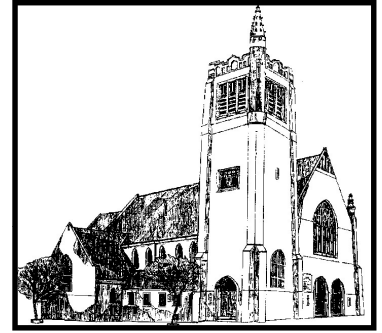




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

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

April-May 2023



Dear Friends,

The first part of this year has been a very sad one for all the churches in our group as we have lost some of our dearest friends and members to death. There have been too many funerals and yet, the strange thing is that they have been some of the most uplifting and celebratory services I have attended. All our friends have contributed so much to our lives together, they have left legacies of love and service and, perhaps most of all, they have lived out their faiths. They have showed us that death is not the end and have moved on to a new life we can only at this stage imagine.

This is, of course, the message that we will be sharing in our Easter worship. There is the pain and anguish of parting followed by resurrection and being born to a new life and the glorious knowledge that we are promised the same.

The friends we have lost are not lost at all and all they have been to us will stay forever in our congregations. Jake Dale from our Stockton church wrote this poem imagining that we leave behind a shape, ethereal and as thin as envelope. This is how he hoped his would be. It was read at his funeral two weeks ago and I share it with you with the permission of Jane, his wife

My Place

And when death comes, should I leave a space
Please, let it be a pleasant place.

No hard edged angles should lurk inside,
But soft and smooth shall mourners find.

A happy shape within the air,
With song and laughter echoing there.

For joy and fun there's lots of room
But nary a niche for doom or gloom.

Colour my space, bright not grey
With reds and yellows, light and gay.
Nor blue or green or brown or black
But rainbow shades it shouldn't lack.

Let it have just an envelope thin
Where joy and love can swirl within.
Should a ghostly image stay a while
However it looks, please, let it smile.

Yes, when death comes, should I leave a space
Please...let it be a pleasant place.

J.M.Dale 29/082011

Blessings,
Chris

Dates for your Diaries - St George's April

Saturday 8th Easter Coffee morning from 9.30am until 12 midday.
 Sunday 16th Baptism will follow morning worship at 12.30pm.

May

Saturday 13th Spring Fayre from 9.30am until 12 midday.

Advance Date

Music on a summer afternoon.

The Guisborough Choral Society will be performing the chorus parts of Handel's Messiah on Saturday afternoon, 17th June at St George's. There will be refreshments on sale. Keep your eyes open for further details of times and tickets



Coffee Rota

April	2	Sheila Harrison, Robert Harrison
	9	Gillian Cartman, Liz Moss
	16	Paul Rodgers, Gillian Rodgers
	23	Margaret Fraser, Rose Hastings
	30	Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg
May	7	Paul Rodgers, Gillian Rodgers
	14	Sheila Harrison, Robert Harrison
	21	Liz Moss, Kevin Hoad
	28	Rose Hastings, Margaret Fraser
June	4	Val Rigg, Enid Bushnell



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.





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Project Africa

After we bought all the trees, I wondered if we could save up for a bigger project to do with the tree planting. Tell me what you think. Money is mounting up again and the total now stands at £49.79p.

Thank you all those people who are now not just saving copper coins but shinier ones too!

Chris



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.

Appeal for more Stewards

St George's is short of door stewards at the moment. If you would like to join the team please speak to Margaret H or Paul H. Stewarding is important as it allows us to greet both our own folk, and visitors as they arrive for worship



Thank You

The Family and I would like to thank the Church Family for their flowers, cards and messages that we received when Bill died. There is a big hole in our lives now, but the concern, care and sympathy that we received was precious and helped to carry us through the dark days.

Love and Blessings Janet..

Sandra's Bowling

Occasionally Sandra is missing on Sunday mornings and such was the case a couple of weeks ago. She put her apologies in in triplicate before hand as bowls was calling; The Cleveland County Ladies' Championship to be more accurate.

Sandra played in the Pairs and Singles and came second in both. Well done!



Committed to supporting our global partners

ZIMBABWE

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Latest Campaign from Global Justice Now



Global Justice Now would like to thank **Commitment for Life** sincerely for its generous support throughout 2022 and into 2023

Rich countries and polluting corporations in the global north are the most responsible for climate change. As much as 92% of the carbon emissions that are in excess of safe planetary limits come from those rich countries. These include the UK, which is historically the world's 5th biggest polluter. Billions of people across the global south are facing climate chaos, despite being the least responsible for causing it.

