

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

40p

Dec 2016/ Jan 2017

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 **4th Dec & 15th Jan 2017** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Dear Friends

I would like to begin by inviting you to come and join us for worship over the coming Advent and Christmas period. In our world the secular Christmas, the world of excessive presents, over indulging and parties, seems to be increasingly separate from the Christian understanding of Christmas. Jesus, God's son, has come among us as a human baby showing us God's love and bridging the gap between God and our world. As I reflect on this I am left asking how can we also bridge the gap, that between Christian believers and those who see the world in a very different way?

One way to bridge the gap is to show hospitality and welcome, values we identified as important to us last year. In the Christmas story the inn keeper extended welcome to Mary and Joseph when they had nowhere to stay. Hospitality does not need to be a dinner party with a three course meal. Sometimes a cup of tea, a smile and a listening ear is all that's needed. My other reflection about hospitality is that we feel much safer if we are in control. In Luke 10 the disciples are encouraged to eat what is given them, as they go out they are encouraged to receive hospitality. If we are to begin to bridge the gap, perhaps we need to learn to receive the hospitality that others offer to us. This will involve meeting people on their terms and listening carefully to their concerns and how they see the world. In the coming year perhaps we need to focus more on showing hospitality and receiving hospitality from those we meet.

Another way to bridge the gap is to work in partnership. It strikes me in the Christmas story God chose to work in partnership with Mary and Joseph. This partnership had its risks, yet it worked for the good of all. Working in partnership can involve risk for all involved, yet I am sure it is a healthy way of working. One example of partnership in our current church life is our work with asylum seekers and refugees. I give thanks for those who work together within the church family and also those from outside the church who help us with different aspects of this ministry.

Over this Christmas and in the coming year may God's light continue to shine in our midst. Both as we give and receive hospitality and in our building of meaningful partnerships 'may we bridge the gap'.

And may we be able to share the good news of God's love with those we meet.

Every blessing.

Norman

MOTHER`S UNION

Dear Friends,

‘Peace with the world.....because if we got used to admitting we were in the wrong as individuals, the habit might catch on a larger scale, and the results could be incalculable.’ (Adrian Plass).

In Iraq, Jerusalem and the Middle East, there are over 3,000 M.U. members still providing food, Sunday School, aid for refugees from Nineveh etc. In the middle of such devastation they pray, and God supplies! They pray from their knees for that peace and unity which is felt throughout M.U. as prayer goes round the globe.

I hope you all remember the blessings to colour that you received from Ann. Each different and just what God was saying especially to you. As we approach Advent let God speak to you through that blessing so you can rejoice when the light of the world is born.

Good news from the Diocese is that we have a new President, Kathleen Wilson. Jean Carleton had a longer term of office as no-one came forward to stand. She has been an amazing President/Secretary for seven years, but we now look forward to a new era. I have served under four Presidents, all very different, but each has brought a fresh outlook to the M.U.

We meet next at The Marine in Seaton Carew for our Christmas meal on the **5th December**, 12 noon. (before you have too much of turkey and pudding).

Our meeting at St Matthew’s on **12th December** will remember our Link Dioceses in the Wave of Prayer, followed by Carols and Cloth for the Cradle.

Kathy

From the Home Front

As I mentioned last month I have begun phased retirement from teaching. I was determined to make some 'me' time after years dedicated to schools, home and family. As I was contemplating just what to do I received the programme of 'quiet days and workshops' brochure from St Antony's Priory in Durham. There it was - Well-Being sessions – "listening to the wisdom of our bodies". It promised a mixture of Tai Chi, movements, Breath-work, Acupressure points (releasing blocked energy), finger holds for managing emotions, emotional tapping protocols, Pal Dal Gum, Energy Field theory and practices, Head, Neck Shoulder Release, Energy Practices to release stress and nourish energy systems... I didn't understand what some of the things meant - but words jumped out of the page at me 'release stress, energy, managing emotions...' I knew I was exceedingly stressed, lacking in energy, emotionally wrung out and short tempered - so if something could alleviate any of my pent up feelings it was worth a try...

