

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

November 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 November 2018** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

The most obvious and least controversial of the 10 commandments is probably the sixth: You Must Not Murder. Anyone disagree? Anyone secretly squirming in your seat because you might have done a little white one? I thought not.

But see what Jesus said about this commandment: “But I say, if you are angry with someone you are subject to judgment; if you call someone “*Raca*”* you will be subject to the court; and if you call someone “fool” you deserve to go to hell.”(Matthew 5:22) (**Raca* was a term of public abuse). That puts a different gloss on it. As Jesus interpreted it, *You Must Not Murder* actually means *You Must Not Abuse or Disrespect*. Abuse and disrespect are breaking God’s law. This applies to individuals and it also applies to communities and whole societies. Arrogance inevitably leads to disrespect and abuse, such as the arrogance that led to the European nations falling into the first Great War, the centenary of the ending of which we commemorate on 11th November. Millions of mainly young men in their 20s and 30s perished on the Eastern and Western Fronts – all in all about 19 million people are estimated to have died (murdered) as a result of the War. But the sin (the breaking of God’s law) didn’t end there. The Treaty of Versailles that brought that War to an end further humiliated (abused and disrespected) the German nation and this nourished rising nationalism, the great evil of Nazism, which led directly into another even worse World War and the Holocaust, in which about 60 million people are estimated to have died, including many through famine and disease during and shortly after the conflict.

To an extent lessons were learnt. The United Nations and its Declaration of Human Rights (much of which is based on the 6th Commandment) have prevented another global war. However this part of God’s law is still widely broken and we are heavily implicated. At the time of writing this article in mid-October I can immediately think of two examples currently in the news. One is the scandal uncovered in Dame Laura Cox’s report about bullying and harassment in the Palace of Westminster; and another is the likely murder of the dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Why has that got anything to do with us? Because as a nation and in close collaboration with the USA we have tolerated and encouraged the abusive regime that persecutes Christians and other minorities and makes war in Yemen in which already tens of thousands have been killed (murdered). The “friendly” Saudi Government keeps the price of oil down for our benefit and purchases huge quantities of arms and other goods from us, helping our economy.

So as we commemorate the ending of the First World War, remember the 6th Commandment. Respect every human being in Christ’s name; pray for our politicians and Leaders of Industry to respect God’s law; be aware and pray with what you vote for; and give thanks that we have the respect, and the responsibility, of freedom to speak and not be abused.

With love, **Andrew**

MOTHER`S UNION

Let's start with thanks to Joyce Dryden, Kath Weimer and Jean Connell who stood in for a speaker unable to come to our last meeting. These ladies told us of their lives on farms whilst growing up in the countryside, of the pattern of the year and of the long walks to get to school. Joyce still lives on a family farm and provided the contrast between then and the farming methods, and machines of today. I was struck by the way the Old Saxon method of letting harvested land rest fallow or being sown with a crop to replenish the soil is still being followed today. I am also from a farming family on my mother's French Canadian side and know of the difficulties of the weather, infestations and stock problems. We enjoyed singing some older harvest hymns - "Come you thankful people come" and "We plough the fields and scatter" etc. At a time in our world when other farmers in different lands face floods, climate change, landslides and drought make us ever mindful of where and how our food comes to us and be truly thankful.

Our new MU Worldwide President is a lady who lives Guyana called Sheran Harper. This is an historic moment as all previous Worldwide Presidents have been from the UK. Please pray for Sheran as she takes up this leadership role and continue to support her in prayer during her time as MU World Leader following in the footsteps of our founder Mary Sumner.

Our next meeting is on November 12th, the day after Remembrance Sunday. Jean Connell and I were asked to make some poppies for this and we (especially Jean!) made enough to represent all the members of our branch. We are the last of those who are able to remember family members who fought in that particular conflict and lived to tell us their stories.

Our Advent Service this year is being held in the Small Hall at St Matthew's Community Centre on November 26th at 2pm. We are having a Christmas meal at The Marine Hotel on December 17th at 12 noon. Please let me know if you are able to attend and what you would like from the menu.

I still have a selection of Christmas cards, calendars and diaries – I'll have them at our next meeting.

