

**Stranton and Burbank Community Church**

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# **SIGNPOST**



**Rooted in God's love  
Growing together with Jesus  
Branching out in the  
power of the Holy Spirit**

**40p**

**October 2016**

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

## Sunday

**8.30am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

**10.30am.** Service (with children's groups for 3-14s)

**1st** Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

**2nd** Sunday of the month will be Morning Worship

**3rd** Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

**4th** Sunday of the month will be Lighthouse Service

**11.00am.** Morning Worship at Burbank Community Church,  
at Ward Jackson School.

**7.30pm** Youth Fellowship (14 years +)

On the Third Sunday of each month, **Messy Church** takes place at St Matthew's Community Centre at 4.00pm. This is a time for parents/ carers and children to have fun together, doing crafts and various activities, based on a bible theme.

Occasionally, (2 or 3 times a year) the congregations at Stranton and Burbank all come together for the 10.30am service, and this is followed by a bring and share meal.

## Wednesday Morning

**10.00am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
at St Matthew's Community Centre.

**Please note** that the next **Messy Church** will be on **16th October** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

# Where do you live?

Imagine you are a fish and you were asked “Where would you like to live?” I imagine the first question that needs to be asked is “What are my options?”

**Option 1)** You could live in the fish pond. This is a small but spacious pond that is full of other fish very similar in thinking to you. So all are friendly and know each other well. In this pond you have a pond keeper who comes and feeds you and makes sure everyone is doing ok. It’s a very comfortable place where everyone sings off the same hymn sheet!

**Option 2)** A lovely little countryside canal. These are slow moving waters and nice straight banks that stretch for miles - quite literally. Here you do need to work a little harder. You need to find your own food, but providing for yourself is a good thing right? You get to choose if you want to go further afield for a holiday, unlike the fish in the pond?

**Option 3)** A beautiful meandering (bendy) river. Water is faster here, but also colder and much more refreshing. In this river you will get to see many different types of fish and even other creatures. You may need to work hard at keeping your home/place in the river. But the experience of living in this world will be a thrilling one.

**Options 4)** This is for the daring ones out there. Most fish tend to live in certain parts of the river, but if you followed the river it will end in the ocean where the whole world seems to live. BUT this option is to live in the river - but go against the flow! Yes you heard right, go against the flow. You will need to go on a journey of discovery. You will find the river narrows and bends and the waters will become like rapids at some points and you would have to swim uphill. Your aim is to discover where does the river start? If you get there you have the privilege of seeing the maker of all rivers for that is where He lives. It will be a journey of a life time.

I read a book called ‘Reader Ministry Explored’ by Cathy Rowling. It was in this book she said if you were a fish, “which type of water do you live in with your journey with God” I hope she will forgive me for letting my imagination get carried away and fill out the pictures even more? But I would like you to stop and reflect on these pictures. Consider where you are with your journey with God.

I would like to add there is no right or wrong answer here. I do expect to find that there are fish in all the different options. ALL the options are true reflections of the different journeys that we are on with God. As I personally dwelt on this I thought, God is the actually water in all the situations!!

Let God speak to you about your journey with him. “God looked and saw that the fish he had made were swimming here and there and were lost and confused, so he sent his son to catch them to bring them to the big sea in the sky!!!” A slight paraphrase from John 3:16

**Clive**

# MOTHER`S UNION

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the autumn term. We hopefully started right with a Quiet Afternoon at the beautiful Greatham church. The leader was Mary Jarvis (Indoor Members Officer) who shared the life of Miriam, the sister of Moses.

Mary brought Exodus to life and I am sure was helpful to many of us. God led her to share some of her testimony which she has rarely done before, but felt it would speak to a particular person. I believe this came to fruition. Alleluia!

Last week our midday prayers were for Sudan and South Sudan as the news included a report of the civil war which had broken out in Sudan. It shows how relevant our prayers are, so please continue to join with the 53,000 members in Sudan as they pray and work tirelessly for peace and reconciliation in all the increasing hatred.

I was in church on Saturday afternoon for the Heritage Weekend. A lady came into church who wore an M.U. badge. Barriers were soon broken down and I found out she was from the Ripon and Leeds Diocese and discovered a lot about her M.U. life in a very short time. So do wear your badge proudly - this can prompt people to enquire about our marvellous organisation.

Next meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm – speaker Rev. Norman Shave and there will be two enrolments.

If anyone would like Christmas cards, diaries or calendars, please let Ann know.

God Bless  
**Kathy**

# From the Home Front

I was recently called up for jury service – the second such call in just over two years! Initially I was unbelieving that after not being called for most of my applicable lifetime, here I was with a second summons and so soon after the first!! I checked the rules – yes after two years I was eligible - and it was two years and one month...Then I was angry - it was the last week of my carefully planned school holidays and the first week of my new working timetable.

As I thought this through I became resigned. I could defer – but no other time would be any more convenient really. I knew what to expect at the court this time around and I was not anxious on this occasion. Nothing was in the diary that could really be disrupted or spoilt. I felt certain that God would be in charge and whatever time I was required for would be spent profitably.

So I found myself thoroughly enjoying the train journey to Middlesbrough. Stress free, unlike driving! Time to admire the scenery en-route, enjoy the sunshine. Opportunities to indulge in the pastime of people watching! A chance to pray for all those whom the Holy Spirit lays on my heart.

Jury service can involve a great deal of sitting about and waiting – so I went prepared... I had time to read my book, to properly read the newspaper and for the first time ever, complete the crossword and word puzzle. I chatted to other potential jurors, reassuring some first-timers and allaying some of their worries. And I sat and waited. Names popped into my mind so I prayed for them. Situations reported in the paper prompted further prayers. At lunchtime we were allowed out of the Court buildings, so I had a wander around the square and fountains outside. It was lovely to watch the children and parents playing in the water and picnicking on the grass in the sunshine. My mind, which had been full of cares and worries, was able to drift and I felt more relaxed. It was lovely just sitting with no one demanding my attention or expecting me to ‘do’ something. Back in the waiting area I sat and waited again, so I spent time colouring in my doodle book – a technique I picked up on a Lent course a couple of years ago - enabling me to focus on God, while keeping the ‘busy’ part of my brain occupied. By the time the Waiting Room clerk sent us home without being called onto a jury, I did not feel my day had been wasted in ‘just waiting’, but filled with positive alternatives. I had to spend another similar half day in the Courts before being dismissed – there were no cases requiring juries!

