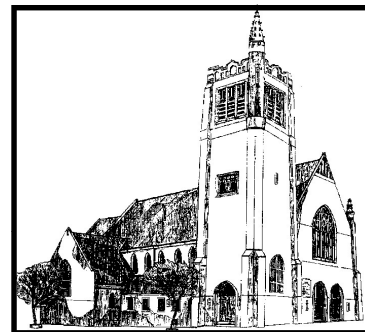




Newsletter

of St. George's URC Hartlepool

October-November 2023



Dear friends,

May I start with two thank-yous. Firstly for the invitation to contribute to the newsletter and second, on behalf of the Grange Road members, for the warm welcome we have received since joining you for worship from the start of August. Whilst, if planning the date by anything other than when the sale of Grange Road completed, we might not have chosen August as the time to move for me at least it proved good timing – for in ministry September, as with my previous career in teaching, is always a busy time.

At the end of a day, when I want to unwind, one of my 'go to' things is to play a few games on my tablet. Currently that's likely to be Farm Heroes or Royal Match. For those who've never come across them (and why would you), both basically involve matching objects in certain combinations to collect required items before running out of moves.

Whilst supposedly being used to unwind I find at times that even simple games have taught me interesting lessons. One is that in both cases the more you have the easier it is to gain more. When you successfully complete a level, you gain bonus points or collect items (I'll call them aides) which help you complete future levels. So if I win 10 levels without needing to use those aides I can go on and win many more on subsequent days. However, if I'm out of aides I can be stuck on a level for weeks. That's where the temptation comes – which I make myself resist – to purchase aides. I play the free version! That relates so clearly to everyday life. If you have plenty of money you can make more money or make savings by buying in bulk, whilst those who have very little have to pay more. Not just with food but things like pre-payment utility meters which cost far more than if paying by direct debit.

Another reflection is that all too often, when I'm stuck on a level, I keep trying the same method, time after time. Yet when I realise and try a different start, I can often complete the level with no difficulty. (Think about playing noughts and crosses, do you always start in the same square? Similarly, if you play chess. What happens if you change tactics? It's a similar thing). Dare I suggest that, as a church, we can fall into that same trap. We keep doing what we've always done, whether it is working or not. For both congregations we currently have the perfect opportunity to reflect on what we do and why we do it. For example, the URC take communion out to the congregation, Methodists tend to come forward and receive at the front – have you ever considered why? A URC minister once explained their reasons to me and I gave my understanding. Both are valid. So if you notice differences between traditions ask, let's find out more about the background to the way we worship, let's dare to try different things from time to time whether from our own traditions or new to all. Who knows, we may find ourselves clearing barriers we once thought insurmountable or we may discover the reasons behind 'what we've always done'.

Now where is my tablet? Time for a short breather before I start on the Circuit newsletter!

I wish you all God's blessing,
Bev

Rev Bev Hollings

Dates for your Diaries -

October

Wednesday 11 th	Children from the Eldon Grove Academy will be visiting the church from 9.30am.
Wednesday 11 th	If you would like to help with this please see Margaret H. Concert by Hayley Mckay at 7.30pm, tickets £12, available from Enid.
Saturday 14 th	Synod meeting in Sunderland from 10am.
Sunday 15 th	Group service at Nunthorpe and Marton followed by lunch. Service starts at 11am. If you would like a lift, and have not yet done so, please speak to anybody who is on the list as being able to offer a lift.
Thursday 19 th	Elders Meeting at 2.30pm in the meeting room

Advanced Dates for your Diaries

November

Saturday 11 th	Concert for Remembrance, 7pm.
Wednesday 15 th	Children from the Eldon Grove Academy will be visiting the church from 9.30am. If you would like to help with this please see Margaret H.
Saturday 18 th	Christmas Fayre, 9.30am
Sunday 19 th	The church meeting will follow morning worship.
Saturday 25 th	There will be a baptism in the church at 12.30pm. Saturday is not the day we would usually do a baptism, but due to problems with the booking elsewhere, I have agreed to help the family out and have it on a Saturday. I would be very grateful if people could attend to make the church promises. MH.