Please pray for each other and our sister branch at St Luke's. In the time before Christmas arrives we can get caught up in preparation and general busyness – take time to just sit and think how God's son was born not to a famous, rich and influential family but to a lowly, undervalued couple, to show the strength of His love for mankind then and now.

God bless,
Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

The last year has certainly made me value 'listening' far more. Not just being listened to, but also listening to others.

The months leading up to my Dad's death I had to 'listen' to the way Dad spoke to gauge how he was really actually feeling. I could detect despair, pain, frustration when I tuned in to his voice. I knew when he wanted to recall events in his life and I just settled down to listen, and usually be enthralled at the details he remembered after so many years.

In the weeks after his death I had to listen to myself – after months of caring and supporting Dad and others close to me, I could feel I was looking inwards, had lost my purpose and was not coping with normal life. I actively sort out someone neutral who conversed and listened to me and helped me sought out my emotions, feelings and build a new way forward. I couldn't have coped at all without friends who listened and understood, who prayed with me and for me, who upheld me when I was struggling.

As I started to grieve, heal and recover I found that other people's emotional difficulties became more obvious to me within even mundane conversations. A new awareness has grown which enables be to say or write something which helps to unlock the unspoken fears and worries in others. It is not always easy to listen to the pain of others, but I recognise their need to speak out all the turmoil and inner aching, their doubts and guilt to someone who has empathy and is not judging them. Sometimes it has given comfort immediately to the speaker. At times the dialogues have been protracted and ongoing over months. On occasions I have been able to point them towards their 'neutral other'. Prayers have been gratefully received, or ongoing prayer support sought. At times I have just had to walk away and pray for their unknown problems and situations certain that God has laid the person on my heart. It is amazing how a random phone call, text, email can make a person feel they are not alone, that they are valued and cared about and that they are not carrying their burden alone!

I have learned to listen to God more carefully. To hear His prompts in the dead of night or the busyness of a staff room. Also to be more open to His voice speaking into situations and to trust the words that He gives are His words and not mine..... Too often in this life we don't make time to listen to and hear those around us. But if we can't find the time to listen to others, who will find the time to listen to you in your time of need?

J.A.R.

Harvest Ceilidh

A great time was had by all those who attended the Harvest Ceilidh at St Matthew's Community Centre on Saturday 13th October. It was wonderful to welcome members of St Luke's and St Aidan's congregations – who all joined in enthusiastically!

Sunniside-up Band provided the music for everyone to dance to and it was great to see all ages and nationalities joining in.

The Faith Supper was delicious – thank you to everyone for your contributions.

An especially big thank you to Trish and her wonderful helpers for organising the evening and for the amazing raffle prizes.... See just what you missed in the photos.





Harvest Festival and Parade October 14th

Boys Brigade, Girl Guides and Rainbows joined families from Messy Church and regular congregation members to give thanks for the harvest. Using Matthew 6:25 – the birds of the air and the flowers of the field we were reminded that God provides for all our needs.

Non perishable goods were donated to supply the Food Bank with much needed provisions. We were also asked to sign a petition asking the Government to look at the Universal Credit benefit which in its present state is actually causing an increase in hardship for individuals and families and leading to a huge rise in people needing help from Food Banks.



The Junior Boys Brigade members gave a hand-bell ringing demonstration and the children were keen to join in with the action song. Everyone took part in the quiz which led into Norman's talk.



October Strantonians and the Great War part 2

Corporal Albert Shaw MM

He served in the Northumberland Fusiliers and won the Military Medal during the war. He was originally from Sheffield/Halifax and was married to Annie Mulley in 1914. He is buried at Foreville Military Cemetery in France.

I have been unable to find a direct connection to Hartlepool or Stranton so if anyone can help establish a link please let me know.

Military Medal -'For Bravery in the Field'



Private Jacob Brown served with the Sherwood Foresters and was killed whilst fighting in the final advance of the war on 9th October 1918. He is buried at Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-Au-Bois in France.

His family chose the simple epitaph Rest in Peace - which is engraved on his tombstone ((each letter cost 9d)

Gunner Thomas William Summersgill took part in the Hundred Days Offensive. He died of injuries on the 17th October 1918 and is buried at Roisel Communal Cemetery, Extens, France.

