

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

February 2018

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 **18th February 2018** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Light and Dark

We are at the time of year when we speak about these two words quite often. It is getting dark very early each evening and it stays dark till about 8:00am in the morning. In fact for the past two days it has stayed quite dark all day - I have my office light on now and its 10:25am, because of how dark it is as I write! I even had my car headlights on all day yesterday because of how dark it was. There is something called, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), it is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons. A lot of people are affected by this in the dark nights. Interestingly the word for seasons is plural. There can be a summer disorder when people get the same type of symptoms for the long bright days! We are complex people at times.

Over the Christmas period we will also have heard the message of Jesus being the light of the world. You will definitely have heard the stories of shepherds sitting around at night time suddenly being afraid of a bright radiant light - which happens to be angels. They appear to shine with their own brightness, light shines out from their bodies. Then there is the star which moves across the heavens and makes light shine as guidance for the three wise men. It seems they must have been only travelling at night time then.

However in a more negative mode. We live in a dark world. It is not about light at all, but about a way of life. A life that is dark and evil and corrupt. Terrorist attacks are shocking. The wars where innocent people are being killed are terrible. Then there is all the sex abuse pervading through so many different strata of societies in life. Recently on the news we heard of people being arrested in our region for sex trafficking offences. People who make other people their slaves against their will. This is happening all over the world - but now we are starting to hear of it right on our door steps. So the world it seems is getting darker, more corrupt...

So what will happen next?

For me, I am a Christian who believes that Jesus is the light of the world who wants **me** to shine with his brightness in this dark world. He wants **me** to stand out like a candle in a dark room. But of course that is not just me, it is **all** people who know that our God is the God who loves this world.

My own personal prayer is that God will start to enable his people more and more. That the gifts of the Holy Spirit will start to be received and utilised more. That people's hearts will see injustice and they will turn their energy towards action and do something about it!

I do believe that this is starting to happen in Hartlepool. We need to keep encouraging one another to do good works and to celebrate the fact that:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.... This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3: 16-21

Clive

MOTHER`S UNION

A belated Happy New Year to Everyone. I hope you also had a happy and blessed Christmas - though already it seems a while ago.

Gone but not forgotten, let's look back at December. On the 4th we met at the Marine hotel for our Christmas lunch together and Sylvia Smith was able to join with us. Then on the 18th we celebrated our Advent Carol Service with Sue Elsey, our Area Vice President. Sue spoke of how Advent and Christmas came alive for her on hearing the reading of Isaiah 9:2-7 – starting with the verse "The people walking in the darkness have seen great light". This year the theme for our Stranton church Christmas decorations was light, and the first reading at the Christmas Day Family service was this Isaiah passage.

On 8th January 2018 we met to take part in the MU Wave of Prayer. The theme was "Around the World, Around the Corner". After the service we had a quick catch up, but time constraints meant we didn't have a New Year's Party.

Our next meeting on 12th February (2 days before Lent begins) will be more of a games and relaxed afternoon with refreshments.

News of Members: Hilary Harkness is improving and thanks everyone for their love and prayers. Sylvia Smith was transferred to Hartlepool Hospital after being in North Tees for a while. Other members are sensibly staying indoors whilst the weather has been bad.

At the "Wave of Prayer Service" we sang "bind us together Lord" familiar to many of us. Looking back later to the words and chorus I was struck by the thought that "binding" is used in grafting shoots onto a rootstock of a much stronger and more vigorous plant to ensure fruit in the season to come. Another thought was that as we pray in the "Wave of Prayer" for our MU sisters around the world, they are engaged in also praying for us....

Looking forward to seeing you at St Matthew's Community Centre on Monday 12th February at 2.00pm in the ASDA room.

God Bless and Love

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

I think my parents' abhorrence of waste has grown in me as I get older. They were young married parents during the war and rationing. There just weren't many things available - be it food, furniture or clothes. Later with six children and Dad being the sole earner, money was always in short supply.

We all wore hand-me-downs – not always ideal when you are number 5 with 3 older brothers and only one sister – just as well I was a tomboy! New clothes were only for school uniforms and very special occasions – they, were always bought several sizes too large, so we could grow into them!