December

Saturday 2 nd	Movie night with pie and peas, starts at 4.15pm. The film this year will be 'Santa Claus the movie'. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4.50 for children.
Saturday 9 th	Carols for Hartlepool. Doors at 6pm, concert starts 6.30pm. This is a free event.
Saturday 17 th	Christmas concert by former members of the Hartlepool Youth Choir. Times and ticket details to follow.

Churches Together in Hartlepool

8.30am Prayer Meetings

: Wednesday 11 October, St George's URC
 Wednesday 8 November, Church of the Nazarene
 All are welcome to attend these prayer meetings.

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



In view of the recent disasters in Libya and Morocco, we have decided that we will send £108 to Shelter Box to pay for a severe flooding kit which contains things like water filters and mosquito nets as well as other essentials to help people survive after floods. This leaves us with £19.87 towards the next project

Chris

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



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, Thank you.



COFFEE ROTA

Oct 1st	Enid Bushnall, Val Rigg.
8th	Gillian Rodgers, Paul Rodgers.
22nd	Katie Bosworth, Margaret Fraser.
29th	Gillian Cartman, Liz Moss.
Nov 5th	Sheila Harrison, Robert Harrison.
12th	Enid Bushnall, Val Rigg.
19th	Gillian Rodgers, Paul Rodgers.
26th	Margaret Fraser, Liz Moss.
Dec 3rd	Katie Bosworth, Gillian Cartman.

Church Reading Rota for 2024

Before very long I will be starting to prepare the new Reading rota for 2024. I would be grateful if anyone who is not currently on the reading rota, but would like to be, or who is currently on it, and would prefer to stand down from it for 2024, could let me know as soon as possible. Thanks Margaret H.



Worship at Home

During the covid lockdown Methodist preachers began to produce written worship material which for use at home. Some who, for various reasons, were unable to attend church found them so useful the practice has continued. They are produced for each week and distributed at the start of each month (usually by email but printed copies can be provided). A monthly circuit newsletter is distributed at the same time. If anyone wants adding to the distribution list do let me know – you can ask to be removed at any time.

Rev Bev, 01429 409563 beverly.hollings@methodist.org.uk

Moving Stories

in Zimbabwe.

⁴Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Batsirai Byanutete, lives in the Mutoko District in Zimbabwe. He is a young man who has had his life turned around by the intervention of our Christian Aid partner. Christian Aid has assisted with the help of indigenous knowledge, doing brilliant work in identifying indigenous plants and shrubs that can be carefully combined into livestock feed. These bushes and plants are processed using a Christian Aid supplied milling machine. The product is then bagged and stored, ready for sale.

This highly nutritious supplement is given to animals in lean times (like now) and just before market. The animals are healthier, which means that the community is healthier too.

Your support for Commitment for Life, means that Batsirai Byanutete, instead of hanging out with directionless youths, drinking and getting into mischief, has a sense of purpose now that his milling expertise is much valued by the community.



Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for your presence in our lives. We bless and praise you for the many gifts you pour so generously into our lives. May we be transformed by the infilling of your Holy Spirit to perfectly love you through our care and support for our neighbour in need. And, in so doing, may we increasingly come to resemble you. Amen.

Mid week worship / Fellowship

Not always able to attend worship on Sunday mornings?

Would you like an opportunity to meet with others during the week?

We hope to start a time for informal worship or fellowship (with a speaker), Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon (or morning) in the meeting room at St George's.

If you would be interested in coming please let Margaret Humberston or Gillian Elliston know indicating what day/time you would prefer and how often— weekly, fortnightly, monthly?



Ray Elliston recently received a letter from Terry Hegarty, Chairman of the Trustees of the Hartlepool Town Pastors about the money given in memory of Drew Mills, an inspirational man. Here's part of the letter:

"What a wonderful boost to our Hartlepool Town Pastors' fund to support the work of street angels in the town at weekends.