Sometimes God gives us opportunities we neither want nor expect, but then uses them in unexpected ways to help us grow, give us peace in our hearts and minds or show His grace in our lives. It can be a challenge learning to trust in His wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit – but the rewards are great.....

**J.A.R.**

# Gathered worship that connects

The weekly pattern of gathering for worship is deeply rooted in scripture. There are many changes in our world and many pressures on all of us, yet I believe in and remain committed to gathering on Sunday mornings for worship. We seek to worship in word and Spirit, giving praise and glory to God in and through Jesus Christ. Our worship needs to be something that connects. It needs to enable us to connect with God and also for us to connect with each other. There needs to be a suitable reverence alongside a friendly and appropriate greeting, times of silent reflection and personal quiet alongside times of exuberant joy, times for adoration and praise, times to repent and mourn, times to pray and times to act or respond.

Since I arrived four years ago our worship pattern has changed and evolved. Recently a PCC working group reviewed our worship patterns with a view to identifying how we can best develop our worship in the future. In coming months we intend to invest in both 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday morning services as main services or to use the jargon 'principal services'.

At 8.30am we will aim to have a good Holy Communion liturgy drawn from the best traditions of the Church of England. On the first and second Sundays this will be based on the 1662 Holy Communion service (common worship order 2 traditional language). Beginning in October on the third and fourth Sundays we will introduce more modern liturgy using modern language (common worship order 1). This service will use the same words throughout the year with some simple seasonal variations to enrich the liturgy. The emphasis on words and sacrament will remain. The ministers will continue to wear robes. We will aim to use the organ regularly singing hymns fortnightly.

The 10.30am service will also be rooted in our tradition, but with a more contemporary feel, with all the elements outlined in the paragraph above. We will seek to welcome all and provide for families at this service. Holy Communion will remain on the first and third Sundays of each month. The music will be led by the music group singing a variety of songs and hymns. We will continue to provide service sheets for those who need them, but all the services are now projected onto the screen. The ministers will dress appropriately - but not robe. After 6 months, probably after Easter, the PCC will consult with all involved to see how things are going. Our hope and prayer is that God is glorified and that our worship will connect growing in depth and numbers.

**Norman Shave**

# Jesus – Simply the Best!

## The Letter to the Hebrews

This autumn our whole teaching programme – sermon series, small group studies, and a personal reading plan – is based on the Letter to the Hebrews, a book of the New Testament which I have had the privilege of studying closely over a number of years. At first sight it is a strange text – full of priests, sacrifices, wilderness wanderers, and the wonderfully-named but rather obscure Melchizedek. Here are a few pointers as we begin to delve into this amazing part of God’s word.

### Three Things Hebrews is Not!

If you open a King James Bible, the first page of Hebrews says “The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews” – but all three of those things may be wrong!

1) In fact, the book is **not a letter** or epistle at all – it is an oral text, designed to be read out, and has similarities to other ancient speeches. While it has a letter-type ending, possibly added later, it has no letter-type beginning, unlike all the other letters in the New Testament.

2) Hebrews is also **not by Paul** – doubts were raised in the early Church, and virtually all modern scholars agree on this, even if they think it was written by someone close to Paul. The author was male, probably Jewish, and in the second generation of believers (see Heb 2.3). Suggestions for who he was include Luke, Barnabas, and Apollos, but the truth is that we just don’t know!

3) Finally, Hebrews may **not be addressed to Hebrews!!** Many who assumed this thought it was originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic and sent to Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. But it is almost certain it was originally written in Greek, and it may have been sent to Rome, to a Christian group made up of Jews and possibly some Gentiles as well.

### Four Key Themes in Hebrews

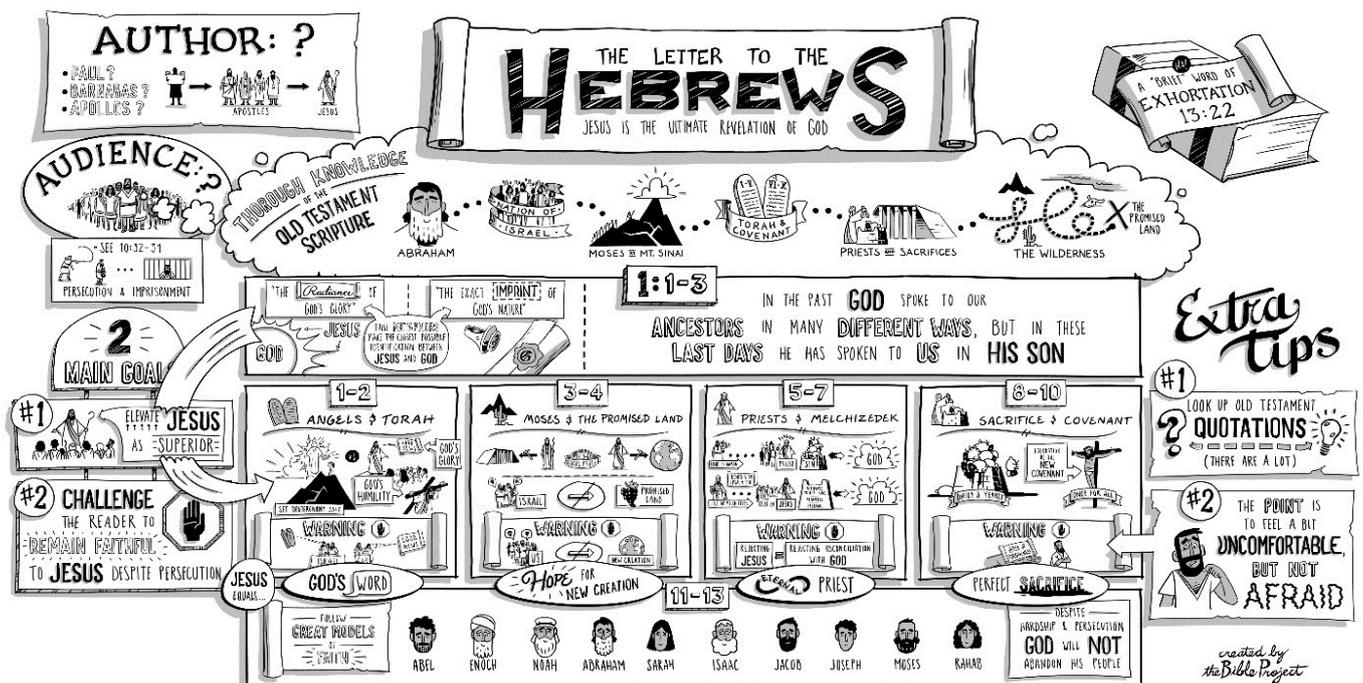
1) The whole argument of Hebrews centres around the fact that Jesus – and the new covenant or agreement between God and his people that Jesus has launched – are **BETTER** than the old covenant. This is not about denying that the old covenant was also God-given and good. A comparison always works best when it involves something people already see as good and worthwhile. Adverts claim that washing powder cleans “better than the leading brand”, not “better than the worst brand”, because that wouldn’t tell us much at all! In a similar way, Hebrews takes things that its audience accept as good – the prophets, angels, Moses, the promised land, the tabernacle, the priesthood – and says that Jesus is even better.