Well I have been going to St Antony's almost every week since early September. I enjoy the drive to Durham – taking in the changing colours of late Summer into Autumn; listening to classical music and starting to empty my head of all the stress and demands of the previous week. The brisk walk from the car park to St Antony's gets my muscles moving ready for the session. On warm dry days we started in the Priory garden, but now the late Autumn weather is set in we spend all the session in the beautiful chapel. The 70 minutes led by the soothing and hypnotic voice of Rev Paul Golightly as he takes us through gentle exercise, meditation and activities, working individually or in pairs, is soporific. We explore movement, relaxation techniques, inner peace and reflection or art activities. The tranquillity in the room is palpable. My brain has learned to switch off and cut out extraneous daily 'stuff', I have felt myself drifting as we work through meditation exercises. My body balance too is improving from the repetitive, gentle exercises which are focussed and calming.

I drive home calmed, rested and relaxed - my mind no longer racing and aching. I feel I have come closer to God and I have opened myself up to Him. And then it's back to normality – but with a few more coping strategies until the next session.....

J.A.R.

If you are interested in St Antony's Priory workshops go to:-

www.stantonypriory.co.uk or 0191 3843747 or

info@stantonypriory.co.uk

What's Going On In Church?

A lot happens in church that goes completely over my head. When I started attending a couple of years ago I was amazed at how strange it all was. Interesting rituals were taking place that everybody but me seemed to understand. I became a Christian in Afghanistan and for my first 9 months, I worshipped in tents in Army outposts in Helmand Province. Sometimes church was cancelled because the chaplain's convoy got attacked or diverted. Sometimes I missed a service because I was out on patrol. At least out there I didn't need to know anything about being an Anglican. I'm not sure I even knew that the word Anglican meant Church of England. I thought it was a window fitting company.

Does anyone else feel like me? Do you know your chasubles from your chancel? Do you know your charismatics from your cloisters? New Christians have a lot to learn. It's a completely new vocabulary that often leaves us nodding along and smiling whilst inside wondering "Why does the colour of the vicar's scarf keep changing?" Just when I thought I'd got it, I realised that Anglo-Catholics have an entirely different vocabulary to Evangelicals and was back to square one. So I bought a Matt Redman CD, dug out my church dictionary, and began dropping in the word "fellowship" to sentences whenever I felt the urge.

But what if it's not just new Christians who don't always know what's going on in church? Might there be people in our parishes who've been church members for decades but couldn't explain why we stand for the Gospel reading, why we share "the Peace" or why the font is at the entrance of the church? Probably. And does anyone really understand what the offering is all about? This is a question I've been pondering myself.

Until quite recently, I had no idea that the money I put on the collection plate had anything to do with faith. I thought it was a bit like paying subs. It never occurred to me that I was taking part in an act of worship. Maybe that's because in all the churches I've worshipped in, and that's a *lot* as I travelled a lot in the army, this part of the service was...a bit...rushed? Awkward? Forgotten about?

Then I realised that every week I'd been hearing a prayer which was key to this part

I didn't know that what I was actually doing when I fished around for the loose change in my handbag, was presenting to God a gift that said both 'Thank you' and 'I love you'.

of the service, but I'd never noticed:

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you."

Maybe I wasn't concentrating, or I'd put it in the "don't understand" pile (with all the other new things that I was learning). But those words **"All things come from you and of your own do we give you."** It was a spiritual act. It was about faith. The

offertory was an act of worship and I'd missed it.

Then, to my great confusion, I learned that not everyone calls it the offertory. Some call it the offering and some say collection. These differences reflect the different traditions and ways Christians worship. This variety is wonderful, but it can be confusing! For example some say the offertory is the moment in the service when we are simply presenting our gifts of money, which *represents us* (the offering of ourselves) to be used for the Kingdom of God. There's a direct link between what I give, and the continuing work of the Church. This works for me, as I think everybody should have the chance to hear about God's love and who Jesus is. It makes sense, especially when I think of why we pay Parish Share.

And some believe that when the offering is brought up with the elements (bread and wine), it represents the idea of us sacrificing what we have, as during Holy Communion (the Eucharist) we remember that Jesus sacrificed everything for us.