At the COP27 climate talks, held in November 2022, countries finally agreed to set up an international compensation fund for 'loss and damage' due to climate change.

Global Justice Now is campaigning to make sure that this compensation is paid by the big polluting corporations in the fossil fuel industry, including in the UK, which has a moral and historic responsibility to act.

Global Justice Now is encouraging us to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands. We can do this by telling the UK government to make polluters pay for loss and damage! You can do this by signing the petition addressed to the Prime Minister that is on their website www.bit.ly/mpptcd

Prayer

God, thank you that we have the privilege of serving you. Give us the courage to face down injustice, the strength to make a difference, and the wisdom to choose the right action to bring about your desire for peace, equity, and justice, especially for the poorest in the world. In Jesus we live and pray. Amen.



Many aid agencies have relied on the strategy of 'development' to bring about an end to poverty. Yet after decades of hard work, we still observe islands of absurd wealth surrounded by a sea of debilitating poverty in Zimbabwe. What has gone wrong? It seems despite our best efforts at development, extreme deprivation and inequalities persist. Why? At least part of the answer is that the economic architecture in which we operate is fundamentally unfair. This means that development – in this context – simply increases the gap between rich and poor at an ever-faster pace.

Christian Aid's research suggests that highly exploited countries lose \$416bn a year in revenues because of finance flowing illicitly across borders, often facilitated by British, American, and now Chinese banks. The IMF estimates that \$200bn a year is lost to low-income countries alone, a larger share of GDP than for advanced economies, and over four times the amount of official aid that they receive from donors. Often this 'aid' is geared towards privatising the social good around the world to benefit Big Finance. This tracks well with Jesus' observation that in this 'Domination System' of empires (some Bible translations call it 'this world') the poor will always be with us. It is well beyond time that all aid agencies concentrate their efforts at exposing this global financial architecture and proffer genuine alternatives to business-as-usual.



After a very busy few weeks we are pleased to say that our series of concerts during Lent have been a great success. We kicked off on the 5th March with a sterling performance by Ian Pounder on the wonderful St George's Church organ. After a tune up during the week prior to the concert we expected that the 120 year old organ would have been in tip top shape for the concert however it had different ideas and misbehaved. Ian soldiered on magnificently and treated us to a showcase performance.

The 10th March brought a change in the programme with the visit of Maz O'Connor to St George's. It was a first for Maz as she had never visited Hartlepool before and picked the coldest day of the year to do so. Maz sang and played beautifully and treated us to a good cross section of songs from her studio albums. She was well received by the appreciative audience who stayed around to purchase CD's and chat after the concert.

Back to the classical series on the 12th and we welcomed the Auckland Duo to the church. Andy Jackson and Chrissie Macgreggor played a range of pieces from all over the world including Mexican, Spanish and Irish on guitar and flute.

On the 19th of April, the Kildale Quartet played for us and although it was Mothering Sunday we had a good turn out. Their repertoire was taken from music from Hyden and Schonberg, Sebelius and Grainger. A real eclectic mix played with great skill.

We are now looking forward with great anticipation to the final concert in our Lent series and this will be held on 26th March and features Retorica. Phillipa Mo and Hannah Perowne are exceptional talents on violin and we are honoured to have them play at St George's.

We are so grateful to the Hartlepool Music Society for sponsoring the Auckland Duo and Retorica. St George's church sponsored the concert by Ian Pounder and Victoria House Funeral Services generously covered the costs for the Kildale Quartet. Many thanks to everyone who has helped behind the scenes to make these concerts a great success.

In the next newsletter we should be able to give some more information of upcoming concerts and events and some news regarding the involvement of the Music Society in St George's.

Paul Rodgers
Events Co-Ordinator
St George's Venue
Park Road



William Paul White (Bill)

I am beginning these memories of Bill by quoting a sentence from an e mail I received after Bill's death

'I think he was one of the most reliable and supportive people I've ever known.' I can echo the supportive bit. Bill was on my support team while working towards being a lay preacher. He then became along with Janet a trusted friend. I didn't recognise the Bill on the service sheet apart from the laughing eyes as I didn't know him then. When I first set eyes on Bill, I thought of him more as a silver fox, a bit like Philip Schofield. I was delighted when on being told that this was Bill and he would be on my support team. Behind the laughing eyes was a man who spent his life looking after others.