Furniture was inherited from grandparents or bought second hand – we never had a new suite or dining table. If things broke – Dad fixed them – I thought everyone repaired breakages using black insulating tape when all else failed! Our cookers, washing machines and fridges were reconditioned models. We didn't go on holidays, but we had fantastic days at the beach or in the countryside with picnics and games.

When I married we were lucky to be given carpets and furniture from relatives, to be able to buy things from the auction house where my other half worked at times and to be given useful wedding presents. We lived in houses with the existing carpets, kitchens and bathrooms – until we could afford to replace them. I don't need to go out and buy lots of 'stuff', or the most fashionable furnishings or clothes.

I cannot bring myself to throw things in the tip – charity shops, refugees, nearly new, homeless appeals are all beneficiaries of my periodic sort outs! There are so many people with so little in this town I feel it is a sin to throw away anything which is not broken and is still useful. When times have been hard over the years God has provided. I feel ungrateful if I don't try to spread some of His provision to others - after being a recipient myself!

So if you are having a 'sort-out' after Christmas, or replacing something in your home with a purchase from the 'sales' - don't bin it or tip it – pass it on via a charity shop, gumtree or refugee helpers. Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure. If you loved something once – it could be loved again with a renovation or minor repair or just a good clean!

God made us stewards of all things on the earth – so what can you do help stop waste and benefit others...?

J.A.R.

Au revoir – see ye efter...

Alan and Catriona Robertson

Sunday 14th January saw Alan Robertson preach his final sermon to the congregations in Stranton. Alan and Catriona are starting their protracted move back to Scotland to be near their children and extended family. As their house hasn't yet sold they will still be coming back and forth to Hartlepool. They hope to eventually settle in the Edinburgh area.

They moved to Hartlepool over thirty years ago with their young, and still expanding, family, when Alan was appointed as a consultant at Cameron and Hartlepool Hospitals. After an unsettled time seeking a home church Catriona was introduced to SMACC (Stranton Mothers And Children Club) by Alison Lees (former Strantonian and bellringer) and immediately felt this was where she was meant to be. After a while Alan joined her and the children – and the rest is history.

They have been active and committed members of the congregation. Over the years they have been members of PCC, Churchwardens, readers, intercessors, sidespersons and coffee makers; Catriona was in the Music Group and has led Book Club and Alan trained to be a Reader and was a Trustee of the Kilimatinde Trust (visiting Tanzania several times). They have led Food for Thought courses. Their hospitality and generosity has been constant. They have given spiritual guidance to many. They have been a source of reassurance, advice and calm compassion to individuals and families, in their capacity as NHS professionals with a wealth of knowledge of children, pregnancy, female medical and general medical issues. They have been good and loyal friends to countless over the years. Their Christian faith fundamental to every part of their lives.

Alan and Catriona's presence will be missed by people in Stranton, Burbank and Hartlepool plus the extensive areas they covered in their professional lives.

Cheerio – but be back soon! An open invitation stands - there'll be a welcome (with many offers of a bed and a preaching lectern) – whenever you want to join us!

God bless and protect you and watch over you as you seek your new home and new church family....

J.A.R.

Changing the story

Today, more than 65 million people are displaced globally. Forced from their homes by violence, fear or desperation, each is deserving of safety, freedom and hope.

The stories we hear and the stories we tell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda.

So when refugees are portrayed negatively in the media, their inherent dignity is challenged. But every one of us has a voice in this story, and in times of political uncertainty at home our message of shared humanity is more important than ever.

We want to tell a story that upholds those escaping injustice and war, and that celebrates those who offer a welcome.

We believe we are all created equal with the image of God within us. We stand for a UK that refuses to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people seeking sanctuary.

While many communities and churches are united in welcoming those seeking refuge, the response of the UK Government has not matched the scale of the crisis.

Through sharing stories of hospitality, and the positive contributions that refugees make in our communities, we demonstrate our commitment to a United Kingdom that refuses to turn a blind eye to suffering and affirms that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Join Christian Aid in changing the story around refugees: write to your newspaper and tell them that refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

(copied from Christian Aid web article)



Angels

For some, angels are mythic figures. For others, they are close guides and protectors. They appear often in the Bible, where they are God's agents and messengers, but they also spoke of guardian Angels...