No doubt, even within these two ends of the spectrum there will be Christians who hold different views. As I can tell, some see the offering as an *offering of themselves*, and others see it as our response to Jesus' *sacrifice*. And no doubt many think it's a bit of both, and perhaps many more (like me until recently) haven't ever really considered its representation at all. So what does it mean to you? Is our offering an acknowledgement of all that God has **generously** and freely given us? Are we offering ourselves on the plate for God's work? Is our money offering more about the sacrifice we've made, as we lead on to the Eucharist and remember everything Jesus **sacrificed** for us? Or is it something else? What *does* this act of worship mean to us?

As for me, what changed my mind about the offering, was the sacrifice bit. That's what converted my giving habits. When I paused and reminded myself that Jesus literally gave up his life for me, (I often have to do this), I felt ashamed when I thought of my own offering. That's a strong word but it's exactly how I felt. A slightly older and much wiser Christian friend assured me that God isn't into the shame game. He just loves me and always desires the best for me.

That's comforting, but nonetheless, my attitude changed and I started thinking differently about my offering. It was not generous, was not a sacrifice, was not a representation of how grateful I am, or how I love Jesus. What I'd been giving before was an amount that could easily get lost in my untidy handbag. Since deciding to give generously I actually feel that I'm taking part in an act of worship, rather than paying subs. Now what I give is part of my relationship with God. It's saying 'Thank you' and 'I love you'.

More articles by Rachael Phillips can be found here:
thegenerousgivingproject.wordpress.com

Ordinands in Training



Samuel Thorp is the eldest son of a Church of England Vicar in Norfolk and has spent five years studying Theology, before starting to train for ministry as an Ordinand at Cranmer Hall. When he's not studying, Sam enjoys getting outside and going on long walks exploring the area - often while listening to a new rock album!



Peter Gunstone is a first year ordinand at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham. This means that he is training for ordained ministry in the Church of England, part of which is his placement here at Stranton and Burbank between now and March. Previously, he has worked as a freelance classical musician, been a member of the Lee Abbey Devon

Community, and Music Director for St Andrew's Church, North Oxford. He is married to Kirsten and together they enjoy the outdoors, especially walking in the Scottish mountains, and long distance cycling. They are enjoying getting to know the North East, and feel very welcomed by your church community.

Three Christmas Myths

There was no inn!

In Luke 2.7 when it says ‘there was no room for them in the inn’, the word *katalyma* actually means ‘guest room’. Bible translators in the 16th century quite naturally imagined staying in an inn or tavern, because that is where guests and travellers would have lodged at that time – and so the translation ‘inn’ and all the imaginative world that goes with it has stuck. But in 1st century Palestine there were no inns, taverns, or hotels. Instead, traditions of hospitality meant that every house would have had a small *katalyma*, a guest room, at the top or back, ready for friends or relatives, or even strangers, to stay. Given that Joseph was from Bethlehem, he would have had friends and family there – it’s just that, due to the census, the place was so busy that the guest room was already taken.

There was no stable!

This follows on from the last point. We tend to imagine an inn, with a wooden, free-standing stable out the back, where Mary and Joseph ended up. But if the guest room was full, the only other space in the house would have been on the ground floor, in the space where the animals were brought in during the winter nights. This is where Mary gave birth, and it’s why she places the baby Jesus in a manger or feeding trough. So there was a stable of sorts, but not as we usually picture it.

There was no donkey!

Not so far as we know, anyway – no donkey is mentioned in either Matthew’s or Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth. Mary and Joseph may have used a donkey when travelling to Bethlehem, or when fleeing into Egypt, but we can’t be sure. The *Infancy Gospel of James*, a 2nd century apocryphal work which fills in extra details about Jesus’ birth and childhood, does talk about Mary travelling on a donkey, and this may be where the idea came from.

Debunking these myths might seem devastating for our understanding of the Christmas story, let alone all those nativities that we enjoy year after year. But actually the core message of Christmas remains intact – or in fact, it is strengthened. We see Jesus’ birth as a sign of God’s willingness to come in the most humble and poor way possible – if his family was unable to afford to pay for lodgings, then they were dependent on the free hospitality of others; if they could not afford a donkey, then that means Mary had to walk all the way to Bethlehem, even though she was pregnant. We also see Jesus’ birth as a sign of God’s willingness to come and dwell among us, ordinary people in our day-to-day struggles – and this message is reinforced if he was born not just among animals, but among animals *and people* in the middle of a busy, bustling household. And what about changing all those much-loved children’s nativities? Well, given how many incredible and amusing additions there often are in these productions, the inn, the stable, and the donkey are the last thing I’m worried about, so I just sit back and enjoy, and celebrate Jesus coming in poverty to dwell with us at the heart of our messy lives!