Bill was born in Coatbridge on 29th July 1938, to George and Mary White, sister Anne came along six years later. Like many Scots he was brought up in a tenement building but when his Granny was ill the family got a larger house and they all moved in together along with bachelor uncle Archie,

Janet has literally known Bill almost all her life as they lived near each other and all went to Dundyvan primary school. Bill was a year above Janet and Anne and Janet's brother Peter were in the same class.

Bill lived a lot at his Granny's during the war because she had a n Anderson Shelter, He was always on his bike, loved comics especially the Eagle, and he even had a first edition. Going on to High School he wanted to go to sea as a deck officer but his dad insisted he had an apprenticeship so he started a three year apprenticeship at David Rowen Shipbuilders in Glasgow Another young Scot was serving an apprenticeship at the same time as Bill. A certain Billy Connelly, I wonder if their paths crossed.

Janet says that as soon as the ink was dry on his papers he was off to sea.

During his time in the merchant navy, Bill went through the Panama Canal, going up St Lawrence River, having an ice breaker to get them to port, then he was off to Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Nahru Island West Africa. During this time Bill's friendship with Janet had blossomed and romance began at a Church Dance. They were engaged for a year and married on 4th Feb 1961 at Blairhill Parish Church. Coatbridge.

Bill left the Navy when he and Janet got their own house and again Janet says it took him ages to settle to an 8-5 job. He began work at the pipe mill when they were making up a team to 20" pipe mill Hartlepool, he phoned Janet to tell her he had been offered a job there and her reply was, understandably "where is that" the rest is history. Bill was on his travels again to Abu Dhabi with the steelworks when Janet's Dad and 18 month old Colin to Seaton Carew. Passing Golden Flatts Her Dad exclaimed. Just what sort of place are you coming to?

Bill's life was never without a church, church was his life. He became an Elder at 18, in Dendyvan Parish Church. The back pew of the Church was always full because youth club followed. The minister knew come Sunday evening that pew would be full. Janet knew if he was out visiting his district he would be out late as everyone had known him as a lad. Throughout life church and social life intermingled. Bill's faith was very strong and steadfast right to the end and he had no fear of dying.

He wasn't a good cook and one time that is remembered was when Janet who hadn't been well went to Scotland for a few days' rest. Being Janet she left easy to cook meals from Bill and the family. They grew used to burnt offerings but what is most remembered was that he even managed to burn the potato croquettes which he was never allowed to forget. Bill had a great sense of humour and over the years at hobbies, I was frequently reduced to tears by his dry humour. When I visited at home he always had something funny to report. As you know Bill could turn his hand to anything, even sweeping chimneys. When the heating in the house changed from solid fuel to gas the lum had to be swept and among Bill's tools, you have guessed it was a sweep's kit. The living room was covered with sheets, sleeves rolled up, and up went the brush, one rod at a time, then another and so on until the neighbours were spotted laughing as the brush had not only swept the chimney, it was sweeping the sky.

He was a dab hand at decorating and when the family were young he worked into the night to get it done. They woke up one morning to find a match stick family painted on the wall, Maw, Paw and the weans, in English, Mummy, Daddy and the children Colin, Fiona and Alison. It caused some fun but he regretted it as it took three coats of paint to cover it.

Janet and Bill were great friends with their neighbours in Park Road, Ray and Alison. Bill and Ray needed no encouragement to get the tools out and they were a dab hand with pallets. Calling themselves, Peony and Blossom, builders extraordinaire. That's why there is lovely garden shed in Park Road.

Many fun filled holidays were taken in Scotland, many of them in Tiree but one well remembered was a visit to Edinburgh Zoo. Those of us who know Edinburgh, know that traffic is an ever increasing nightmare. Corstorphine Rd was busy and as there was no break in the traffic, Bill decided to go to the right and keep going to the right and get back on to Corstorphine Rd a bit further on where the traffic was quieter. That is what happened until Coil chirped up, Dad, there is a castle up there, the reply was swift, It can't be! It insisted Colin. Well they must have moved it since I was last here, retorted Bill. They were on the wrong road.