The Summersgill family who lived at 195 Burbank Street, have a very tragic story regarding the Great War as John Fall (August 1918), Albert (14th October 1917) and Thomas William all died serving their King & Country

St Matthew's Community Centre

Great news - after 18 months of preparation, planning and praying the Centre has been given a grant of £80,000 from the Garfield & Weston Foundation.

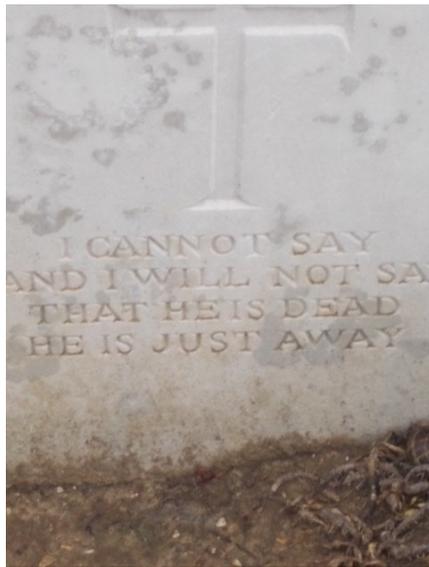
The grant will be used towards the refurbishing the North end of St Matthew's including a new larger kitchen, disabled toilets and the complete linkage of all the buildings

This grant is for the shell of the refurbishment but we are hopeful for further funding so that everything can refitted - please pray for this.

Once the build is completed two groups will have access to use either hall at the same times thus further opening up St Matthew's to the local community. St Matthew's will be suitable for the middle era of the 21st Century.

Whilst all the hall committee have played their part in these applications for grants, special thanks should go to Barbara Butcher who has been a very forceful "mover and shaker" in this project.

In Remembrance



The Epitaph on the headstone reads
I cannot say I do not say that he is dead he is just away
A definition of false hope some would say
Denying death is a sadly futile cause
For the evidence is laid before you
One death can be denied
He even reassured the woman who cried
Near an entrance to an empty tomb
Just as witnesses identified the soldier
Many did with the risen Lord
Remember both for one gave his life
To protect this sceptred isle and all its freedoms
The other gave His life to pay for your redemption

ST MATTHEW'S CRAFT GROUP

We are changing our meeting time from Wednesday evening to a Friday afternoon starting on 2nd November from 1pm – 3pm, so if you sit at home on your own knitting, sewing, cross stitching or doing any other hobbies why not come along and join with other like-minded people.

We can offer you a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits and a friendly and sociable 2 hours.

For more information contact Barbara Butcher Tel: 01429 298241

Ward Jackson CE News



Roseberry Topping

On Monday, Sepia and Wingfield class had a fantastic trip to Roseberry Topping, as part of their topic 'Misty Mountain Sierra.' We experienced what it is like to be a mountaineer, and even had our lunch right at the top. All of the children were fantastic during the day and were great at encouraging each other. Well done everyone!

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest Festival celebrations last Monday. Also a huge thank you to everyone who donated food and produce for the service.



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Posada

Those of us with reasonably long memories in Stranton Church will remember Posada – figurines of the Holy Family that we share during the season of Advent. Joseph, Mary and Jesus make a symbolic journey round our homes, finishing up in Church in time for Christmas. There are special prayers to help us prepare for our Festival of the Incarnation.

St Luke's would like to invite us all (in Stranton and St Aidan's) to share Posada with them. Families sign up to collect them from one home, keep them for 24 hours, and then pass them on to the next family to collect and receive them. If you would like to take part, please contact Rev'd Andrew Craig or Julia Taylor (St Luke's Parish Office – 281122). We will pass a list round in November.

Youth and families news

Hello Readers

With a partnership of Burbank church, the PMC and staff of Ward Jackson School a new after school club began on 9th October. It is called **CREATE**. This name was chosen because we CREATE things during craft time and then we ATE food.

We started with worksheets collected on the way in. Then had a bible story followed by a fun song. We later played a few games as a group with the children while the food was set up.

Shirley, the school cook, made a lovely buffet of food for everyone. There were 23 adults, 40 children and a further 9 children from the school's normal afterschool club who joined us. Including volunteers we were 80 people in total! A really promising start for this club and we plan to run another one on the 4th December.

