

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

May 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 **20th May 2018** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Dear Friends,

In this period between Easter and the Ascension I think it is good to remind ourselves of the most basic Christian creed: 'Jesus is Lord'. At Easter we celebrate God raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive. Forty days later he ascends to be with his Father and in heaven, he becomes and remains our exalted Lord. As many of us love to sing, recalling Paul's words in Philippians Chapter 2, 'At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him king of glory now'.

We come proclaiming Jesus is Lord, but what does this mean? A good place to start is to seek to make Jesus Lord of our lives. In the baptism service candidates are asked, 'Do you submit to Christ as Lord?' If we are to live out our baptism we each need to ask ourselves, 'Is this true for me?' In the way I lead my life, my words and my actions, 'Do I live by the teaching of Jesus?' At the very least this means loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength and loving my neighbour as myself. I remember a book from my youth called 'My God is too small'. This book used the metaphor of a house for a person's life. It then asked where do you allow Jesus to be? Is he kept in the front room or does he enter the whole house: the kitchen, the loft, the bedroom and so on. In naming Jesus as Lord we commit to making our life decisions based on the person and teaching of Jesus. May we each learn to do this day by day.

But the Lordship of Jesus is much greater than our personal lives. As Christians we believe Jesus is Lord of the earth. This is reflected in the simple petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Your Kingdom come'. As we pray this we are praying for God's way to be seen and experienced in our town, our country and our world. This means working and praying for justice and peace; feeding the hungry, supporting those in need and welcoming the stranger; engaging in politics and world affairs and seeking the renewal and revitalisation of the body of Christ. May we work and pray for the day when all acknowledge that Jesus is Lord.

Norman Shave

MOTHER`S UNION

Many thanks to Rev. Andrew Craig who prepared and led our Lady Day Service last month. We were joined by ladies from St Luke's Mothers' Union in a Service of Evening Prayer. I managed – with the help of the Church Wardens to source some old (very old!) prayer books – and although well-worn and battered (the books!), they sufficed. We enjoyed the service and although my book had missing pages, it pleased me that I remembered most of what was lost.

Andrew's sermon focused not just on Mary, but also on other women mentioned in the Bible and revealed that in the major events, it was women who usually had first knowledge of what had happened.

Mary Sumner, our MU founder, was such a woman, who met Jesus and wanted to introduce other women to Him. This year's MU theme is "Walking in the footsteps of Mary Sumner". We have a chance to go on a "Prayer walk" on Saturday 12th May at 10.00am, joining with other churches in our town, meeting at Victory Square, opposite the Civic Centre and then walking and praying for many places around the town, finishing with a service and light lunch in St Luke's at 1.00pm. You can do as much or as little walking as you wish, perhaps remembering Mary Sumner as we go.

Transport for the Festival Service at Durham on 4th June will have to be by car as the cost of a coach was quite expensive. In our next meeting we'll try to sort lifts out.

With sadness we remember MU member Frances London, who died suddenly. We thank God for her good nature, her humour, joy and Christian faith. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers. I met Lorraine Richardson whilst visiting my Aunt in hospital, she was in the next bed. Lorraine was aware of who I was and sent her love to you all.

As we leave Easter behind and enter Ascension and Pentecost may we renew and strengthen our faith by walking not just in the footsteps of Mary Sumner but also in the footsteps of Jesus.

God bless

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

During the Easter holidays I took an eight hour train journey North to my daughter in Lossiemouth on the Moray Firth. Although it was April, the day I travelled was very wintry indeed. By Berwick it was sleeting, as I changed trains in Edinburgh it was snowing hard and as chugged through the Cairngorms it was as if the train was travelling through Narnia....