Speaking of roads, coming back from Scotland one New Year part of the road at Brompton was flooded, but not looking too bad, Bill decided to keep going until a crier from the back seat. Dad the water is coming in the back' A hasty retreat in reverse to safety but the car was never the same.

He was a wonderful husband of sixty two years. He adored his children, Fiona, Colin and Alison and their families and was delighted to meet his great grandson Reuben.

He was a fully active Elder and member of this Church until illness overtook him. He was Sandra the treasurer's right hand man on Sundays when counting the offering, if the books didn't balance he tried to resign but all the while good humoured.

He was a founding member of the Peace and Justice Group and an early member of the worship team - his prayers were terrific, so down to earth. If there was something going on, he was there. Chris remembers the stir his kilt caused in Cologne when they went on a Drop the Debt March.

He was a fund raiser for Samaritans, treasurer for the Caledonian Society and went to help do up the Mercy Ships, not to mention the Seafarer's mission, which both Bill and Janet loved, doing a shift there every week.

Bill latterly was grateful along with Janet for the care he received from Carers from Dalecare. In true Bill fashion, they became friends and Bill's dry humour was still evident, despite his declining health.

We pay tribute to someone who has touched all our lives, someone who cared deeply about mankind, a family man, leaving many many happy memories. Bill, it has been an honour to know you, our lives have been richer for you being in them. Thank you for the memories, we will never forget you.

From Maranny's eulogy



St George's

Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday - April 8th

Crafts
Raffles
Tombolas
Knitted items
Temple Spa Stall
Bric-a-Brac
Cakes

10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Admission £1.00

All proceeds to go to
Shoebbox Appeal



Refreshments
available

St George's Church, Park Road, TS26 9HP



© CanStockPhoto.com

Good Friday

St George's

SPRING FAYRE

Saturday

May 13th

St George's Church,
Park Road,
TS26 9HP

Raffles
Tombolas
Fancy goods
Bric-a-Brac
Plants
Cakes
Books

Doors open
9.30 - 12.00

Refreshments
available

Admission £1.00



Easter
Sunday

News of People

We are thinking about Kathy T who is unwell. We also remember Janet W, her family and friends following Bill's recent death, and Frank as he awaits news from Jersey. Please remember them, and anyone you know who may need them, in your prayers.



It was good to see Pam back in church as she continues to improve slowly from her recent illness.

Flower Donors

April 2 Mrs C Eddowes
 April 9 Mr and Mrs A Ord
 April 16 Miss M Rodgers
 April 23 Mrs M Watson
 April 30 Mrs J White
 May 7 Mrs M Fraser
 May 14 Mr F Whittaker
 May 21 Mrs E Welsh
 May 28



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
Apr 2	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarch	Liz Moss
6	Liz Moss, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
7	Kevin Hoad, Sandra Hindmarch	Alan Woodhall
9	Paul Humberston, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
16	Kevin Hoad, Paul Humberston	Liz Moss
23	Alan Woodhall, Sandra Hindmarch	Paul Humberston
30	Kevin Hoad, Paul Humberston	Alan Woodhall
May 7	Alan Woodhall, Liz Moss	Brian Carter
14	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarch	Liz Moss
21	Liz Moss, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
28	Kevin Hoad, Sandra Hindmarch	Alan Woodhall
June 4	Alan Woodhall, Liz Moss	Brian Carter

Worship in St George's

April

2 nd	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones, Palm Sunday Communion Church meeting and AGM follows this service
6 th	7pm	Mrs Maranny Jones, Maundy Thursday Communion
7 th	10.30am	Rev John Elliston, Good Friday
9 th	10.30am	Rev Val Towler, Easter Sunday
16 th	10.30am	Mr Andrew Tinkler
23 rd	10.30am	Mr Andy Lie, Synod Ecumenical Officer
30 th	10.30am	Rev John Durell



May

7 th	10.30am	Ms Jan Harper, Communion
14 th	10.30am	Mr John Drew
21 st	10.30am	Ms Helen Cooper
28 th	10.30am	Mrs Chris Eddowes

June

4 th	10.30am	Mrs Maranny Jones, Communion
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From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **May 28th** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

CHURCH SECRETARY

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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

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

May

May Ord **Sandra Twist**

June

Brian Carter **Gillian Rodgers**

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

Mrs C Eddowes
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(269412)