2) Right from the very beginning Hebrews shows us a speaking God who gives us his **LIVING WORD** – supremely in Jesus, but also in the words of the Old Testament, which Hebrews quotes more often than any other New Testament book. The Old Testament is not presented as a written text (compare Paul, who often say “as it is written...”), but as a spoken and living word (“God says”, “the Holy Spirit says”). God speaks to us today in fresh and living ways, through the words of Scripture.

3) A big chunk of Hebrews is taken up with **JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST**, something we don’t find anywhere else in the New Testament. As High Priest, Jesus accomplishes things that the old covenant priests couldn’t ever manage, even though their actions pointed to what Jesus would do. He offered himself as a sacrifice, cleansing our consciences from the dead works of sin. He gives us access to and confidence to approach God himself. And he helps us by praying for us, not just as God but as a man who knows what suffering and temptation are like.

4) Finally, throughout Hebrews we find warnings and encouragements, both of which aim to help us **KEEP GOING** in the Christian life. The people who first received this letter were going through tough times, and some of them were tempted to give up on Jesus and stop being part of the church. So Hebrews warns of the dangers of this, all the while encouraging them that keeping going is both possible and worth it – a bit like a sports coach with a megaphone while you are training!

**Nick Moore**



## **Burbank Church on the beach!**

August 21<sup>st</sup> was a warm but blustery Sunday morning as the Burbank Congregation gathered on Seaton beach to worship and witness the baptisms of Christine, Jenny, David and Jed Uchendu.

They all walked fearlessly into the freezing water after had Nick blessed the entire sea!!

We gathered on the water's edge and cheered each one, as Clive and Nick brought them safely out of the water!

We sang songs and prayed over them all. It was a meaningful service as the whole family leave to go back home at the end of August. They have been such an encouragement and blessing to the whole church and they will be greatly missed!



**Angela Hall**

## **Au revoir not Goodbye!**

Burbank Congregation said an emotional farewell to the Uchendu Family on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Clive coincidentally preached on Acts 20 – Paul leaving the church of Ephesus! After prayers of thanks and for safety and blessings over the family Emanuel shared with us how they had come to Hartlepool – led by the Holy Spirit and of the loving family they had joined in Burbank Church. Although there were tears and sadness, everyone feels blessed for having known and loved this special family. We pray it is au revoir and not goodbye....

**J.A.R.**

# Prayers

## Thanks

From the depths of my heart I give you my thanks  
For all your goodness and kindness to me,  
Especially for...

May I praise you, not only with my words but in my life  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Worries – trouble

I am distressed, Lord, and in the depths of despair  
Because of....

When I cannot see the way to go, help me trust in you,  
When I cannot understand, help me to go on believing.  
When all seems dark, let the light of faith shine in my heart.



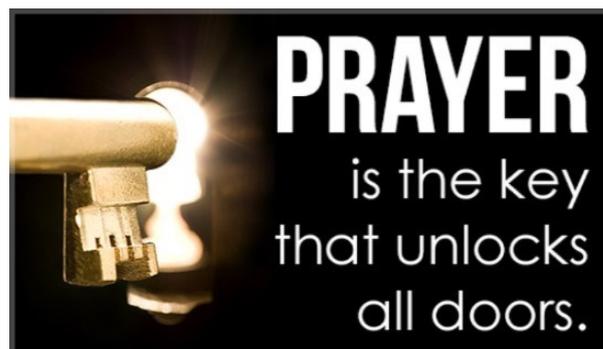
## For someone in need

To your loving care, Father, I commend all those  
Who are dear to me, especially....  
Be in every wounded heart, every troubled home,  
With all who suffer pain and distress,  
Giving the blessing of your peace  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Prayer before leaving...

Lord let me walk with you and know your peace.  
May my life speak of you,  
And my whole being wait on you,  
To hear your Word and do your will,  
My Lord and my God.





## **Chris & Ros Smith News 6 August 2016**

### **Teach Beyond**

We have just completed a week long residential orientation course based at

WEC HQ in Gerrards Cross, a short commute from Chesham. The boys have been with us for part of the time, and they also enjoyed the “Backpackers” holiday day camp organised by the combined churches of Chesham (because of a diary clash). This led to a bit of ping-pong commuting to and from WEC for mum / dad, but we survived. Apart from the presenter Chris was the oldest person on the course!!! It was an interesting and informative time, made more poignant by the fact that this was the last course being held at the WEC (World Evangelism Crusade) national base, an impressive former stately home. WEC is relocating to more manageable premises after 49 years.

### **Family News**

We have been focused on mum’s continuing difficulties. It has been important to give this a high priority. She is not well but the process of identifying exactly what Hartlepool Social Services actually believe her needs actually are, still hasn’t been declared. We have been trying to get this settled for more than three months. It affects where mum can live and what her choices actually are.

