

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 2019

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 **17th February 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

New Year Reflection

It is a standing joke. Can we get through a conversation or a meeting without someone mentioning the “B” word? Seriously, though, whatever solution Theresa May comes up with, a significant part of the population of our country is going to be very unhappy with it. Up to half of us regard the EU as an evil to be escaped from at any cost, and many on the other side see it as an important force for peace, prosperity and stability in the modern world and view the movement for us to leave as evil.

Whatever way forward Mrs May finds, our world is full of evil. You can't avoid it. If you consider even just the 20th Century, that had two world wars and (at least) two holocausts. These are far worse evils than any of us have to deal with. In every century there have been great evils – persecutions, slavery, torture, earthquakes, disasters, diseases, bubonic plague, wars and famines to name a few. Give thanks that we don't experience most of these today.

The last line of the Lord's Prayer (before giving God the ultimate glory) asks God not to lead us into temptation but to deliver us from evil. It's difficult to avoid evil, even with God's help, so what does that mean? If you are a persecuted Christian in Northern Nigeria, a Pakistani believer wrongly imprisoned for “blasphemy” or a Syrian refugee from Isis, why hasn't God spared you the consequences of these evils?

This verse starts with “do not bring us into temptation”. Popularly, “temptation” is associated with chocolates or a beautiful woman (or man) who isn't your spouse; something that will draw you away from “the straight and narrow”. But actually the prayer means “help us not to be drawn away from God”. It is more an expression of your will and your intention to do what you can to stay close to God than it is about asking for God's assistance in evading evil.

The Greek word for “evil” (*ponerou*) means “the evil one” – the one who causes or allows bad things to happen, which Christians usually understand as Satan. Who Satan is and where he comes from is not a question I am going to try to answer here, but consider this: there are influences and people who would draw us away from God and prevent us from enjoying his forgiveness and his love. The end of this prayer is not to prevent bad things from happening to us, nor to insulate us from evil in the world. The end of the prayer is for us to stay close to God whatever happens to us and not let anything or anyone drive a wedge between us and the Lord who made heaven and earth, caused his beloved son to suffer the worst consequences of evil, and, through him, gives us power to be called his children.

God bless you and protect you and keep you close to him.

With love, **Andrew**

Mothers Union

Today is a lovely bright, but cold winter's day. The sea is rough, but no wind or snow like yesterday. After coming back from the beach with Ember my dog, I've been in the garden to replenish the bird tables. I've also tried to de-ice the water bowls for the brave birds who still need to drink and bathe their dusty feathers although the temperatures drop. We are now finally into winter's grip after having a mild time thus far.

Looking back to December our Advent Service seems a while back now. We sang our hymns, lit our candles, prayed and looked forward to the birth of Christ. Do we leave Christ there in the stable? Or do we take him with us as we return to our normal lives? Michelle, our curate, was so looking forward to joining with us for our service, but was unable to. Please continue to pray for her during her family's health problems.

Since the last magazine we have had the funeral of Sylvia Smith. Sylvia was a member of our branch for many years, she enjoyed our meetings and many times we laughed together. Sylvia was also a prayerful and spiritual lady – she belonged to a prayer group and was faithful in prayer. We and her family miss her.

We started 2019 with a 'Wave of Prayer' meeting, followed by a Beetle Drive and a shared Faith Tea. We were unable to be in the Asda Room due to lack of working electrics at that end of the hall, but settled ourselves in a pleurably warm Small Hall. Many thanks to Carol Laud who helped with the heating and moving, plus thanks to MU members who helped too. We had a good time together remembering our MU sisters around the world. Then we played 'Beetle', learning to be patient throwing dice getting many body parts – before getting the body!! Then we had time over tea to catch up with each other. Please remember those unable to join us because of illness.

Membership fees are due – they remain the same as last year - £17.50. Please see Joan Herbert to pay.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th February at 1:30 pm in the Asda Room.

Please pray for our Branch and St Luke's Branch, MU in our area, Great Britain and Worldwide that we will continue in prayer and worship as God's hands across the World.

God Bless, with love

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

It's strange isn't it how we subconsciously seek the things we can't have, even if it is as second hand experience! I have just had my second knee replacement and the recovery is slow and painful. I have spent much of the Festive Season indoors, with limited short trips out in the car to prevent me from going stir crazy!