The scenery was breathtaking with snow covered mountains, frozen bogs and icy river edges. I saw a 'Monarch of the Glen' - a stag - striding majestically across the mountain side. Further on we passed herds of deer - mothers and youngsters. The train put to flight rare black grouse, and a buzzard soared overhead. I have never seen nature's awesome beauty like this – and been able to enjoy it from a centrally heated carriage! Most of my fellow travelers did not seem aware of this magnificence – they were reading, talking on phones or dozing. Oblivious to the wonders of God's hands – they were probably oblivious to God too!



Seven days later I returned southwards. But this time my train came all the way down the East Coast. Once again I spent the majority of the time watching the scenery – which was very different as Spring seemed to be springing at last!

There were many signs of the stewardship of the earth by man. Bridges for roads and rail crossing massive rivers – the Tay, the Forth, the Tweed and the Tyne to name a few. New and existing roadways linking populations. Numerous wind turbines on land and at sea – greener energy at last. Oil drilling ships and platforms at Dundee. Airports for travelling abroad and for transporting workers to off shore rigs. Holiday caravan sites in beautiful coastal resorts. But mainly mile upon mile of farmland. Tractors and ploughs were working hard through the journey – preparing,



furrowing, planting. Early crops were already growing – despite the late arrival of spring. Lambs frolicked in fields, calves enjoyed their first encounters with grass and pigs snuffled in wooded groves. Once again I was alone it seemed appreciating the emergence of spring in nature and to recognize all the bountiful gifts given to the world by our generous God. Next time you journey by train – take the opportunity look out. Take in all that God

has made and see how humans are using these bounties. Makes you think about our wonderful planet and all that is around us....

J.A.R.

Funeral address for Allen Tozer 29 March 2018

Allen was born in Durham Street, West Hartlepool, to William and Emily Jane. He was the third of three children, his siblings being Geoff and Anna. He attended Oxford Street School and then West Hartlepool Grammar School. While at school he was part of the Sea Cadet Corps rising to the rank of petty officer. Straight after school he worked for a printers in Hartlepool then he joined the Royal Navy for 2 years National Service.

On his return he had a job as a 'Singer Sewing Machine' mechanic. During this time Allen met June at the Rink and they soon became a couple. As an engaged couple June supported Allen while he retrained to be a teacher at St John's College, York. Allen loved doing creative things, so while at college he supplemented the family income by doing wedding photos with June as his willing assistant. They married in Stranton Church on 16 October 1954, the same year as Allen started teaching. As a couple they lived at Wharton Street and Belmont Gardens, before moving to Teesbrooke Ave in 1976, which became the longstanding family home.

Allen loved primary teaching, working at Jesmond Road School, Grange Junior School as deputy head, before taking on headships at Elwick Road Boys School, Rift House and Jesmond Road Schools. He was an early proponent of Golden Time: during the week the children received tokens which they could spend at the tuck shop on Fridays. I'm not sure this would be allowed these days! Allen took early retirement in his fifties, but remained active in many different ways.

Allen became a member of Stranton Church when he met June, it was through her witness that he made a life-long commitment. He served as a Boys Brigade leader in Burbank, a chorister, a Pathfinder leader; member of PCC, a Church warden and a member of the Shared Ministry Team. He was a regular member of a home group and a regular worshipper until his health meant he and June were unable to get to church.

Allen served as a magistrate and he was a founder of the Hartlepool Samaritans. He volunteered for 20 years and served a period as director. Allen had many hobbies including photography, painting, pottery and crafts. Many of us received model angels at Christmas. He was also a keen gardener growing award winning chrysanthemums and he was a talented amateur magician. He was part of The Magic Circle and he would often do a turn at children's parties.

With June he entered competitions. As a couple they won holidays, including a trip to the Mexico Olympics which was subsequently changed to a holiday in the Caribbean because of safety, Bikes, Free electricity for life (it in time became an annual £22 voucher) and cheese! As a couple Allen and June travelled a lot. Together they visited Canada to see Alma, Florida, Switzerland and The Isle of Man.