Very recently we had an important conference meeting about mum, which led to some hopeful options. Some further medical tests and checking needs to be done in the immediate future, to eliminate or amend some medical possibilities. There is a chance that mum could recover enough to be admitted to a more benign care environment, more connected to mum’s faith community, all of which could give her morale a big boost (although she still has “down” days).

We have also had to make some decisions about school for Aden and Thomas. Having followed the current school’s travails for some time we had already decided Aden should transfer schools. Since then it transpires that the current Headteacher has resigned after a year of

indifferent health and absence from school and it appears that their year 3 class had (at one time) a guaranteed teacher for only two days a week, so we are glad Aden has settled prospects at Thomas Harding Junior. We are still bothered by how the experience of schooling at Waterside has influenced him.

However we have also switched Thomas to Lee Common Infant School, which is a small, stable (and rural) which offers a more settled environment for Thomas – although we have to work out precisely how we get him there every day and do other things with only one car. This sort of dilemma prevented us from considering such a move before, but in the end Thomas only gets one shot at his early education and we want it to be the best he can get.

The decision was put into sad relief by the publishing of their old school's very recent OFSTED inspection, which was highly critical of the school and listed many shortcomings. The report confirms some of the concerns and worries we have been thinking about for some time.

## **Finance**

One of the consequences of “Brexit” that affects our situation is the dramatic fall in the value of the UK £. Although it will still fluctuate up and down, its current weak value makes our budget estimate for return to the Philippines increase at a stroke by 10%. No extra items, just the need for more £ to buy the same things in Pesos or U.S. \$.

We now have official information sheets which explain the different methods by which support gifts could be resumed and sent directly to **Teach Beyond** at this time. Our Stewardship Services account is not yet active, and we need to check that we don't simply create more administrative costs by running both. Several people have indicated a readiness to resume financial support, which needs to begin to accumulate if we are to reach a point where we can go. We are now beginning to consider Easter 2017 as a suitable date.

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Telephone: 01429 280444  
Mobile: 07932333779

Email: [strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk)  
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# Book of Revelation

## A Readers Training Day with Mike Gilbertson – Part two

Chapters 6-19: Describes how God will implement his involvement: 3 lots of 7 (Seals / trumpets / bowls). Judgements after the 1st 6 seals were opened. Again we were warned of trying to allocate each episode to any particular period of time!! Chapter 7 confirms that throughout what is to come there will be faithful worshippers of God.

After the 7th seal is opened there is Silence! (for ½ hour) (Ch 8v1). Each episode is a description of, or picture of, a time of Judgement but also a time of Salvation. Their conclusion is in Rev 11 v 15-18, when Salvation Comes and Christ returns.

There are battle scenes, descriptions of God's wrath and warnings to all political powers who abuse or exploit their position of power! Judgement is often to bring us to repentance and salvation!

There is difficulty if we try to interpret each scene as a literal period of time / dates etc. As for some they will try or have tried, to use such information to predict the end of the world!! Be reassured that Jesus does not tell us! (Dangers of false teachers / prophets!) The scripture is not a formulary and if used as such will undermine the true teaching of scripture. The Judgements of God are to all generations, all times & places, but his love and salvation is still there on offer, to all who hear & accept it. There is the constant call to Repentance for each of us and for all generations!

If we follow through this justice, judgement, repentance, faithfully following Jesus only, then we will have his salvation i.e. Heaven & Earth come together!

Chapters 20-22: A Vision of our ultimate future. There was teaching on 'Millennialism' - Mike discussed Pre-Millennialism where Christ will return and rule for 1000yrs.

Post-Millennialism: where Christ's rule has already been. Not much followed now. Amillennialism: a symbol of the present time. The ultimate victory of God which will affect heaven & earth is guaranteed. The Martyrs will be vindicated and God's rule will be instituted. God's victory is complete at the end of Ch 20!

Chapters 21-22. Tells of a New Heaven & earth: Heaven is brought to earth by God so that God & humanity are finally united. From Ch 21v22 - 22v5 there is a symbolic portrayal of the ultimate destiny of God's people.

There is No Temple, as portrayed in the OT as where God is / resides. John Ch 2 v 19, Jesus refers to himself as the Temple. That is, it is in & through Jesus that the New Heaven & Earth come together.

There is a River. The water of life, a place of eternal refreshment and nutrition and healing. Compared to Gen Ch. 1-2, where there was the Tree of Life. So God is affirming new creation.

The Healing of the Nations. For all peoples an open ended ongoing process where God's love and goodness are joined together and available for everyone (The Gospel / or Good News).

Other Revelation Themes include:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| The Sovereignty of God                          | See 1Cor 15, and Rom 8                                       |
| The Lordship of Christ                          | Worthy due to his death & resurrection                       |
| Justice & Judgement                             | see Jesus' parables, Paul's letters, John's Gospel (Choices) |
| God Vindicates his people as individuals        | The New Jerusalem in our Churches and                        |
| God's Commitment to transform the Earth (Rom 8) | Renewal of what is here                                      |

Overall the Book of Revelation is a message of Hope throughout. Where God is working out his promises to his people, giving them time for true repentance, and a real and secure future with Him.

With thanks to **Alan Robertson**

## **St Matthew's Community Centre Stranton's Centre Your Centre**

**Lights** – after lots of planning and detailed organisation we now have new lights in both halls – special thanks to David House who has overseen this project.

Meanwhile the fight with the weeds is ongoing - they would not take a holiday! So the main aim now is to clear them from the sides of the small hall.

**St Matthew's Hall Committee**

# Boys Brigade

On a warm Sunday in late July, twenty-five Boys and Leaders departed St Matthew's to embark on another annual camp of the 4<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool Boys' Brigade. We have camped and holidayed in many places throughout our history, but holidaying at the Fanwood Scout Centre, near Cleckheaton (West Yorkshire) was a first for us.

After a few years of absence, we were all pleased to welcome back Mr B to Camp as our 'Utensil Technologist' and Mr Wright as our 'First Aid Officer'. All of the tasks, jobs, and duties associated with running a camp were well distributed between our leaders who were all primarily under the age of twenty-three.