I felt drawn to read a Stuart Maconie book all about his walking experiences in the Lakes (completing The Wainwrights), Derbyshire, Cornwall and Scotland. Now I'm not that keen a walker, but I do enjoy a stroll through magnificent and varied countryside and coastal routes, plus over the last few years I have missed the views, fresh air and freedom such rambling allows - be it Summerhill, North York Moors, the land around my sister's home in the Borders or the river bank near my sister and brother in law's lodge in Sedbergh or around the Blue Lagoon. As I force myself through the painful daily exercise regime set out by my physio I pray that by the summer these memories will become a reality again for me. I miss being able to walk my dog around the area, where I love observing signs of the seasons, meeting neighbours and fellow dog walkers. Through the written word I am still able to experience these pleasures – but only in my head...

Everyday activities which I enjoy or take for granted are limited – cooking, ironing, gardening even sitting at a table to eat, or carrying washing upstairs and bringing things downstairs are all a challenge. But with thought and planning I am able to achieve most of these things to some degree. I have learnt to think out of the box and adapt my approaches.

My sleep is often disturbed but I use my wakeful hours to read, listen to music and pray - as a result I don't feel over tired after only a few hours of sleep throughout the night.

I have to have faith that all will be okay in the end, but I just don't know how long it will take to fully recover and what complications may arise along the way! But I do feel that I have been surrounded in prayer and although unable to get to church I have felt God's nearness at times of need. I know that I have learnt patience, perseverance, resilience and ways to overcome problems. I have pushed to retrieve my lost independence – but have been so grateful for the help I have received from friends and family along the way. To quote the songwriter Joe King - '..to become an overcomer we need things to overcome'.

J.A.R.

Help needed at Toddlers

We are looking for someone to help with refreshments at Toddlers on Tuesday mornings. Ann Courtenay is planning to step down following Christmas after fifteen years of helping week by week.

When I took on the role of running Toddlers, I was really pleased to find that there was a group of ladies coming to prepare snacks for the children: Ann, Sally, Jan, Barbara, Carol and Sylvia (not all there each week!) I know that there have been many others helpers in the years since the group started, way before we came to Hartlepool. Lately the task has been shared between Ann and Pam. My thanks to each one of you.

There is no expectation that new helpers need to commit long term.

The task involves cutting up fruit and putting out simple snacks on trays for the children, making tea and coffee and then washing up afterwards. The time involved is 9-10:30 am. If there are one or two more volunteers there is no need to be there every Tuesday.

The Toddler Group continues to be very popular and well used and some extra help each week would be very greatly appreciated. If you feel able to help in any way, please have a chat with Julie or Ann.

Julie Shave



KATHERINE AND TONY PATON
DECEMBER 2018

Dear friends,

Well, how time flies! I can't believe it is nearly Christmas again already. Preparations here for Christmas are in full swing. Well, actually they aren't. In this Buddhist land, we are barely getting over Halloween.

Signs of Christmas are yet to emerge and when they do, they will be almost exclusively Santa-themed. Officially, they don't do Christmas here, it is just a regular working day. However, to prevent any possibility of faint murmurs of discontent, the Gregorian calendar New Year is a holiday, which is a welcome break. I write this accompanied by the throbbing rhythms from a fixed, albeit floating, restaurant's houseband invading my senses. It's from the other side of the river but a stone's throw from our house. I keep telling myself that it is far less bad than the open-air karaoke bar neighbours, who forced us to leave our previous home in search of pastures new and quieter. However, there is no doubt that the riverside of the capital city in which we live is being spoiled/undergoing development and it feels like it's stalking us! We have paid rent on this house until the end of February but this has not stopped us looking for other potential places to stay. We invested quite a lot of time, energy and money into making this place feel more suitable as a home. I think deep down that neither of us really wants to face another move, but unless some merciful soul slips the mooring ropes and allows our entertaining friends to float off downstream and out of ear-shot, then we may be left with no other option.

Workwise, things plod on; in some ways it hardly seems any time since we returned here from the UK.