A private man we remember Allen for his creativity, sense of humour, commitment to education, and as a committed Christian, how he lived out his faith in practical ways.

The reading from Romans 8 reminds us that God is for us. Allen believed this and indeed we affirm that God is with us today. Allen is someone who would always be here on Good Friday and on Easter Day. He knew and believed that 'God gave us his son for us all'. We too affirm today a belief in a God of love. God extends that love to each of us and to all of us today. Equally we remember the Easter story that Christ Jesus who, was raised to life, as we sing Jesus is the Risen Conquering Son. He gives us hope, life and a future. We come, believing in the resurrection and that, for people of faith, nothing will separate us from the enduring love of God.

NS April 2018

Stranton Porch and Interior Decorated for Easter Celebrations

The church entrance and interior looked splendid on Easter Day - a real celebration for this amazing day – Allelulia - He is risen – He is risen indeed – Allelulia.



Wanted

Could you help to deliver Signpost Magazines.

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Jacqui Rogers on 265527

Thy Kingdom Come

A novena (the word is based on the Latin word for nine) is an ancient Christian practice whereby Church leaders call for 9 days of special prayers. Amongst the earliest of such traditions is the calling of a Novena during the 9 days between Ascensiontide and Pentecost (this year the 10th and 20th of May).

For the last three years the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have proclaimed a Novena from Ascensiontide, for Christians of all denominations, worldwide, entitled “Thy Kingdom Come”.

Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Participation has grown every year.

In 2016 – 100,000 Christians pledged to pray. By 2017 – more than half a million had pledged to pray from more than 85 countries including Ghana, Netherlands, Malaysia, Cuba, South Africa, Australia, Korea, Japan and the Philippines to name a few.

In the UK, in 2017 every diocese in the Church of England was involved. Many cathedrals took part, hosting 'beacon' events designed to focus prayers in towns and cities nationwide.

The campaign's broad ecumenical appeal led to more than 50 denominations and traditions being involved last year; including the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Nationally Bishop Justin has used this year's launch to promote a new film featuring Brian Heasley, Director of 24/7 Prayer International, sharing his powerful story of how he went from criminal to Christ follower, something which he credits to the persistent prayers of loved ones (<https://vimeo.com/252672434?ref=em-share>). See also: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/#Pledge2PrayCounter>.

In Durham Diocese a programme of events is being put together marking the Novena, culminating in a special service in the Cathedral on 20th May, from 7-8.30pm. Tickets are free and available via the Cathedral.

In Hartlepool we are marking *Thy Kingdom Come* with a prayer walk on Saturday, 12th May, starting at 10am in Victory Square and finishing around 1pm at St Luke's Church for a short service and light refreshments. Join us in walking, loving and praying for our town.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

<http://durhamdiocese.org/our-faith/thy-kingdom-come/>

Rev'd Andrew

FINANCE REPORT

In 2017, despite a sustained financial performance by St Matthew's Community Centre which returned a surplus of £5,799, Stranton Church itself incurred a deficit of £8,956, which together meant an overall combined deficit of £3,157 - (2016: surplus of £12,519) on a total income of £158,662 (2016: £177,254). The main factor in this shortfall was the cost of the long awaited new lighting scheme installed in the Church Building which cost £19,338 (in part met by £1,500 Grants and anticipated VAT relief of £3,222).

The underlying financial position continues to give rise to a general cause for concern as the surplus for 2016 had arisen from one off legacies, without which we would have undoubtedly incurred a far larger deficit. Overall, regular giving was slightly reduced in 2017, although in view of the bequests totalling £22,000 received in 2016, we again did not need to hold a Gift Day. As donors retire or move away or other circumstances change, we have experienced a reduction in income which is not being offset currently by new regular givers or other increases in giving from regular or new members.

On the application of funds, we broadly maintained our investment in mission, with overseas support to CMS and a donation to the work of the School in Kilimatinde: however with no hosting costs or expenses for a YFC team this year and with Curate's expenses also reduced, our other costs were contained. We met our Parish Share for the year in full, at £57,245.