Once settled in, we made our way down to the 'Night Line', where the Boys had to endure a difficult assault course whilst blindfolded. This was a great test of friendship, skills and teamwork to guide and navigate each other through the course. After completing the Night Line we made our way back to the hut for dinner. We treated the lads to a Sunday Roast, although it was somewhat delayed due to a rather lethargic oven – meaning the roast potatoes took three times longer to cook than the advertised time. This comical culinary complication was only the start of a series of kitchen disasters including ice cream that was still frozen solid after enduring the wrath of both the microwave AND the oven! There was also the unforgettable 'Pie-Gate' scandal of Camp 2016, where the Steak and Chicken Pies were accidentally mixed up!

We visited the Leeds Royal Armouries Museum on Monday morning, where after seeing lots of suits of armour, some of the lads (and leaders...) were more interested in catching Pokémon! Afterwards we made our way over to XScape at Castleford to play the most difficult games of 4D Crazy Golf I have ever come across, and to have a go at the Gravity Trampoline Park, where there are trampolines on the walls, floors and ceiling - it's perfectly safe - honest... Most of the evenings at camp were spent after supper around the camp fire or playing board games. The fire this year was so impressive, we recently heard from NASA that it could be spotted from space!

In a complete contrast, Tuesday saw us visit the Yorkshire Wildlife Park in Doncaster and then the National Coal Mining Museum. None of us had ever been in a coal mine so it was a great experience. We had an action packed day on the Wednesday participating in lots of activities such as Axe Throwing, Archery, Caving, Crate Stacking and a Ropes Course. Despite how dangerous some of these sound, we can assure you they were perfectly safe and the Boys loved them.

On the penultimate day, we had lots of team competitions which is an annual tradition. It is everyone's ultimate life goal to have their name entered into the famous '4<sup>th</sup> BB Record Book'. We made it just in time to the Paintball Centre on the afternoon due to a Sat-Nav malfunction, and one of the hot topics of discussion around next year's camp is whether we should abort the use of modern technology and revert back to those much simpler times of map and compass.

After a cooked breakfast on the Friday morning, we returned to St Matthew's - happy and exhausted after another fantastic time away. Our devotions this year were based around Mark's Gospel, which is a great introduction for those wanting to learn more about Jesus. A big thank-you must go to all those people who send donations and supported our activities and fayres throughout the year, without you we would not be able to provide as many activities as we do.

**Jack Hanlon Camp Commandant 2016**

# News from Festo and Grace in Kilimatinde

## The last 6 months

At the beginning of the year we received our best exam results yet at St John's in both forms two and four. Form four results were Div I = 7, Div II = 31, Div III = 13, Div IV = 2, NO FAILS. Many parents are calling asking for a place for their child at the school and inquiring as to whether we have an A level department. We don't, BUT to open an A level department we already have in place the classrooms, the teachers and by the sounds of it the prospective students! All we need now is to build dormitories. We are seeking God for how we will be able to finance that.

We want to be able to provide education locally to children who can't afford it. For this purpose we have a student's sponsorship scheme for both the Nursery and the Secondary School. For the secondary school, it costs £550 per student per year. We welcome people to sponsor any amount that can go into the overall sponsorship pot, please contact us for more information. The Nursery schools fees are very low and affordable for practically everyone so we sponsor just a few children, however the income is not enough to run the school well. We don't feel able to put the cost up but we were inspired by Lisa to ask if anyone would be willing to double the annual income for a student? By donating £20 per year you would have doubled the income from one student and with enough people doing this we will be able to pay our teachers properly and be better resourced. Interested? Get in touch.

The Nursery school continues to grow in strength, we have consistently high numbers (Approx 100) and each year send around 40 off to primary school. We are still hosting the Nursery school at our house and the classes meet under trees, BUT we hope to be putting the roof on our building in the next few weeks and we will then move in, continuing to raise money for the finishing as we go. You might remember that we have built four classrooms, this is so that three can be used for the Nursery and one for the first class of a primary school. Again this is all in God's hands and timing to come into being.

Already this year we have said Hello and Good bye to Lisa (Germany) Claudia (Guernsey) and Will (Cornwall); Lizzie (Tunbridge Wells) is still with us, Charlotte and Matt (Bognor Regis) join us for a month in August. Charlotte was with us in 2014/15 for 10 months. Also Marie, Johanna and Katja (Germany) join us in August. They are all part of our gap year/short term venture – 'Hope for the Rift Valley'. They come to volunteer at St John's. Currently when they come they live with us and join the Kanungha community however this is not sustainable long term, therefore we are looking at building accommodation for them on the school site. More building and more money needed - but God is Able.

Rev Ann Anderson also came to Kilimatinde for two months, she works with the Kilimatinde Trust and was on her sabbatical, but she came and helped us out in the Nursery every morning.



Ann on her last morning at Nursery singing some of the songs that she had taught, they are a great legacy.

We are always looking at ways that we can make St John's sustainable, from growing our own food and keeping livestock, loaning out our tractor and driver, to making crafts for sale here and abroad. We pray that God would continue to inspire us with projects and provide us with faithful people to oversee them.

This year our Diocese (Diocese of the Rift Valley) celebrates 25 years and on June 30th we had a celebration with the Archbishop of Tanzania. At that celebration Festo was awarded a certificate of achievement from the Diocese recognizing all of his hard work and effort.



Festo receiving his award

This blog has so far been a lot about financial needs, we apologize, we are not plaguing you for money, but it is impossible to give a good picture without mentioning money.

### **In family matters:**

Zephaniah is now 3, William 1, Patrick and Kv both 12.

We had a great Christmas visit from Grace's parents and more recently in May Grace's Mum and Godmother Edwina came to stay and we had a fabulous time, particularly on safari.

Zephaniah is great fun we love having conversations with him. His Swahili and English are at similar levels and everyone here marvels at how well he is doing learning the languages.

William is now walking and his little personality is shining through. He has a great sense of humour already and everyone comments that he is clever.

Kv continues to do well at school and is most often found on, or fixing his bike or helping his uncle with the power tillers.

Patrick has been living with us now for 10 months and has settled in well. He is a lovely young man and we enjoy having him in our family. He is clever but it is yet to be reflected in his results.