"I'm told by our trustee fundraiser, Norman Bell, you have recently transferred £395 to HTP's account in memory of Drew Mills- and our treasurer, Keith Milner, has also been alerted to the transfer of this generous and welcome gift.

"Drew - Andrew Mills to honour his full name here - was for more than five years the reliable anchor of co-ordination and management around whom HTP's volunteer patrols at night time economy functioned. Drew was an active participant as well as a behind-the-scenes administrator to ensure the voluntary effort of staffing weekend patrols and providing the support needed to make the service run smoothly and regularly. When family duties made it necessary for him to retire from the front-line, he willingly joined the team of trustees to oversee the Christian-based policies and practice which help to see members of the public home safely after a night out in town.



"Drew is much missed. The donation of your church members and others ensures that his conscientious pioneering work is able to continue and therefore his memorial ensured. Do please pass on the gratitude of HTP's present trustees, Drew's colleagues and friends, and our new volunteer recruits to all those at Grange Road Methodist Church and its visitors and thank them for both the tribute and the material help they have provided in support of our work."

Hayley McKay – Wednesday, 11th October 2023

Thanks to those who have already purchased their tickets for the fabulous Hayley McKay on Wednesday 11th October. Hayley is, without doubt, an up and coming star. So far in her short career she has played at Glastonbury, on stage at the Newcastle City Hall with Jimmy Nail and Lindisfarne, played at Stockton Calling festival and recently returned from a tour of the USA where she visited Nashville.

We are really lucky to have Hayley at St George's as it won't be long until she is playing much larger festivals and venues. Something different that I am sure you will enjoy.



Concert for Remembrance – Saturday, 11th November 2023

We are pleased to welcome the Park Harmony Singers with their musical director Paula O'Dell to the venue for our annual Concert for Remembrance. We also feature for this event the amazing Dutch singer Catch the Sparrow who performs songs about Tyneside and the North East. The concert will feature dance, drama as well as music and time to remember those who have served in conflicts over many years. Tickets for this concert will be available very soon.

Carols for Hartlepool – Saturday 9th December 2023

This is our 4th Carols for Hartlepool at St George's and we are pleased to welcome once again the Hartlepool Brass Band with their conductor Dave Harrison. This is your opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season in style with 9 lessons and carols. The service will be led by Rev Bev Hollings and will also feature Wendy Arrowsmith from Northallerton. Wendy has been performing in folk clubs all over the region for many years and also in churches. This is a FREE event.

Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir – Sunday 17th December 2023

Once again, we welcome the Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir under the baton of Mr Chris Simmons. The Hartlepool Youth choir toured Europe many years ago and now get together annually in St George's to perform in memory of one of their past members. This is a charity concert that raises funds for their chosen charities and for the Hartlepool Food Bank.



CAROLS FOR HARTLEPOOL

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER
6.30pm

Featuring
Hartlepool Brass Band
Wendy Arrowsmith
Your favourite carols and readings

Free admission

St George's United Reformed Church
York Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP

Volunteers needed for each evening please– sell/check tickets, welcome people, sell refreshments, etc

General information

The church/venue itself has been busy over the past few months and we are excited to say that we have had some major restoration work undertaken on our 124 year old Binns organ. The main bellows have been restored and the organ is once again in full voice. The difference is astonishing I am sure you all agree.

The Grange Road Methodist Church small grand piano has been moved into the east transept and this will be played by Catch the Sparrow during our Remembrance concert.

We have also removed the choir pews in front of the organ. At present we are rebuilding the staging in this area and have replaced the 3 rows of pews with 2 rows of chairs. This enables us to have music stands in front of each chair thereby giving us much more space for orchestral players in the future. In May 2024 we are hosting the Teesside Symphony Orchestra (TSO) so this area will be well used for that concert. The central section is also perfect for percussionists. This will be used during Carols for Hartlepool by the Hartlepool Brass Band.

Attached are a couple of posters giving further details about the concerts and events running up to the end of the year.