Here are a few Bible references to angels:

Genesis 28:10-17

Isaiah 6:1-8

Daniel 8:15-17

Daniel 9:21-23

Matthew 1:20-25

Matthew 18:10

Luke 1:8-20

John 20:11-13

Mentions through the years:

Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme
too high doth seem for mortal tongue

Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

**Angels can fly because they
take themselves lightly.**

G.K.Chesterton (1874-1936)

Lord of all creation, an angel foretold your birth and the birth of many of your chosen servants: let us rejoice in the wonderful orders of angels.

Angels announced your birth to the shepherds with great joy and praise: may our lips be always praising you.

Angels ministered to you in your temptation and trial: be present, we pray, to all who are in trouble or oppression.

Angels announced your resurrection to Mary Magdalen: fill us with the assurance of your risen power.

Angels were present at your ascension into heaven: make us ready for your coming again in great glory.

**John Michael Mounthey in Angela Ashwin – A Book of a
Thousand Prayers**

If you pray truly, you will feel within yourself a great assurance, and the angels will be your companions.

Evagrius of Pontus (c305-400)

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy: may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for Compline Common worship c Archbishops' Council

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it - Hebrews 13:2



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A Great Big Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to the congregation in Stranton and Burbank churches and the Mother And Toddler Group, who in December generously gave children's warm coats and clothes to meet the real and critical need for the asylum seeker families as they faced the extremely cold winter weather.

Jean Waller

No Time to Pray

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
I had to hurry and get to work
For bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
And jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done
My soul could rest at ease.
All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer.
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.
No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need
But at last the time, the time to die.
I went before the Lord,
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.
For in his hands God held a book;
It was the book of life.
God looked into his book and said
"Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down...
But never found the time".

K J Koshy

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than pigging out on pancakes or taking part in a public pancake race. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with deeply religious roots.

Penitence

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shriving, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and pain that they have caused them. In the Catholic or Orthodox context, the absolution is pronounced by a priest.

Shrove Tuesday celebrations

Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

What is Ash Wednesday?

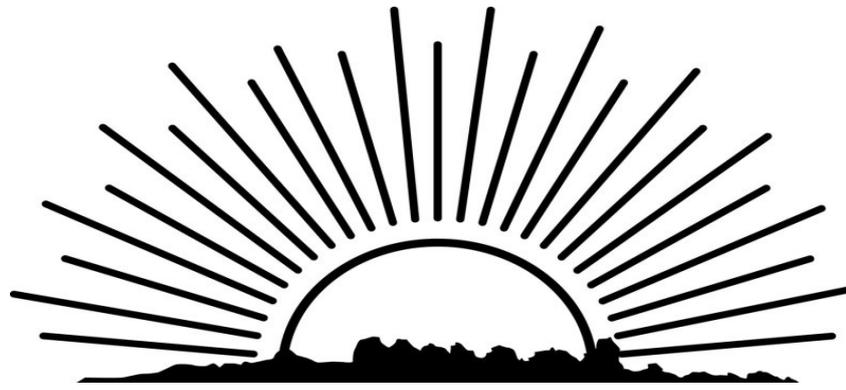
Ash Wednesday is the day after Shrove Tuesday – perhaps better known to many as Pancake Day – so in 2018 falls on February 14th . It marks the start of Lent, where people over the globe give up certain foods or habits to improve their health or demonstrate self-restraint.

To commemorate the day, clergy all over the world burn palm from the previous year's Palm Sunday services to create ash. This is then rubbed across people's foreheads in the shape of the cross. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes: "For dust you are and to dust you shall return".

The ceremony is meant to show followers that their lives are short and they must live them to the fullest.

What is Lent and how long does it last?

Lent is a 40-day fast, so will run up until the Thursday before Easter Sunday, March 29th, which is known as Holy Thursday. It originated as a mirroring of Jesus Christ's 40 days fasting in the desert, where, according to the gospels, he endured temptation by Satan.



'Revealing God's Glory from Epiphany to the Cross'

An evening Lent Course for St Aidan's, St Luke's, Stranton & Burbank and Churches Together in Hartlepool.