Looking forward to 2018, we will have further maintenance costs to meet following a quinquennial building inspection in 2017 and we are investigating with the Architect the options for improving access within the building. The St Matthew's Community Centre Committee is also seeking funding for improved kitchen and toilet facilities. Our pay costs will also rise as a result of increases in pension contributions for auto enrolled staff. We continue to pay the living wage for part time secretarial and administrative support.

Once again my thanks go to Maureen Anderson, our Assistant Treasurer, who carries out the very considerable day to day work of church financial management, and to Barbara Butcher in particular our St Matthew's Community Centre Committee treasurer: and Trish our part time administrator: also to those who count and bank our collections and fees under the direction of Ken and Sylvia Shepherd and of course all those who through regular financial support and selfless giving of their time and talents help to maintain the ongoing work of Stranton Church.

BURBANK COMMUNITY CHURCH and YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Burbank Community Church

The truth be known, we are really struggling at the moment. Numbers have dropped since last year and our meetings only have 10-20 people each week. We have been praying a lot about this and at our leadership team meeting we felt God encourage us with various scriptures, the main one being:-

⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Luke 13: 6-9

We believe this means literally wait another year. But within that year start a work within the school with parents invited to the project with their children. I also want to re-advertise myself and the church to the estate, especially when I am ordained. God willing we will then start to see some fruit appear!

Overseer for Youth, Children and Family work

We have had struggles in this area too. Five leaders stood down and the YFC team finished in July 2017. This meant Matt's Mates and Be Free had to close. On the 20th May we had a joint youth day with Oxford Road Baptist Church on the field next to their church. This was run by an American football group and went very well. We also took a group from Oxford Road and Stranton Church to Explorers Camp, the young people enjoyed their week in a field! We hope to invite even more youth this summer.

In September I organised a First Aid course in St Matthew's Community Centre for 9 people - keeping our records of First Aiders up to date.

I arranged a Safeguarding Training Day on the 11th November 2017. We had 40 people receive the training, mostly people from Stranton, but we were also joined by people from St Luke's, Hart and Oxford Road churches. Sheila Bamber did a great job of facilitating the group.

We recently had the Rock Eucharist service at Stranton Church. We had seen the group at the New Wine 'Inspire' church weekend away and booked them for church, so we could share the experience with more people here in Hartlepool. I personally thought they were better in Hartlepool than when we saw them last year. The worship was good and the way they honoured God during the music and communion service was great. I would also add that the Inspire Weekend was also very good. It was great teaching and worship, but also great fellowship with all the

other church members that attended. I would encourage you to attend the event this year.

Bridge Builders

This year there are about 10-18 children attending? We thought this club would also have to close, but we managed to get a YFC resource team to come along. So Leah and Nathan have been helping Angela run the club, Claire, a lovely mum, has also been helping this last year. She lives on the Burbank Estate and her two children have attended Bridge-Builders for a long time. She mostly prepares the snacks and washes up, but this term she has agreed to prepare and lead a talk.

Ward Jackson School

July 2017 we held a wonderfully put together, but sad, farewell service for Jan Brough who stepped down as Head Teacher. September 2017 saw the start of the new Head Teacher called David Ackers. David is a young enthusiastic Christian Head and has brought many changes into the school: new staff and new procedures, all with the intent of taking the school forward and showing it is a Christian school.

Angela also started to work there in September as a Learning Mentor and Pastoral Worker. She helps to teach the emotionally hurting children in a nurture room and tries to also support staff.

Foodbank

I have been re-elected as Chair of Hartlepool Foodbank and Josie Watson from Stranton Church is the secretary, along with Andrew Craig who was re-elected as Trustee - so a strong representation from Stranton Church. We have just been audited at our AGM which shows things are all going really well for us at the moment. We now offer a Debt Counselling Service. A room has been allocated for other service providers - British Red Cross, Justice First, Open doors are now also using the room. These service providers work with Refugees and Asylum seekers. This year we employed a new coordinator for Food bank who is doing a great job in keeping everything running smoothly.