Since I am no longer teaching English, I do appreciate having more time to focus on ministry and yet, as those of you who have "retired" can probably testify, it is still a mystery where all the time goes. Things still feel pretty much up in the air with regards to my new role – not yet having an office or even a desk at my as yet hypothetical workplace no doubt compounds this feeling. My main "partner in crime" in the "hospital" ministry only returned to this country just over a week ago, so we will be meeting up to discuss future plans and how we set about making the work sustainable beyond our own time here.

An important part of my work is trying to draw up a list of resources. It is my hope that we will be able to connect people in need to people who can offer them the right kind of help in coping with addictions or in avoiding being trafficked etc., whatever their problems.

It will obviously take time before people get it but I believe what we are pioneering here is so necessary and so worthwhile and will be a real blessing, in a country where mental health services are next to non-existent. Please pray about all of this. Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS) continues with the usual events hopefully taking place at Advent and Christmas. A Gospel

Music Festival is taking place this weekend. Please pray that many hearts and minds will be touched by this event. It is a marvellous testimony to the faith and courage of the local believers who have worked so hard to bring it into being.

We have a new house helper, Nimid, niece of Bouakham (our former house help). Nimid recently finished school and moved to the capital to study accounting at a Korean college in the morning and works for us in the afternoon. She comes from a difficult family background as her parents separated and at one point she was living on her own with her younger brother. CHS is helping to support her 13 year old younger brother who is currently at a Christian drug rehab centre.

Praise and thanks to God for Christmas. For all its busyness, we have much to celebrate in Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

Katherine and Tony, Anna, Innes, Euan
and Eilidh

You can give online to
Katherine and Tony at:
churchmissionsociety.org/kt

Contact details:
patons@gmail.com

PRAYER POINTS...

Pray for the helpline and that it will be used; pray also for the volunteers, most of whom are not Christians, and pray that those that are would be a good witness.

Pray about schooling options for Anna for next year. She recently completed an application for a programme and we wait to hear about the next step.

Pray that we would know and have peace about the next step in her education.

Pray for Nimid, our new house help, as she adjusts to life in the capital. Pray for her studies and that we are able to form a good relationship with her. Pray also for her brother as he misses home; pray that the support and treatment he is receiving will help

Chris & Ros Smith News #14

December 2018

The pace of campus life for Ros and myself seems to be relentless. There is always something to teach, something to “grade”, meetings to go to. There is a lot to do to adjust to this strongly American culture, something we thought we already “knew”.

In the midst of the hectic build up to QuarterBreak, an inter-School [that is, inter-International School] Volleyball tournament was hosted by Dalat – which brought together teams from several International schools, including... Faith Academy! Sure, it was High School level play, but we drifted into the audiences for nostalgic reasons, then discovered torn loyalties in the ***Dalat v Faith*** match – which team to shout for?

It was a complete delight to realise that two of the Faith team’s accompanying adults were Phil and Mary Parsons – now sort of retired and no longer at Faith Manila but very much part of our years in the Philippines (Phil was High School Principal for several years). It was a lovely re-connection to talk with them and “catch up”.... Aden was newborn the last time we saw them. Phil clearly enjoyed chatting to Aden as much as to us. Aden and Thomas have begun to settle into Penang International Football School. PIFS seems to compete in many local tournaments as well as “friendlies”. Aden played a tournament with them in his second week... in the fourth week both boys were in a tournament on the same team! We are still hoping that the boys’ “friendship opportunities” will continue to grow. It doesn’t seem as easy to arrange social “playdates” as it was in the UK somehow.... maybe because the people we meet most are as busy as we are! There was a pause “of sorts” when we reached Quarter Break. No travelling around for us though. We did enough of that getting here! A couple of opportunities came to Aden in Grade 4 that have not yet reached Thomas (in Grade 2). During November Aden was selected for a School Track and Field team, and acquitted himself well – dedicated training and great participation. It is great to hear him talking about “the team” as his priority. He also successfully joined the School Drama group and performed their contemporary Christmas Nativity.



One thing which has not been mentioned on the attached prayer letter was the recent death of my mum Sylvia after a long stretch of affliction from dementia and declining strength.

I returned to Hartlepool for her funeral.

The last three weeks have been dominated by the "breaking news" alongside the demands of life and family in the Dalat school community. We are trying to share and celebrate some of the recent highlights of our time, and will reflect on Mum a bit more in the next prayer update.