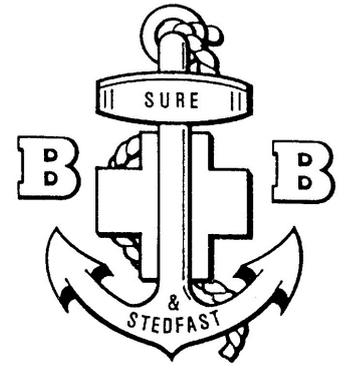
We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day itself, so talk to Clive or Norman if you are interested.

YF (Youth Fellowship) is on Sunday evening 7:15 till 9:30pm. There are 10 youths who come along and enjoy the evening together. Last week we had a trip to Durham Cathedral which had been turned into the "World's Biggest Escape Room" and all the assembled youth had to find the way to get out of it!!

At the present time YF is very short of adult leaders. Please could you consider volunteering to help keep this group running. Remember the young people are the future of God's kingdom here on earth.....
Again talk to Clive or Norman.



Hartlepool Boys Brigade Founded 1930



**HQ - St Matthew's
Community Centre**

Boys Brigade News Harvest Festival

The Anchor Boys prepared by completing a five week project based on the fruits of the spirit and the birds of the air – these were displayed so everyone could see their work prior or after the service. Altogether we had 22 members on parade.

On the day of the service we all enjoyed a bacon butty at St Matthew's before travelling down to church.



The Juniors – played the hand bells including All Things Bright and Beautiful and the chorus of We Plough the Fields and Scatter, which they played brilliantly during the service

Anchor Boys – we still have room for more members aged 6 – 8 years old – activities include crafts, quizzes, games and lots of fun.

The Juniors are looking forward to the Battalion 5 a side tournament at St Matthew's on Monday 19th November

Company - again we are seeking new members. We are in the process of booking our Camp at Melton Scout Centre near Hull.

Christmas Fayre 1st December at St Matthew's

we are collecting bric a brac for this - if you need any collecting please ring

George Bainbridge on 07816445829

Chris & Ros Smith News #13

October 2018

Dear Everyone

I have been trying and trying to get around to sending this prayer-letter. Things have kept changing - are we at a good spot? A hard spot? News from the UK has been very up and down. Getting used to Dalat is not a four-week process and that has not been easy. Our colleagues are very kind but it is a BIG adjustment. So, apart from communication problems (where there have been several) we have been very very caught up in making sense of life and living here in Penang and our apologies for keeping you waiting

We appear to be appreciated in our roles here. We continue to be concerned about our boys' adjustment to schooling and life here, so we would commend that to your prayers.

This area is different again to the parts of Malaysia we visited recently. Dalat



School is nestled in between tall hotels and huge tower blocks. The local area is full of surprises - instead of spotting grey squirrels, Aden and Thomas have spotted a large (8 inches) lizard in the car park, Ros has seen a large monkey with baby hanging on, and we regularly have to navigate two cows whose sole job in life seems to sit, untethered, by the roadside and munch grass.

Dalat School is placed by a busy main road, so getting pictures of the school “car-free” is quite tricky.

At the time of writing, we have been dealing with several difficult matters all at the same time.

Chris' mum has been in hospital, very ill. So much so, that Chris was about to request bereavement leave of absence from Dalat to return to the UK to be with close family. Dalat School leadership has been very sympathetic to this situation. However, just at the crucial time (and quite possibly because of the prayers of the saints!!) she has made an incredible recovery. Doctors say that she has been affected (weakened) by the illness but is out of immediate danger and has just been discharged.

Chris and Ros have both been coming to terms with workload and ways of working at Dalat that feel quite different to their time in Faith Academy. The way of working for Chris is much more explicitly “American” curriculum based and “feels” more

American than before. Ros has found herself being asked to work in a much more structured (and more “teacher-ish”) way than she was expecting. One surprise for us has been how difficult and slow it is to import any books into Malaysia. Tricky for librarians trying to restock their shelves!

