxis and are worried about getting home again, particularly at night. If this is you— don't let it put you off! In a discussion at the church meeting it was pointed out that there are quite a few people who come to church in cars and don't mind giving anybody a lift. So don't be shy! If you'd like a lift, just ask. Remember 'shy bairns get nae sweets'!



Old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house.

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
GOOD NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE
PRODUCERS OF THE
ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER**



News of People

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



There are no notable birthdays this month, except a special one on 25th December, but if it's your birthday in the period of this Newsletter, enjoy it!

Flower Donors

December	4	Mrs M Mud
December	11	
December	18	
December	25	Mrs W Parkinson
January	1	
January	8	The Granger Family
January	15	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
January	22	Mrs S Harrison
January	30	Mrs S Twist
February	5	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
December	4 Pam Branfoot, Sandra Hindmarch	Paul Humberston
	11 Paul Humberston, Liz Moss	Alan Woodhall
	18 Pam Branfoot, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
	24 Paul Humberston, Liz Moss	Alan Woodhall
	25 Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
January	1 Paul Humberston, Pam Branfoot	Alan Woodhall
	8 Alan Woodhall, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
	15 Sandra Hindmarch, Paul Humberston	Alan Woodhall
	22 Pam Branfoot, Liz Moss	Paul Humberston
	29 Sandra Hindmarch, Alan Woodhall	Brian Carter
February	5 Pam Branfoot, Paul Humberston	Alan Woodhall

Worship in St George's

December

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



4 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes, Communion
11 th	10.30am	The Worship Team
18 th	10.30am	Nativity
24 th	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Service
25 th	9.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes, Christmas Morning Worship

January

1 st	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes, Communion
8 th	10.30am	Rev Trevor Jamison
15 th	10.30am	Rev David Herbert
22 nd	10.30am	Rev David Whiting
29 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes, Parade

From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **29th January** 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

January

Gillian Rodgers Paul Rodgers

February

May Ord Sandra Twist

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

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65 Hutton Ave
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