With thanks,
Chris

Sylvia Smith, 18/3/33 – 3/12/18

Sylvia Cloke was born in Hartlepool on 18th March 1933. With her younger sister Dorothy she was brought up in the family home in Welldeck Road. She went to Jesmond Road School and, passing the 11+ exam, went on to the High School for Girls. She went to St Luke's Brownies and Guides and showed an early interest in amateur dramatics, taking part in a school production of Dido & Aeneas, then going on to join the St Luke's Players – and the ICI Synthonia Players. Leaving school at 16, she went to work at ICI, released part time to study typing and shorthand at college.

She also joined the Sea Rangers and eventually started to get to know a member of the Sea Cadets, one Alan Smith. They first met at a Christmas Party for both organizations. It was interesting that they belonged to the Sea Rangers and Cadets, because neither of them could swim! They didn't like water and they refrained from going out in boats. However the organizations did do one thing for Sylvia and Alan. And just as soon as they were able to, at the end of Alan's National Service, they were married at St Luke's Church, on 1st September 1956. As many young married couples did in those days, they lived with Alan's widowed mum Mildred at first. Never ones to borrow money, they saved for a home of their own until their first child was on the way and Mildred was re-marrying so they had to move out. Their first home was in Blakelock Road where they stayed for about 5 years, before moving to a larger house in Oakland Avenue, which was Sylvia's home for the next 50 years, and where they brought up their children Christopher and Eleanor. Eventually, and she had to wait quite a long time for this, she had two grandsons Aden and Thomas.

When her children were at school, Sylvia went back to college and qualified to teach typing and shorthand, taking on a post at the Technical College as a teacher. She also, for a while, worked for the Sports Mail as a copy taker. For those of us who find it difficult to remember what it was like before we had electronic communications, this meant taking reports over the phone using shorthand, typing them up - and then sending the typescripts up to the Sub-editor's department on the next floor. Her offspring were pressed into service as runners. Another part time job she did was with W A Smith, the insurance brokers.

For holidays Sylvia and Alan took their children to Butlins at Filey, Ayr and Minehead and then they acquired a tent. Eventually Sylvia decided

she didn't want to camp any more, so they bought a static caravan at Winston Bridge, near Barnard Castle. Although she had given up her amateur dramatics when she married, Sylvia maintained a close interest in her children's performances. She also sang in the Women's Circle choir.

From the early 1980s, Sylvia became involved with Hartlepool's Hospice, throwing herself into fund raising and working as a volunteer in their shop. She always enjoyed fancy dress, but now she found a starring role dressed as a mascot dog at fundraising events. She played a significant part in establishing the Hospice in those early days before it became wholly professionalized.

Much of her life changed when Alan died suddenly in 1988. Although she continued to be deeply committed to the Hospice, much of the rest of her life seemed to go into limbo. Eventually, she started to find her own feet again. She started enjoying walking holidays in the Lake District with her cousin Vera. She had never gone abroad, but now for the first time in her life she acquired a passport and she ventured not only to London where Chris had settled, but to Paris on the, then, quite new Eurostar.

Eventually, at the behest of her son, she started going to Stranton Church and found herself being taken in by the church family here. For the next 15 years of her life she never looked back; she helped with SMACC and the Holiday Club, joined the choir and the MU, becoming its secretary. At St Matthew's Hall she played carpet bowls and did flower arranging and decoupage. When a contemplative prayer group started, she joined it. She was a core member of this church family and all of us, as family, mourn that she has gone now.

To her grandchildren she was determinedly "Nana Sylvia" and never "Grannie Smith" which, I gather, was a family wind-up line. She doted on Aden and Thomas and she was only frustrated that she wasn't able to see more of them in her declining years. She had a serious, committed and quite profound Christian spirituality that came out when I visited her – she was not only interested in prayer, but she prayed herself with intent.