Nick Moore

Baptisms

Sunday 30th October

We were blessed to witness the making of a commitment to Jesus by so many during this special service. We heard testimonies from some of the Iranians and watched the bravery of Aimee and Adam facing full immersion!



**Sophia Sepehrtaj (Ayda's daughter
but with her father's surname)**

Ayda Soltanian

Parham Mohammadi Yar

Parniyan Mohammadi Yar

Soraya Soleimani



Mahmoud Mohammadi Yar affirmed his faith



Adam David Sparks



Aimee Elizabeth Sparks



A BIG Thank You

- to everyone who thoughtfully and willingly made such generous donations to our asylum seekers and refugees in Stranton and Hartlepool. Everything given has been greatly appreciated and has found a new home....

As more asylum seekers gain refugee status, further donations are needed to make empty houses and flats into homes for them.

Nothing is wasted so if you have anything which you are no longer needing please don't dump it – upcycle it to someone new.

There is an ongoing need for the following:

curtains bedding towels crockery cutlery pans
kitchen utensils furniture ornaments pictures cushion
small electricals – toasters, kettles, radios, CD players, microwaves (in working order please).

baby & children equipment & toys,

clothes & accessories for men, women, children, babies

Contact:

Jean Waller tel: 872917

Carol Singing in Burbank

Burbank Community Church will be taking Carol Services at: -

Burbank Court on 12th December at 6:00pm and

Schooner Court on 15th December at 6:30pm

Plus Carol singing around the Estate

on Monday 19th December at 6:30pm -

Starting at Ward Jackson School and finishing with refreshments

back at Clive and Angela's.

**We would really like some help with the singing of carols
at all these services.**

Please can you volunteer to come and help out?

Ring Clive on 278504.

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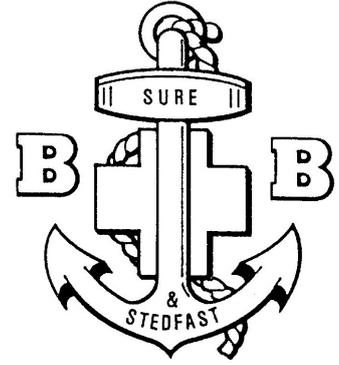
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Boys Brigade News National Competitions

Masterteam – a quiz competition that makes University Challenge a walk in the park – was held at Marton on Saturday November 12th. In a highly competitive atmosphere our team came 4th with 66.5 points. This total qualifies us for the next round in December. The other teams came from Teesside, Leadgate, Southport, Morecambe and Consett.

Badminton – our team's fierce reputation forced the 17th Teesside to pull out of the competition so we are through to the second round in the new year.

Anchors and Juniors – Both these Sections are starting to grow so much in numbers and showing regular loyalty that we have added leaders to each section. Both are involved in Christmas Crafts (Thank you Mrs Robinson) and are looking forward to Christmas activities.

Fund Raising

- Our Christmas Fayre is on Saturday November 26th at St Matthew's Community Centre from 09.30 – 12 noon. Don't miss out on bargains galore and a lovely cuppa!!

George Bainbridge

****Breaking News **Breaking News ** Breaking News**

In a hard fought competition on November 21st (and considering the atrocious weather) our A team won the Battalion 5-a-side football match by 2 points in a 5 team competition, in which every team dropped points!

The final results were:

- 1st - 4th Hartlepool A
- 2nd - 8th A (Westbourne)
- 3rd - 1st Hartlepool (St.Hilda's)
- 4th - 8th Hartlepool B
- 5th - 4th Hartlepool B

George Bainbridge

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

The main doors in Elwick Road have now been renewed and painted - with many thanks to David.

A set of inner doors have been installed in the small hall, so now we are not heating all of Elwick Road when the doors are open!!