Personal News

After passing the Bishop's Advisory Panel in May 2017, I then started training in September as an ordinand with Lindisfarne. This is my third year of training and I will finish the course in June 2018.

On the 1st July 2018 I will be ordained a Deacon at Durham Cathedral. I will then be a Curate at Stranton Church. I will continue to fulfil my contractual work of running Burbank Community Church and Community work and Oversee the Adults and Children work.

I look forward to training and working alongside the people of Stranton and Burbank Church. I really appreciate all the support and prayers which you shown to me and the family during this time.

Clive

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

During a successful 2016 the number of groups using the centre increased and substantial improvements to the fabric of the building were made. At the beginning of 2017 the committee reviewed the potential strengths of the organisation as well as considering possible weaknesses. Undoubted strengths included its unique position in the centre of the local community as well as the growing reputation as a safe and friendly place, particularly for children. In addition the variety of accommodation and especially the large hall made the venue suitable for a wide range of activities which were not available elsewhere in the community. Towards the end of 2016 we had identified increased enquiries from potential users due to the closure of other facilities in the town and obviously this presented an opportunity to increase usage of the centre. It also exposed a rather large weakness, many of these potential regular users required a small storage area for their equipment which we were unable to offer. At this time we were also aware of disabled groups looking for homes but without improved facilities we would not be able to accommodate these groups.

As a result of our discussions the committee agreed the main objective during 2017 would be to produce a plan for significant structural alterations which would include new wheelchair accessible kitchen and storage facilities as well as improved disabled accommodation. The committee agreed to fund the preliminary stages of the project and worked with a recommended architect to produce plans which were submitted to Hartlepool Borough Council in March 2017. These plans were subsequently approved. The cost of some of this work was supported by donations from the ward budgets of two of our local councillors.

As well as working on the plans for the refurbishment of St Matthew's we were of course looking at potential funding sources for the proposed work and in May 2017 we made a preliminary grant application to The Tudor Trust. We heard from The Trust in September that disappointingly, this application was unsuccessful and we are currently gathering more data for applications to alternative funding sources. At this time it became evident that the small hall could not wait for the big refurbishment and the committee agreed we should go ahead and carry out redecoration of the small hall and kitchen which was showing wear and tear as a result of the large number of people using this building each week. This work was scheduled for the first half term of 2018 and supported by another donation from one of our local ward councillors.

During 2017 St Matthew's Community Centre was used by over 30 different groups, and including the uniformed groups, the majority of the groups were long term regular users. This affords stability to our income stream and allows the

committee to plan ahead. The activities were diverse and participants ranged in age from infants and toddlers to some well over the outdated retirement age. We also were hosts to an average of 2 private parties each month. The local council and ward councillors as well as the local residents' association also use the Centre regularly.

As usual there have been a number of housekeeping issues to deal with throughout the year and the majority of these have been around the lack or allocation of storage space. But the day to day minor problems have largely been dealt with by the able gentlemen members of the committee. This has reduced our outgoings in terms of repair bills and we thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

We continue to maintain good relationships with Hartlepool Borough Council and other external agencies and we have received positive support from our local ward councillors and community groups and these relationships will be important to us during our journey in 2018.

HOME GROUPS

Home Groups continue to be a source of fellowship and encouragement for those involved. There have been some changes to the number and nature of our Home Groups this year with one or two leaders moving to pastures new and others stepping down from leadership because of health reasons. Currently there are 4 adult groups, although one is under review, one meeting in the afternoon and three in the evening. In addition to this Clive and Angela run a group for young adults and I run a group for Iranian believers. Thank you to all those who take time to prepare studies and to those who host the groups. If anyone is interested in being part of a group have a chat with myself or Clive.