Rev Andrew Craig

**Adam Barton
Joiner & Carpenter**

*Time served joiner,
Maintenance work carried out,
Internal replacement doors a speciality*

**07877 316030
adam.barton@live.co.uk**

**Steven McConnell
Roofing Contractor**

37 Greta Avenue
Hartlepool
TS25 5LE

**Tel: 01429 221784
Fax: 01429 281609
Mobile 07850 925183**

*Member of the National
Federation of Roofing
Contractors*



THE CARPET DOCTOR
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
www.thecarpetdoctor.co.uk



TELEPHONE
0800 0371809
Mobile 07770 451111



Victoria House
FUNERAL SERVICE

Under the personal guidance of



Carl Mean
Dip FD, MBIE



Apolena Wilson
Dip FD, MBIFD



Andrew Evans
MBIE



Andrew Gardner
Dip FD

TELEPHONE: (01429) 234777 • 26 VICTORIA ROAD, HARTLEPOOL TS26 8DD
WWW.VICTORIAHOUSEFUNERALSERVICE.CO.UK

Hartlepool & District Hospice

Provides free palliative care for patients.
Offers of voluntary help are always welcome ,
as are donations.

Please contact us at:

**Alice House Wells Avenue
Hartlepool. TS24 9DA
Tel: 01429 855555**



Stranton Business Centre

**Colin B Griffiths, FBII
49 Stockton Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1TX**

Telephone: 01429 280444

Mobile: 07932333779

Email: strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk

www.strantonbusiness.co.uk

Joanna's Poochies Paradise

147 Elwick Road
Hartlepool
TS26 9BW

**Pet Shop
&
Dog Grooming**

01429 270056

K. W. Monkman Building Services

Joinery, Glazing, Property
Repairs & Building Work



Reg. Office:
104 Elizabeth Way
Seaton Carew
Hartlepool

Telephone:
01429 277385

**BRABINER
CARPETS**

**249 – 251 YORK ROAD
HARTLEPOOL
TS26 9AD**

TEL: (01429) 272298

Established for over 75 years



Proud to support Stranton Church News

Please get in touch with your Print requirements

- DISC TO PRESS - PC & MAC • COMPUTER TO PLATE • FULL COLOUR PRINTING
- LAMINATING • PRINT MANAGEMENT • DIGITAL COPYING & PRINTING
- FULL FINISHING SERVICE • PUBLISHING & RETAIL

10/11 LOWER CHURCH STREET HARTLEPOOL TS24 7DJ

Tel: (01429) 267849

www.atkinsonprint.co.uk • enquiries@atkinsonprint.co.uk

LET US HELP YOU GET THROUGH YOUR LOSS

We'll guide and assist you through all the funeral arrangements.
Call us 24 hours a day.

**MASON'S
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
01429 862021**

**129 Park Road, Hartlepool.
TS26 9HT**



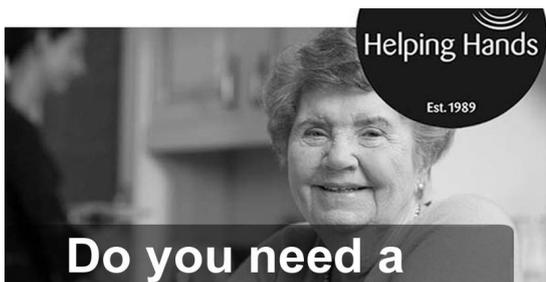
John Harrington

BRICKWORK AND BUILDING

**New Builds, Alterations
& Extensions**

Tel: 01429 420019
Mobile: 07960381258

Free Estimates



**Do you need a
Helping Hand?**

Our Stranton care team has been providing award winning quality home care since 1989.

We offer you a one to one live in care service which enables you or your loved one to remain at home with compassion and dignity.

**To find out more, call:
0808 180 1033 or visit:
www.helpinghands.co.uk**

**Keith Walker
Ophthalmic Opticians**

28 Victoria Road, Hartlepool
Tel: 01429 275551

St Matthew's Community Centre on the eve of destruction and reconstruction!

Whilst the Christmas holidays have been full of good cheer for many, the same alas cannot be said of St Matthew's Community Centre Christmas time.

During the holiday period a car crashed into the corner wall of the Arncliffe Gardens/ Elwick Road causing damage to the phone box and the wall around St Matthew's.

A few days later someone drove into the road safety railings just outside St Matthew's entrance and they now need to be replaced - it never rains.....

On the bright side however, the construction of the North Project is ready to start by the end of January although the building will remain open to the Community and Church users until Easter. Hopefully we will be able to follow the build in this magazine via the magic of digital cameras!

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

The damaged safety rails have been replaced - now let the construction begin!!!