Door tickets will be able to be purchased cashless for the first time on the 11th October.

Please make sure you get your tickets for the events early as this supports the venue and also saves you money.

Paul

Grange Road had a regular quiz in their magazine and we are pleased to carry on.

Pot Luck Quiz

- 1 Which country has the most castles per square mile in Europe ?
- 2 Which Royal Mail Ship was instrumental in rescuing survivors of the Titanic ?
- 3 An "array" is collective term for which group of animals ?
- 4 What is name of Victor Hugo's Hunchback of Notre Dame ?
- 5 The juice of which fruit is used to make the syrup grenadine?
- 6 Pip is the main character in which Charles Dickens novel?
- 7 Which mythological creature ,half man and half bull lived in a labyrinth?
- 8 How many is a gross ?
- 9 Which country sent rhubarb to the West?
- 10 Who was the lead singer of the group Queen ?
- 11 What can you examine with an octoscope?
- 12 Who wrote the novel "From Russia With love" ?
- 13 What boon to gardeners was invented by Mr Budding and Mr Ferrabee?
- 14 What is the largest ape ?
- 15 A quintet is made up of how many musicians ?

(Answers on page 8)



ANSWERS

1 Wales 2 Carpathia 3 Hedgehogs 4 Quasimodo 5 Pomegranate
 6 Great Expectations 7 Minotaur 8 144 9 China 10 Freddie Mercury
 11 The eardrum 12 Ian Fleming 13 Lawn mower 14 Gorilla 15 Five



Helpers needed. Can you help with any of the following:

Setting up the stalls on the Friday afternoon?

Provide goods for the stalls – cakes, tombola and raffle prizes, bric a brac, food items for the Christmas hamper, home made crafts, bottles for the bottle stall?

Help with serving refreshments?

Welcome people at the door?

Help on a stall?

Help clear away afterwards?

Please speak to Gillian Rodgers if you can help in any way.

News of People

Quite a number of our members and friends are unwell at the moment. Please pray for them and particularly for Rose H, Madeleine's son-in-law and Janet W. and also remember all other members and friends in your prayers.



Flower Donors

October 1	Mrs E Welsh
October 8	
October 15	Mrs M Watson
October 22	Mrs S Hindmarch
October 29	Mrs M Welford
November 5	Mrs E Bushnell
November 12	Mr and Mrs P Humberston
November 19	Mr F Whittaker
November 19	Mrs S Hindmarch
November 26	
December 3	Mrs M Mudd



The Flower Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help

Stewards Rota

Date	Stewards	Keys
Oct 1st	Liz Moss, Kathleen Thompson.	Alan Woodhall
8th	Pam Branfoot, Alan Woodhall.	Brian Cartwright
22nd	Gillian Elliston, Sandra Hindmarch.	Liz Moss
29th	Pam Branfoot, Paul Humberston.	Alan Woodhall
Nov 5th	Liz Moss, Kathleen Thompson.	Brian Cartwright
12th	Katie Bosworth, Alan Woodhall.	Liz Moss
19th	Pam Branfoot, Sandra Hindmarch.	Alan Woodhall
26th	Gillian Elliston, Paul Hindmarch.	Brian Cartwright
Dec 3rd	Pam Branfoot, Alan Woodhall.	Liz Moss

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

Worship in St George's

October

1st 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones, Communion
 8th 10.30am Mr Ian Smith
 15th 11am Group service at Nunthorpe and Marton, followed
 by lunch
 22nd 10.30am Rev Mike Harrison
 29th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes



November

5th 10.30am Mr John Drew, Communion and dedication of shoeboxes
 12th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones, Remembrance Sunday
 19th 10.30am Mr Charles and Mrs Alison Jolly
 26th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes, Advent Sunday

December

3rd 10.30am Rev David Whiting, Communion

From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by
 lunchtime **Nov 26th** 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

Nov

Liz Moss

Paul Humberston

Dec

Alan Woodhall

Betty Woodhall

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

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