Festo - continues on with his various projects including pig keeping, ground nut and maize farming. In the last 12 months he was able to buy two power tillers which are hired out for farming and used for transporting goods. He is hoping to buy a small lorry very soon. All these businesses enable him to support his wider family and educate his many relative's children.



My first chicken plucking experience



Grace – I'm doing okay, I find it hard sometimes to get the right balance of what I can manage and what I cannot, but I am learning. My walk with God has deepened over the last year and it has been a great experience. I love being wife to Festo and Mummy to my two precious ones and I enjoy my work here overseeing the Nursery and helping the gap year/short term-ers. I have recently started teaching some Swahili to visitors and we are thinking more about how we can use St. John's to teach language.

Please continue to pray for us as we live out our lives in Christ here. We have the following online giving options for supporting our work at St. John's: [www.justgiving.com/St-John-s-Seminary](http://www.justgiving.com/St-John-s-Seminary) <http://www.gofundme.com/FestoandGrace>

And if you would like to support us financially to enable us to continue this work please do so through [stewardship.org.uk](http://stewardship.org.uk) and search for Grace Kanungha, youth work, Tanzania, you will need to open an account with them to do this OR email us for more info.

If you would like to know more about student sponsorship or any other part of St. John's life don't hesitate to contact us on [festoandgrace@gmail.com](mailto:festoandgrace@gmail.com)

**Grace & Festo Kanugha**

## **Congratulations**

**To all those who have done so well in their GCSEs and A levels this year. Blessings for their future studies, University and careers.**

# A Blast from the Past! Recipes from Mary Baines

## Mary Baines Recipes from her Family Cookbook

### Mushroom and Bacon Pasta

Serves 4

2x 15 ml spoons olive oil (or fry light alternative)

125g smoked bacon - cut into strips

1 onion sliced

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

2 birds eye chillies, deseeded & finely chopped

150g pack button mushrooms

150ml water

700g passata with basil

350g conchiglie pasta

freshly ground black pepper

200g mozzarella, cut into small cubes

a few fresh basil leaves

Heat oil (fry light) in medium sized saucepan, add bacon & cook until crispy. Add onion, garlic, chillies & cook for a few minutes until browned.

Add the mushrooms & pour in the passata & water, bring to the boil, reduce heat & simmer gently for 20 minutes.

Cook the pasta as per instructions, drain & return to the

pan. Toss the pasta in the hot sauce & arrange in an oven proof dish.

Sprinkle over the cubes of mozzarella & flash under a hot, preheated grill until the cheese starts to melt.

Serve with scattered torn basil leaves.



### Easy Shortbread

250g/8oz butter softened in microwave for 15 seconds

250g/8oz plain flour

90g/3oz caster sugar

Cream the butter & the sugar in a bowl until they are light in colour & the sugar no longer feels grainy.

Mix in the dry ingredients & knead well to make sure they are combined.

Press into a Swiss roll tin (9"x11"), prick with a fork & sprinkle with sugar.

Cook at 180C/ gas 4 for 15 minutes, 160C/ gas 3 for 30 minutes & 150C/ gas 2 for 15 minutes – an hour in total.

Sprinkle again with caster sugar & cut into squares while still warm.

60g/2oz rice flour

30g/1oz cornflour



# Remembering the Battle of Britain

During our recent holiday in Kent we visited the Battle of Britain Memorial Site at Capel le Ferne near Dover, where the dead are remembered on a granite wall – with this poignant poem inscribed in the middle.

In 1940, from 10 July until 31 October, the Royal Air Force Fighter Command thwarted the German Luftwaffe's attempts to gain air supremacy over southern England, averting possible invasion and downing 1,733 German aircraft.

But the efforts were not without significant sacrifice: 915 British craft were lost and an estimated 544 of the 2,927 aircrew of the RAF were killed.

**J.A.R.**



## A Child's Footprint

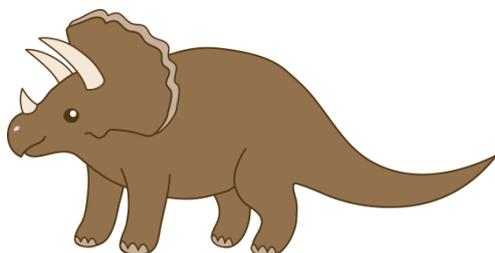
Just recently while on an external inspection of our church I noticed a strange shape in the east wall of the Fulthorpe Chapel. In the sandstone wall there appears to be a child's footprint - I would guess of about 7-8 years old.

As the stones for the church are local and the Fulthorpe chapel was added onto the church in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, could it be a prehistoric ancestor's footprint, left in the sand way back in time - a child being chased along Seaton beach by a dinosaur who knows?! I have asked around at the 8:30 service and no one is old enough to remember any of this!

I have been told that at some time in the last few years an archaeologist undertook a survey of the church, does anyone have a copy of his findings and could you let me know so that I can check this out?

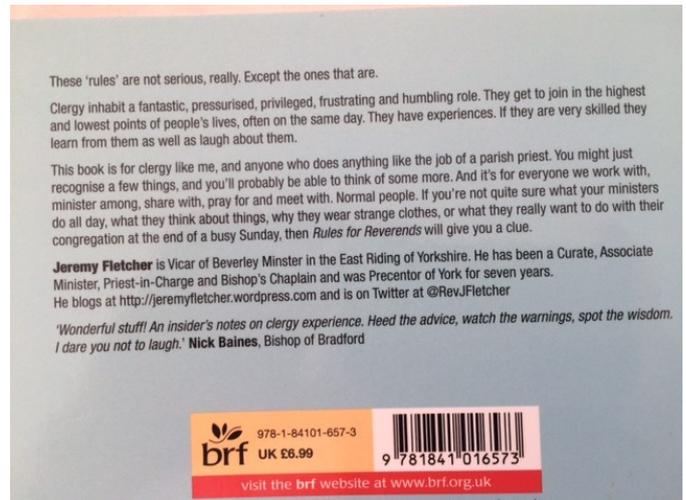
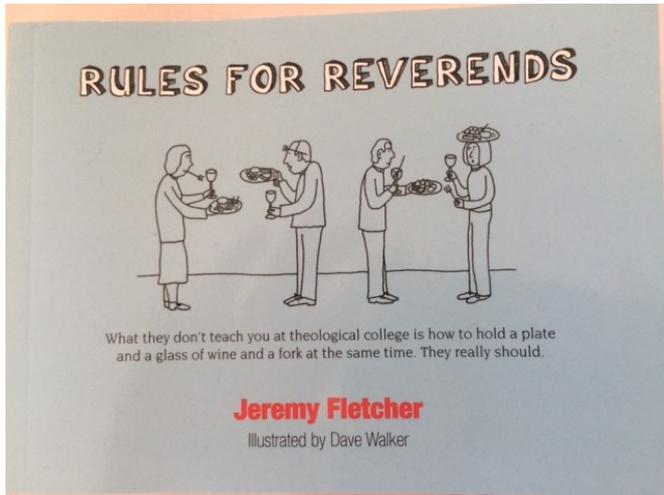
I would be very interested in any information you can give me about this strange footprint.