The next short term projects are the tidying up of the small hall and main hall storage areas.

The longer term objective of refurbishing the north end of the small hall area is making small, but positive, progress.

St Matthew's Community Centre Committee

Hymns to think about.... Speeding Hymns

At 60 mph	God Will Takes Care of Me
At 70 mph	Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer
At 80 mph	Nearer My God to Thee
At 90 mph	Nearer Still Nearer
At 100 mph	This World is not My Home
At 120 mph	Lord I'm Coming Home
At 140 mph	Precious Memories

Favourite Hymns of a:-

Dentist	Crown Him With Many Crowns
TV Weatherman	There Shall be Showers of Blessings
Builder	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer	There is a Green Hill Far Away
Politician	Standing on the Promises
Optician	Open my Eyes That I may See
Tax Collector	All to Thee
Gossip	Pass It On
Electrician	Send The Light
Shopper	Sweet By and By
Andrew Rogers	

Interview In the pew



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

Negar Saffari

Hello, I'm Negar, my name means Sweet Heart, which makes me smile.

I'm 18, and my birthday is in February.

I sit at the back of church on the left-hand side near the choir vestry door.

I've been a Christian for two years now. I was baptised here at Stranton this year on the 10th April. It was wonderful – a full immersion – I will always remember that day.

I go to Brinkburn 6th Form College. It is brilliant. I study A Level Law, Psychology and Maths.

Also, English and International Studies. Law is my favourite subject.

I grew up in Iran, in the capital city. It was like London; very busy, very different from Hartlepool.

I went to private school in Iran. I also had private English lessons.

I'm also qualified in swimming and synchronised swimming. I miss doing my synchronised swimming, I loved it so much.

Here at church I'm the chief interpreter!!

I get the sermon a day or so before, then I have to translate it into Persian myself. Then through the ear-pieces I can let the non-English speakers know what's happening throughout the service.

I'm also the Interpreter for the Bible study home groups.

I love the Twilight films. Romance in films is what I like.

I don't have time to collect anything, but if I do get any spare time I like to go swimming.

My favourite Bible passage is John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

I actually love the whole of the service at church. I do love the songs and worshipping God.

It's beautiful when we all sing Holy Holy Holy before communion.

My Mum, and Jean, say that I have kindness, helpfulness and care in my heart – these must be my God-given gifts.

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

Rachel Wilson

Diocesan Dealings cont'd...

The Diocesan Advisory Committee; the “DAC”

If any of you, dear readers have had involvements with maintaining church buildings, the phrase “Oh that work will need a faculty”, may have struck terror in your heart. However, actually, the faculty process is there to help you.

So, what is a “faculty”? It’s not like a university faculty. It’s simply a legal document issued by the Diocesan Chancellor, His Honour Judge Rupert Bursell QC, granting permission to carry out specific works in, or to, a church, its grounds or churchyard.

The DAC is what it says in the title. It reviews any proposals and *advises* the Chancellor on applications for works. For example, recently, we here at Stranton needed a faculty for the replacement of the broken window and we’ll be looking to be granted another one when the forthcoming lighting improvements are undertaken.

The Chairman of the DAC is Archdeacon Nick Barker and the Secretary is Bill Heslop, who’s based at Cuthbert House. The membership of this band of brothers includes quinquennial architects, town planners and musicians! Many of the people who serve on the committee are acknowledged experts in their field; Richard Hird is regarded as the leading expert on church organs in the north of England and Neal Moat is a national authority on stained glass windows. I represent the Durham Archdeaconry (which includes the Hartlepool Deanery), and also know a bit about heating systems.

We meet monthly to assess plans, looking at everything from new sound systems, lighting, removal of pews, reordering of churches to new grave stones and notice boards. We also have to approve parishes’ appointments of quinquennial architects.

The DAC is also a gatekeeper, ensuring that inappropriate alterations are not carried out in our wonderful, often listed, buildings that glorify the Lord. We’re not the nasty diocesan police; genuinely, we’re here to help.

If you’ like to know more about this august body, whose members give their time and talents freely, please have a word with me.

Andrew Rogers.