For a long while we have been without regular email and Internet at home, which has slowed down communication a lot. We have now got a local Malaysian car, which is perfectly adequate for travel between home and school. However, for longer journeys it is probably too small and the traffic driving style here is very different. It is all a bit unsettling for British drivers used to driving lanes that go somewhere and don’t end abruptly or morph almost instantly into a U turn or right hand turn lane. Stopping at a red light seems normal enough, except that Red doesn’t always seem to mean Stop to the local guys. What’s more, if you are the only car waiting to turn right you have to be praying that everyone driving up behind you KNOWS it is now a filter lane and not part of what was (until 50 metres before) the fast overtaking lane.....

The boys have experienced some school “culture shock”. Thomas is really enjoying every opportunity to get on the school computer system to enjoy the “Mathletics” learning programme and is beginning to make friends. Aden has been vaulted into American History (pictures of ALL the U.S. Presidents look down at him from his classroom walls), a different way of calculating (Singapore Maths) and an expected different way of presenting his handwriting. He has found the Boy Scouts but narrowly missed out on the Grade 4 football training programme (oversubscribed). However, next week we hope to enrol both boys at a local club similar to their old Kings Church (well, they play in red anyway).



50 years to the Hour



Now



Then

On Friday 12th October 2018 at 3pm, Margaret, (nee Brownless) and her husband, Dr William Robert King visited All Saints Church - 50 years to the hour of their wedding on 12th October 1968 at 3pm, officiated by Rev. Leon Heatley. They had travelled up from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire to be with family and friends here in Hartlepool for their Golden Wedding celebrations over the weekend.

Dr William King is from the King family, who owned Wm King (West Hartlepool) Ltd. - a wholesale grocery business covering the North East and based in Villiers Street. His mother was a Clennett, a family that owned and managed 4 retail grocery shops (Clennett Stores) in the area, which may be remembered by some of our older church members.

Dr King has been employed in the food industry for all his working life and after University, joined RHM Research Ltd. in High Wycombe, to be a senior member of the management team to invent, develop and scale up the production of the novel protein food product, Quorn.

Mrs Margaret King said that they first met on a badminton court in St Aidan's Church Hall at weekly club nights. When asked about the weather on her wedding day, she said that it was very windy and very similar to today - without the rain - so some things never change much! May I on behalf of all at Stranton Church wish them both the best and thank them for a very happy visit.

David House.

CELEBRATE!

**November
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to**



Sally Clarke
Linda Cartwright
Debbie Coxon
Ann Cuthbert
Anna Jennett
Jasmine Padgett
Sylvia Shepherd
Mike Weimer
Rachel Wilson

**Congratulations
to**

Chloe & Jordan Thornhill
on the arrival of
Asher Mark on October 12th
weighing 9lbs 5oz



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 November and early December

November

- Sun 4th 10.30am **Stranton Sunday:** *a united service for All Saints Day, followed by shared lunch*
6.00pm **Civic Service:** *we welcome the Ceremonial Mayor and other dignitaries and the English Martyrs and 6th Form Choir.*
- Sun 11th **Remembrance Sunday:** *On the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War all our services will include an act of remembrance.*
10.45am Remembrance Service at The Cenotaph
4.00pm **Service for Bereaved** in church
- Mon 12th 7.30pm Lighthouse Planning, 40 Browning Ave.
- Tues 13th 7.30pm Buildings & Finance, The Vicarage
- Sat 17th 10am-1pm Burn Valley North and St Matthew's Community Centre Christmas Fayre at St Matthew's
- Sun 18th 4.00pm Messy Church, St Matthew's Community Centre
- Wed 21st 1.30pm St Matthew's Hall Committee, Asda Room
- Wed 21st 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel
- Sun 25th 10.30am Lighthouse Service, Church
- Tues 27th 7.30pm Standing Committee, The Vicarage

December

- Sat 1st 9.30-12noon Boys Brigade Christmas Fayre, St Matthew's
- Sun 9th 4.00pm **Christingle:** *Come and join us as we welcome children, local school choirs and families*

Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
4 Nov	No Service	N Proffit A Craig
11 Nov	M Hutchinson	S Shepherd K Shepherd
18 Nov	P Porritt	D Greenwood B Gredwood
25 Nov	P Thompson	J Lawson K lawson



Baptisms

30th Sept	Harley Paul Kidson
7 Oct	Evie Lily Rathbone Loynes



Funerals

4 Oct	Elsie Ellis
11 Oct	Margaret Ann Dixon



Who's Who

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