Each evening will involve

Reflection & Prayer

Refreshments & fellowship

A bible based talk

Group Study

Where St Luke's Church

When Wednesday evenings 6.45pm-8.30pm,
starting with refreshments.

First meeting 21st February

(other dates 28th Feb; 7th, 14th & 21st March)

Leaders Rev Andrew Craig, Mother Gemma Sampson,
Mr Clive Hall, Rev Norman Shave

20 Things Your Diocesan Lay Chair Does

1. Chairs Diocesan Synod
2. Member of Bishop's Council
3. Attends Bishop's Council residential weekend
4. Represents the views of the laity to the Diocesan Bishop
5. Represents Bishop's Council policy to the laity and parishes
6. Lay Canon at Durham cathedral
7. Attends annual conference of Diocesan Lay Chairs
8. Assists in the shortlisting of appointment of Archdeacons
9. On interview panel for the appointment of Archdeacons
10. Trains as a Clergy Discipline Measure Pastor
11. Member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
12. Visits parishes to advise on the suitability of alterations and improvements
13. Assists in the management of vacant diocesan premises
14. Member Hartlepool Deanery Standing Committee
15. Vice Chair Stranton Parochial Church Council
16. Member Stranton PCC Standing Committee
17. Member Stranton PCC Buildings and Finance sub committee
18. Organises social events, eg. Churches Together Quiz
19. Assists in the cleaning of Stranton church
20. Team member for the counting of church cash and planned giving collections.

Andrew Rogers.

Adam Barton
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Love thy Neighbour and our Family in Christ

Everyone in Stranton Parish is invited to attend a
Getting to Know You Event
on Sunday 11th February from 12 noon
At West Rugby Club, Catcote Road
for a Bring and Share Buffet Lunch at 1.00pm
to meet our brothers and sisters from
St Luke's and St Aidan's Churches.

This is a social event so there is a bar available and some fun activities will take place to help all ages to mingle and get to know each other.

Please let Norman, Clive or Churchwardens Angela & Peter know if you hope to attend

Strantonians and the Great War



2018 is the centenary year of the Royal Air Force. It is sad, but perhaps fitting that this month marks the centenary of the death of 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Morgan who died on 27th February 1918, he served in the Royal Flying Corps which was the origin of the RAF.

Arthur lived with his parents John and Rhoda Morgan, at 5 Bathgate Terrace, Elwick Rd., West Hartlepool.

He was 18 when he died. He is buried in Stranton Cemetery.

Ward Jackson CE Primary News

Pantomime - 21st December

The whole school had an amazing afternoon watching a performance of Goldilocks and The Three Bears (Oh yes they did!). The children were excellent throughout and loved their post-show ice cream.



Indoor Athletics - 13th December

Our year 6 children did an amazing job at representing the school at the indoor athletics. As a group they came second in the field events and fifth in the track events. We are waiting to find out how some individuals ranked, but are hopeful that some of our children will be able to represent the town later in the year. Once again, staff at Dyke House College praised the children on their outstanding behaviour and team spirit. Well done everyone!





Boys Brigade News



Anchors Boys - are starting a project about Noah. They are looking forward to the Anchor Boys Fun Night on 9th November at St Matthew's with the other Anchor Boys from around Hartlepool.

Juniors – the Juniors are learning to play draughts and also practising for the Battalion Hockey Night on Monday March 12th. They are looking forward to visiting Rossmere Forest School on February 19th.

Company Lads - are looking forward to a night of activities with other members of Hartlepool Battalion on February 9th at St Matthew's. Also the planning is starting for annual camp – but no camp site has been confirmed at the moment.

As a Company we are sorting out our store hut and hopefully we may find, in the remaining Fayre articles, some items that are suitable for use by the refugees.

We have room for new starters in all sections - you can find out more about us on facebook or pop in on any Monday or Friday nights in St Matthew's Community Centre.