I Am a Minister of the Gospel

**It's not just who we are ... but Who's we are!
So get rid of all the excuses!! Look below:**

Look at Some People Used By God!

Noah got drunk

Abraham was too old and Impatient

Sarah laughed at God's promise

Jacob was a liar and a cheat

Joseph was rejected by his family

And spent time in prison.

Moses stuttered; looked for excuses

Miriam was a gossip and easily led

Rahab came from Jericho

Samson had long hair and was a womaniser

Elijah was 'burnt out'

Naomi was a widow

Ruth was a foreigner

David was too young, to be considered

David's armour did not fit

David had an extra marital affair

Solomon was too rich and promiscuous

Jeremiah was depressive and suicidal

Hosea's wife was a prostitute

Amos' only training was in shepherding

and looking after fig trees

Jonah ran away from God,

then was upset when God forgave Nineveh.

John the Baptist was a loud mouth

Martha was a worrier,

Mary preferred to sit about

Lazarus was dead

Matthew was a corrupt Tax Collector

Simon was a Zealot with anti-establishment feelings

Peter was afraid of death

John was self-righteous

Gideon and Thomas both were full of doubts.

Paul was a murderer. So were Moses and David.

John Mark was initially rejected by Paul

Paul fell out with Barnabas

Timothy had ulcers.

BUT God doesn't require a job interview for us!

He doesn't hire and fire as some bosses do!

He doesn't do yearly staff appraisals.

He sees us as part of His family. (Adopted)

He is not, Prejudiced, Partial, Pre Judging, Grudging.

He is not deaf to our cries, nor blind to our needs.

Satan says you are not worthy! Jesus and all the heavenly hosts say you are!

Satan looks and sees our mistakes. God looks and sees the cross.

Satan would call you a failure. God would call you a success because you are his child.

I am a minister of the gospel.

Called to be a Chosen People,

a Royal Priesthood,

a Holy Nation.

Thanks to Alan Robertson

Think before you speak:

A careless word may kindle strife;

A cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instil;

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way; a joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress; a loving word may heal and bless.

Anon

10 Christmas Facts

Tangerines

THE tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

Three Wise Men?

DESPITE the tale of three wise men paying homage to baby Jesus, the Bible never gives a number. Matthew's Gospel refers to merely "wise men".

Wassailing

CAROLS began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.

Carols

CAROLS weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.

Angels Singing?

THERE is no reference to angels singing anywhere in the Bible.

Noel

THE word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news". Baby Jesus.

The Stable

JESUS was probably born in a cave and not a wooden stable, say Biblical scholars.

Xmas

THE abbreviation Xmas isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

Holly

THE holly in a wreath symbolises Christ's crown of thorns while the red berries are drops of his blood.

Boxing Day

BOXING Day gets its name from all the money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor.

Festive Recipes

Mincemeat cake

5oz butter

3 large eggs

4oz castor sugar

6oz SR flour

6oz mincemeat

Heat oven Gas 3 or electric 170C

Brush an 8" round cake tin with melted fat & line the base and sides with greaseproof paper.

Place butter & sugar in a bowl & cream together till light & fluffy.

Beat eggs, add a little at a time, beating well after each addition

Sift in the flour, add to the mixture with mincemeat & stir well. Place this mixture in the tin & smooth the top with the back of a metal spoon.

Place the tin on a baking sheet & cook for about an hour & a quarter.



Christmas Pudding Icecream

125g/4oz left over Christmas Pudding
500ml tub of good vanilla icecream left in fridge for 30 minutes to soften up

1 tbsp whiskey or brandy if wish

Put the Christmas Pudding in a large bowl & add alcohol if you wish

Add the icecream & mash together.

Return the Christmas Pudding icecream into the icecream tub, put the lid on & leave in freezer for 2 hours to refreeze & firm up.

Turkey tetrazzini

25g dried porcini mushrooms

250g dried macaroni

Low calorie cooking spray or a little oil

250g chestnut or button mushrooms, sliced

2 garlic clove, crushed

1 tbsp chopped fresh sage

4 level tbsp cornflour

400ml boiling chicken or turkey stock

500g plain quark

¼ teasp freshly grated nutmeg

4 level tbsp. freshly grated Parmesan

500g leftover skinless cooked turkey torn into chunky strips

2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Put dried mushrooms into a small bowl & cover with 150ml boiling water.