**David House**



# Do you remember Rev Jeremy Fletcher?

Jeremy was our curate here in Stranton from 1988, (way back when Maurice Jennett was our Vicar) with his wife Julia and sons Nick & Matt they lived in Arncliffe Gardens. He moved onto Southwell in Nottinghamshire and then on to be Canon Precentor at York Minster – organising complex and varied services and music including Archbishop John Sentamu’s inauguration. He frequently appeared on television in the BBC documentary about life at The Minster. Jeremy is now Vicar at Beverley Minster.



He published a humorous book recently which is highly recommended reading for clergy and members of the Church of England – his observations and witticisms frequently make one smile, laugh aloud or murmur ‘how true’!!!

These include:

Do not overestimate the power of daffodils on Mothering Sunday.

Hot Cross Buns. Well it’s a Christian duty!

Banns of marriage might be an antiquated thing. But couples like to hear them and that means new people in church. Don’t waste the opportunity.

You will get no reaction at all when you take a secondary school assembly. But they will be laughing inside.

## Welcome to Emily Joy

On Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> Nick welcomed into the church family baby Emily Joy, daughter of Annika and Mark Saunders.



# CELEBRATE!

## October HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to



Rob Butler  
Lydia Boyd  
Ewan Craig  
Georgina Parvin Guerreiro  
Joan Hill  
Betty Hotham  
Ken Shepherd  
Will Spoons  
Pam Stockton  
Nick Tregenza  
Gehan Wanduragala  
Kathy Webster  
Jean Waller

### Congratulations on your Wedding Anniversary

Peter & Maureen Anderson  
Duncan & Trish Playfor  
Clive & Angela Hall  
Allen & June Tozer



Congratulations  
to  
Ruth Craig & Gavin Smith  
on their engagement in  
August



If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email  
[admin@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk)  
or phone 864006.

All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.

# Dates for the Diary

## Up and coming dates late September to early November

### September

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Worship Review Group, The Vicarage (tbc), 7.30pm

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Deanery Synod, Oswald's Church Hall, 7.00pm

### October

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Away Morning for all, St Columba's Church  
9.30am-1.30pm finishing with shared lunch

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm  
Messy Church planning, The Vicarage, 7.45pm

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Farsi Worship, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7pm

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Harvest Ceilidh, St Matthew's CC, 6.30pm-10pm

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Harvest Services,  
Donations of imperishable food for the foodbank

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Lighthouse Planning, 40 Browning Avenue, 7.30pm

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Prayer & Praise, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Messy Church, St Matthew's CC, 4pm

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Lighthouse 10.30am

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Farsi Worship, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7pm

### November

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> -Sat 5<sup>th</sup> PMC training Durham

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Family fireworks – more details to follow

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Stranton Sunday, joint service including shared lunch

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Matts Mates is a weekly group for children aged 4-10 years. We meet on Thursdays during term time and have a team of volunteers who play with the children, organise activities and snacks, lead bible time, put out equipment and clear away when we have finished. We need some new volunteers to join us now. Volunteers do not need to be available every week, but should be flexible and enjoy working in a team. Matts Mates works within the church's safeguarding guidelines so references and a DBS check are required for all volunteers. Changes to YFC and youth leaving for University has caused a few gaps in other groups - so further volunteer opportunities now exist.

Please contact Clive Hall [clive.hall7@ntlworld.com](mailto:clive.hall7@ntlworld.com) tel: 278504



# Interview In the pew

**This month we say a *warm hello* to...**

**Bob Bell**

**Hello, I'm Bob.**

**I'm 34 and my birthday is in December.**

I sit on the left hand side of church, towards the front, opposite the screen. I've been a Christian for a few years, but started coming to church maybe a year ago now. I had a full submersion Baptism earlier this year, which felt ecstatic beyond words.

I am an autism support worker, helping young adults with autism in Hartlepool.

I was born in Park End in Middlesbrough and I moved to Hartlepool to a foster family at the age of five. And from there I've lived all over Hartlepool. And I've lived the last 9 years in Stranton.

Stranton is a wonderful community, and a great place to live.

I've just started thinking that it's about time that I was on a church rota of some sort – maybe reading, or something outdoors, like mowing the grass in the church grounds hint hint...

My favourite film is Good Morning Vietnam – the 1950s soundtrack is cool, and Robin Williams was genius in the way he acted.

I love going to music festivals and concerts – I keep the ticket stubs of every gig I've ever been to – and that's about 500 now!!

Acts 20:35 sums up my whole life really: It's more blessed to give than to receive.

My favourite part of the service is the Peace.

I'm a people person and it's a random act of kindness going 'round saying hello and a shake of someone's hand. It makes my day, and it could make someone else's too....

I like the upbeat, positive songs at church much more than the old, slow hymns.

I would say I'm a very understanding person.

I'm very good at solving other people's problems (not so good at solving my own ha ha).

Friends say that I'm very caring and kind.

I like helping people

(and mowing lawns hint hint)

Let's be thankful for Bob and for this interview and let us value him in our lives and prayer life...

**Rachel Wilson**

## **New wine Inspire was amazing.**

Oceans by Hillsong was the soundtrack to the whole event. Katie sings and plays it better than anyone else by the way...

Malory and I loved the whole experience.