Norman Shave

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BELLRINGERS STRIKING COMPETITION SUCCESS

The Successful Hartlepool team:
Jan Wilderspin, Ed Mortimer, Ailsa Robinson, Andy Kaye (Stranton Tower Captain), Brian Telfer, Barbara Busby, Joseph Wilson. (Revd Andrew Craig had also taken part but had to leave early)



On 17th March 2018 Stranton Church played host to the Durham and Newcastle Association of Bellringers (D&N) 8 bell striking competition.

Teams of ringers travelled from Hexham and Benfieldside to compete with Hartlepool for the two trophies.

Bells are rung in towers to call worshippers to prayer and for weddings, etc but, additionally, bellringers are very sociable and also competitive. Ringing sequences of 8 bells in a steady rhythm is known as good striking and it takes much practice to get it right consistently. Local and national competitions are held regularly throughout the country.

Readers may remember that the weather on 17th March was, to put it politely, atrocious. Gales, snow and freezing temperatures meant that the competition was nearly cancelled. The judge had to travel from Leeds but, sensibly, chose the train.

Hartlepool have only entered this competition once before so the team was a little nervous. Fellow Hartlepool guild ringers put on a light tea in the church and each team in turn took to the ringing chamber for their “test piece”. After a few minutes of practice the tenor bell was rung to tell the judge the team was ready to start; the test took around 10 minutes. As readers would expect, the judge did not know the order of entries. He was wrapped up against the cold in a car in Camerons Car Park throughout the competition and he told everyone afterwards that he was pleased that only three teams had entered !!!.

When the results, together with the judge’s comments were read out, not only did Hartlepool find they had one the Presidents’ Plate but also the Freda Burton Cup.

The competition will be held in a different tower next year and Hartlepool are already preparing to defend their success.

Andy Kaye

4th Hartlepool



4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

Founded 1930

HQ - St Matthew's Community Centre

Boys Brigade News

The whole Company is now getting ready for our **Open Night** on **Friday 27th April** at St Matthew's Community Centre.

Then after this our Summer programme (we are always hopeful) kicks in.

This year we planned Sand Castle Competitions, Beach Olympics, trips out to various places, even a World Cup Warm Up trip to McDonalds.

Eggheads

This was held at St Matthew's Community Centre during Holy week. Our Anchor Boys and Juniors had a good time learning about the first Easter.

Fund Raising

Saturday June 9th is our **Summer Fayre** and we are collecting bric-a-brac now....

Future Events

All our efforts are now heading towards our Summer Camp at Thornthwaite Scout Centre near Harrogate which we will plan during the June half term.

We still have room for more new starters in all sections.

You can find us on Face Book.

George Bainbridge

Frances London

I, and many others within Stranton Community, were very saddened to hear of the recent unexpected death of Frances.

I first met Frances when I moved back to Hartlepool in 1991. She, along with Nancy Fearnie, looked after the children when SMACC (Stranton Mothers and Childrens Club) had their weekly meetings at Diana Wanduragala's home. We always finished on time to pick up our older children from school as Frances had to leave to walk to her job as a lollipop lady, safely crossing Ward Jackson and St Joseph's school children across the dual carriage way on Stockton Street! The children always had a thoroughly good time in their crèche and she was much loved.

Frances later moved to the Park Road/Eldon Grove crossing for Eldon Grove School. She loved her job and her welcoming smile led to chats with children, parents and members of the passing public. She took every opportunity to pass on the message of the Gospel.

Frances was an active member of the church community – she was a member of PCC, she sang for many years in the choir and the Music Group, where she shared high and low moments of her life with us, she attended weekends away at Redmire and Elm House, and regularly attended Prayer and Praise.

I frequently gave her lifts to and from Women's Aglow when it was active in Hartlepool.