George Bainbridge

A Blast from the Past! Recipes from Mary Baines

Goulash Soup

A winter warmer Mary first ate in Prague

- 1 medium onion chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic - chopped or crushed
- 1 red pepper, halved, de-seeded & chopped into cubes
- 1 potato chopped into 1cm cubes
- 125g mince
- 1 tablsop paprika
- 1 squirt of tomato puree
- 1 teasp flour
- 1 teasp caraway seeds
- 1 pint beef stock
- 2 tablsop olive oil



Put oil in pan & add onion, red pepper & garlic. Cook gently on low heat until soft (5 mins)
Add potato & cook for 5 more mins
Add mince & allow to brown, stirring the mixture to stop it sticking to the pan.
Add paprika, caraway seeds, flour & tomato puree - mix in with other ingredients & fry for 2 more mins.
Pour in a little beef stock & stir to prevent lumps
Continue to add the stock a little at a time & stirring until you have a thickened soup.
Season with salt & pepper to taste
Simmer on gentle heat for about 30 minutes before serving.

Sausage Pie

Mary's first recipe when she was a student – quick & easy – yummy too!

- 500g sausages with high meat content
- 1 onion chopped
- 4 tomatoes sliced
- Salt & pepper
- Enough peeled potatoes for 4 people
- Milk & butter or soft cheese to mash in with potatoes.

Cook potatoes in boiling water for 30 mins

While potatoes cooking, remove skins from sausages & spread them out in bottom of ovenproof dish
Cover the top with chopped onion then sliced tomatoes

Place dish in oven at 190C / gas 5 for 30 mins until the sausage meat is cooked

Remove dish from oven & tip to drain off any excess fat

When potatoes cooked – drain & mash with milk, butter/soft cheese, salt & pepper

Cover sausage with mashed potato & use fork to spread it evenly over top

Return dish to oven at 220C / gas 7 for about 15 mins for top to brown
Serve with green vegetables.



CELEBRATE!

**February
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to**



Lewis Boyd
Angela Craig
Alex Craig
Alan Harkness
Jeni Hart
Peter Hart
Jess Playfor
Duncan Playfor
Chris Robinson
Jacqui Rogers
Sue Rumney
Connor Scott
Gill Siddons
Zac Spoor
Luke Tones

Birth

**Amy & Phil Warnes
on Friday
12th January
Jacob Samuel Warnes
8lb14oz**



**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

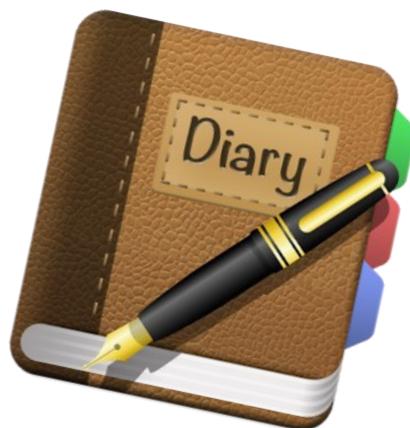
Dates for February and early March 2018

February

Mon 5 th	7.30pm	Buildings & Finance, The Vicarage
Feb 11 th	12.30-3pm	Joint Parish Lunch and Social, West Hartlepool Rugby Club
	6.30pm	Rock Eucharist, Stranton Church
Mon 12 th	7.30pm	Lighthouse Planning, The Vicarage
Wed 14 th	10.00am	Ash Wednesday Communion, St Matthew's
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion, St Luke's
Sun 18 th	4.00pm	Messy Church, St Matthew's
Mon 19 th	7.00pm	Initial Inter-Parish Consultation Oxford Road Baptist Church.
Tues 20 th	2.00pm	Afternoon Lent Course begins, Church of the Nazarene
Wed 21 st	6.45pm	Joint Lent Group 1, St Luke's
Mon 26 th	7.30pm	Standing Committee, The Vicarage
Wed 28 th	6.45pm	Joint Lent Group 2, St Luke's

March

Sat 3 rd	10.00-1.30pm	Wedding Preparation, Stranton Church
Wed 7 th	6.45pm	Joint Lent Group 3, St Luke's



Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
4th Feb	P Thompson	S Shepherd K Shepherd
11th Feb	B Butcher	D Greenwood B Greenwood
18th Feb	M Hutchinson	F Endean A Craig
25th Feb	I Walker	S Shepherd K Shepherd



Funerals

5th Jan 2018	Marie Kerr
8th Jan 2018	Arnold Bage



Who's Who

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

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

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

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