We both agree that the Prayer Shed was wonderfully God-filled: a slice of tranquillity with fairy lights and scripture on the walls, bean bags covering the floor...and a trio of a band gently singing. Perfect.

The feeling of family and fellowship also was joyous ...everyone sharing food, music and laughter...

The Rock Eucharistic was a high point for me spiritually too.

As was the message from Miriam Swaffield who is always such an inspiration

Can't wait till next year....

**Rachel Wilson**

## **Inspire 2016**

Norman and I went to New Wine at Hollybush in late July unsure of how the four days would be. We have been to many New Wine Summer Conferences over the last twenty years, but knew that this would be different: much smaller and fewer "big names" in charge.

We were really blessed, enjoying camping alongside members of our church family (even in the rain!) The teaching was excellent. I found Ian Parkinson's talks on Ephesians particularly helpful. The worship was led by people from local churches and was sensitively done bringing us into God's presence.

It was wonderful to see God at work through his Holy Spirit, touching lives, bringing peace to the troubled and hope and healing to friends who were struggling. It was a memorable time of closeness to God, encouragement and faith building.

Why not join us next year?

**Julie Shave**

# **New Wine Camp, Hollybush**

I was asked to write this article to encourage others to attend the New Wine Camp next year. Well not the best person to ask to encourage people to camp!! As anyone who knows me will know that I do not camp and have not camped since leaving the guides in the late 1960s! However, I attended New Wine Camp at Hollybush via the Weatherspoon's Hotel in Thirsk together with Pam, Steff and her sister Carol.

Honesty is always the best policy so here goes:

## **Negatives**

1. It rained on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night!! – Typical camping weather!!
2. We found out on Thursday that there were no facilities to purchase food on site which made things difficult for those of us without tents.
3. The road between the hotel and Hollybush was dark and winding and on Monday morning was partially flooded!!

## **Positives**

1. I own a good pair of waterproof hiking boots and waterproof jacket and did not have to sleep in a leaky tent. Therefore, felt very fortunate compared to the poor campers.
2. We had sufficient notice to carry some food to camp in a cooler bag and Julie and Norman invited us for cocoa after the evening meetings and to use their tent between meetings, which was very welcome, we also had a good breakfast before leaving Thirsk each morning.
3. My car coped with the flooding and I did not finish up in a ditch!
4. The main meeting venue had a floor and a roof (being the Hollybush main Church)
5. We enjoyed good fellowship within the group and had a hilarious Pilates session, led by Rachel assisted by Lynda and Steff, on Sunday afternoon in the field (when the sun was actually shining! – women only, none of the men dared to join in. Never done a plank before on a slippery mattress on a hill!! Laughter is the best medicine so they say.

On a less frivolous note the main thing about the weekend was watching the transformation in one person in particular between Friday evening and Sunday and seeing God work in various people's lives including mine.

**Josie Watson**

# Prayers for Rebecca Henderson – Update

Rebecca who is now Year 6, had cancer in her leg when she was eight and received extensive treatment, after removal of the tumour. She is about to have her first check up after a year free of anti cancer drugs – so please pray her MRI scan will be clear. She is in a plaster cast to help stretch the calf muscles, so that she can walk with her foot flat (and not limp), as these muscles were shortened when the tumour was removed. Rebecca is suffering, only because she can neither swim nor do gymnastics at present – her favourite hobbies! So please be prayerful that this procedure is successful. The family enjoyed a lovely relaxing summer break. The whole family are so grateful for ongoing prayer of so many people who don't even know them – but care enough to pray.....

**J.A.R.**

## All Saints Stranton Church



### Harvest Ceilidh Social

Live Music by

Sunniside-up  
Ceilidh Band

Saturday 8th October 6.30-10pm at  
St Matthew's Community Centre  
Elwick Road.

Tickets £2 & £5 for Family Tickets

It will be a Faith Supper , please bring any drinks you wish. Tea, Coffee and Juice will be provided. Please call the office for tickets or more information 01429 894006 or see Trish Playfor, Norman Shave, Nick Moore, Clive Hall or Maureen Anderson.

## Sidespersons

|        | 8.30am       | 10.30am                    |
|--------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Oct  | P Thompson   | P Anderson<br>R Anderson   |
| 9 Oct  | M Hutchinson | A Craig<br>F Endean        |
| 16 Oct | I Walker     | S Shepherd<br>K Shepherd   |
| 23 Oct | P Porritt    | G Webster<br>K Webster     |
| 30 Oct | B Butcher    | D Greenwood<br>B Greenwood |



## Baptisms

28th August Annie Russell  
Frankie Harrington



## Weddings

30th July Alan Liddle & Danielle Beddow  
Sean Collings & Laura Rutland  
6th August Dean Hull & Rachael Edwards  
Paul Bratt & Caroline Day  
7th August Marcus Newing & Candice White  
3rd September James Evans & Kimberley Geach

## Funerals

9th August Jack (John) Rutherford 83 years



# Who's Who

|                      |   |              |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Church Office</b> | St Matthew's Community Centre<br>Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF   |              |
| <b>Administrator</b> | Trish Playfor<br>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk">admin@stranton-church.org.uk</a><br>Web Site: <a href="http://www.stranton-church.org.uk">www.stranton-church.org.uk</a> | 01429 894006 |

## Vicar

Revd Norman Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609  
E-Mail: [nshave1@btinternet.com](mailto:nshave1@btinternet.com)

## Associate Minister

Revd Andrew Craig 25 Egerton Road 422461

## Burbank Community Church Worker

Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

## Curate

Revd Nick Moore 40 Browning Avenue 597284

## Readers

Alan Robertson 2 Northbrook Court 276926

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

## Churches Together in Hartlepool

Chair Revd Richard Hetherington,  
Oxford Road Baptist

Secretary Susan Atkinson,  
St Mary's RC

## Authorised Pastoral Assistant

Patricia Vaughan 144 Elwick Road 429178

## Church Wardens

Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279

## Music Group

Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609

## PCC Secretary

Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

## Treasurer

David Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279

## Asst. Treasurer

Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

## Loyalty Treasurer

Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

## Notice Sheet

The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)

## Signpost Editorial

Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527

## Signpost Advertising

Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

## Signpost Subscription

Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

## St Matthew's Booking

Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

***Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.***