Leave to soak for 30 minutes, then rinse, drain & squeeze the mushrooms dry. (These add real flavour)

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water for 7 minutes. Then drain.

Meanwhile spray large non-stick frying pan with low calorie cooking oil & place over a medium heat. Add the

dried & fresh mushrooms, garlic, sage & some seasoning, then cover & cook for 5 minutes. Uncover & cook for 2

minutes more, stirring.

Preheat the oven to 190C/ fan 180C/ gas 5.

In a non-stick saucepan, mix the cornflour to a paste with 3 tbsp cold water. Add the stock & bring to the boil over a high heat, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat & stir in the quark, nutmeg, half the Parmesan & seasoning to taste.

Stir the macaroni, turkey & mushrooms & most of the parsley into the quark sauce. Spoon into a shallow 2 litre ovenproof dish, sprinkle with the rest of the Parmesan then bake for 30-35 minutes or until bubbling hot & golden brown.

Scatter over the remaining parsley & serve hot with vegetables.

CELEBRATE!

**December
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to**



Siobahn Connell
Anne Courtenay
Lauren Davison
Eloise Dobbin
Chloe Greenwood
Diane Greenwood
Benjamin Hall
Joseph Hall
Pam Hutchinson
Heather Jennett
Catherine Padgett
Mark Sanders
Julie Shave
Robbie Spoor
Ella Spoor
Lilly Spoor
Mary Tones
Mark Tones
Josie Watson

**Congratulations
on your
Wedding Anniversary**

**Jack Rogers & Gina Guo
Rob & Michelle Butler**



**If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email
admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 864006.**

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

CELEBRATE!

**January
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to**



**Tyler Anderson
Frances Boyd
James Boyd
Michelle Butler
David Craig
Nancy Fearnie
Clive Hall
Daniel Hart
Doreen Lathan
Carol Moore
Bekah Moore
Trish Playfor
Catriona Robertson
Kieran Scott
Isabel Spoons
Luke Tones
Alice Gilhespy- Swann**



**If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email
admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 864006.**

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

Dates for the Diary

Dates for December 2016 and January 2017

December

Sunday 4th Messy Carols, 4pm St Matthew's CC
Tuesday 6th New Beginnings, 7.30pm Fulthorpe Chapel
Sunday 11th Toy collection for Women's Refuge in morning services
Christingle, 4pm Church

Christmas Services

Sunday 18 th Dec	am	Nativity services (Stranton and Burbank)
Sunday 18 th Dec	6pm	Carols by Candlelight
Saturday 24 th Dec	4.30pm	Christmas Family Service
Saturday 24 th Dec	11.15pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th Dec	8.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th Dec	10am	Family Communion <i>(bring your presents)</i>

January

Tuesday 10th Prayer & Praise 7.30pm Fulthorpe Chapel
Sunday 15th Messy Church 4pm St Matthew's
Tuesday 17th Buildings & Finance 7.30pm The Vicarage
New Beginnings 7.30pm Fulthorpe Chapel
Tuesday 23rd Standing Committee 7.30pm The Vicarage

February

Monday 6th PCC 7.30pm Fulthorpe Chapel

Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
4 Dec	B Butcher	G Webster K Webster
11 Dec	P Thompson	P Anderson R Anderson
18 Dec	M Hutchinson	A Craig F Endean
Christmas Day		
25 Dec	P Thomson	G Webster
8.30am		K Webster
10am		



Baptisms

30th Oct	Mahmoud Mohammadi Yar Sardashti Sorya Soleimani Parham Mohammadi Yar Parniyan Mohammadi Yar Najmeh Soitanian (Ayda) Sophia Sepehrtaj Adam David Sparks Aimee Elizabeth Sparks
13th Nov	Logan John Doran-Lord
20th Nov	Nola May Gilbraith



Funerals

4th Nov	George Wall	19 Years
9th Nov	Ethel May Hodgson	83 Years



Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF	
Administrator	Trish Playfor	01429 894006
	E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk	
	Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk	

Vicar

Revd Norman Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609
E-Mail: 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 Assistants

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.