Although she was a Lib-Deb Councillor for several years – she was the most unpolitical person I knew. The 'nasty aspects' of local politics just passed her by as she just tried to 'help her neighbours'.

She participated in all aspects of church life from Barn Dances to Fund Raisers. She actively engaged in conversation, seeking out strangers and new members of the Church. A smile was always on her lips and her trust in God and his plans for each of us was absolute. Her prayers were always from the heart and filled with love for Our Lord.

She loved her children and relished being a grandmother – always sharing their trials and tribulations as they have grown up.

I can't ever remember hearing Frances say a bad word about anyone – no matter how provoked she was at times. She always looked for the good points and prayed for their 'difficulties'.

Frances London was 'one of a kind' – as she takes her place in eternity – she will be missed by those left behind waiting.....

J.A.R.

Strantonians and The Battle of Aisne

Same Day - Double Tragedy

Privates Thomas Benjamin Lowe and George John Muir both took part in the battle of Aisne.

They both died on the first day of the battle on May 27th 1918 and are remembered on the Soisson Memorial in France.

Thomas was 18 and a half when he died and lived in 24 Baden Street, he served with the Royal Lancashire Regiment.

George was a dock worker prior to joining up, he lived at 51 Charlotte Street.

Soisson Memorial



Ernest Ransome Lazenby From Silver to Military Service



Ernest was born in 1883 at River Head, Driffield, Yorkshire. His family moved to 27 Wharton Street, West Hartlepool and his father (Thomas) worked as caretaker for the Town Hall. He was the 4th child out of 9!!

He worked as a butler and married Shebe Agnes Robinson on the 3rd April 1915 and their son Alfred Charles was born in January 1916

He enlisted at Shepherd's Bush, Middlesex, as a resident of 'Leatherhead, Surrey' - 27720, Private, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

He too died at the Battle of Aisne on 31st May 1918 and is also remembered on the Soisson Memorial.

His mother (Esther) requested that Ernest was to be remembered on the plaque at Stranton Church.

CELEBRATE!

**May
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to**



Josh Anderson
Sarah Cartwright
Elspeth Craig
Violeta Demas
Kath Harkness
Mike Peacock
Eve Coils
Andrew Rogers
Kath Weimer
Janice Young

**Congratulations
on your
Wedding Anniversary**

Andrew & Louise Robertson
Amy & Phil Warnes
David & Megan Robertson



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 May and early June 2018

May

- Tues 8th Standing Committee, The Vicarage 7.30pm
- Thurs 10th Holy Communion for Ascension Day, Church 7.00pm
- Sat 12th Thy Kingdom Come - Prayer Walk, Victory Square,
10.00am
- Mon 14th Clergy Visitation, The Cathedral
- Men's evening with Geoff Sutton, venue The Duke of Cleveland
- Tues 15th Lighthouse Planning, The Vicarage 7.30pm
- Wed 16th PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm
- Sun 20th Messy Church, St Matthew's CC, 4.00pm
- Sun 20th Thy Kingdom Come Service, Durham Cathedral, 7.30pm
- Tues 22nd New beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel, 7.30pm
- ### June
- Mon 4th Buildings & Finance, The Vicarage, 7.30pm
- Sat 9th BB Summer Fayre
- Sun 10th Messy Church, St Matthew's CC, 4pm

Sidespersons



| | 8.30am | 10.30am |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------|
| May 6th | B Butcher | D Greenwood B Greenwood |
| May 13th | M Hutchinson | A Craig Volunteer |
| May 20th | I Walker | S Shepherd K Shepherd |
| May 27th | P Porritt | D Greenwood B Greenwood |

Baptisms



| | |
|------------|--|
| March 31st | Lorenz Marcus Newing |
| April 21st | Malika Louise Unsworth |
| April 22nd | Fleur Isla Reay Martha Mary-Jean Collings |

Funerals

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| March 29th | Allen Tozer |
| April 5th | Anne Robinson |
| April 26th | Frances London |



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

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.