George Bainbridge



On mission in Budapest – what a privilege

Today as I write this, 2018 has been consigned to the past and we're already halfway through January. May I wish everyone a Blessed New Year 2019 all the same. Some of you will know that before Christmas (23rd-30th November), I completed my course mission trip to Budapest, Hungary with Charis Bible College Walsall, where I'm studying part-time. Thank you for your support and prayers, I felt really encouraged throughout and God's hand was on the whole week.



The focus of this second year trip was to take on new ministry training opportunities and build upon what I have learnt so far, to teach and minister on mission with the confidence that comes from studying God's Word, and spending time growing with Him. When praying about which mission trip option to choose, 'Hungary' popped into my mind several times. Although I would have chosen elsewhere (Mauritius), in my heart, I knew this was God's choice and obeyed...



The team



as

a whole felt called to this trip too, so our sending verses (Luke chapter 10 v 1-3) **"the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go"** were fitting words for us indeed as we gathered from Hartlepool, London and Walsall at Luton airport at 6.30am on Fri 23rd November.

We were a small team (two third year team leaders and four second year students), but we packed a lot into a week and worked hard, also focusing on being united as a team and flexible when things changed. At the weekend, as well as witnessing a wedding between a 91 and 72-year-old church members (yes really), I had the privilege of sharing a mini-teaching with the vibrant and welcoming Church we were based at in Budapest, followed by the team praying for the congregation after the service. One of my favourite memories.



That was

followed by four hectic days teaching/leading activities in four schools (children aged 10 to 14), two evenings in a recording studio making CDs in English to be sent across Europe to encourage young people in their faith, as well as outreach in the centre of Budapest, the streets bustling with Christmas shoppers.



Our final meal before flying back was traditional Goulash soup and 'Chimney' Cake at Palanta Mission, our youth mission partners in Budapest. We thanked God for a memorable week.



One of the main principles we are learning at Charis Bible College is to trust God and His word, to obey beyond our natural mind and feelings (Heb 11 v1). When I felt rather disappointed about the prospect of spending time predominately in schools, instead of going out evangelising or doing talks in Church, I wanted to trust God's plan rather than my own. As the Luke verse confirmed before we left, God had 'appointed' and ordered our steps. For me in amazing and surprising ways...as I gave words of knowledge as we ministered, preached the gospel to 12-13 year olds and helped record bible stories to be sent out around Eastern and Western Europe.

As we move into 2019, may I encourage you (and me) to look to God and see what He will do.

Pamela (Harkness)



Boys Brigade New Year - And Future Plans

As we start the New Year we have made several new plans for each Section.

The Anchor Boys - are looking forward to a Battalion Night of Games, Police visits, craft nights with Trish and Easter Eggheads.

The Juniors are looking forward to a Hockey competition, Police visits, gaining awards and Easter Eggheads.

The Company Lads are looking forward to a Battalion Activity Night, National Badminton Competition and to our Camp at Melton Scout Centre near Hull, from the 22nd - 27th July.

The whole company is looking forward to a Bacon Butty Sunday on Mother's Day - 31st March. Plus we are looking forward to re-arranging our stores after the St Matthew's Project is completed around about May/June time.

Which will all lead up to our Open Night on Friday May 17th.

We have room in all Sections for new starters please check our Facebook page or ring 07816 445829

George Bainbridge

Thank you

Pam Harkness has moved house...

Pam sends heartfelt thanks to Clive and the Foodbank Van for helping to clear her former abode. The Harknesses, Busbys, and Rosewells were also very grateful for a bit of extra muscle! Challenging at times, but great fun - and good to be able to pass on some useful items to Jean Waller and her team of helpers for those in need. Praise God for family, friends, and generous hearts.



Patricia (Pam's Sister)

Pilgrim Course

Rev'd Andrew Craig is praying about whether to lead a Christian nurture course called the **Pilgrim Course**.

This is a course for Christians who are interested in exploring the Christian faith and understanding it better. It involves not just Bible teaching but also worship and reflection. It consists of programmes of 4 modules, the first of which are entitled: *Turning to Christ; the Lord's Prayer; the Commandments; and the Beatitudes*. A non-Christian who was interested in learning more about Christianity would find it helpful as well, but the main purpose is to nurture faith, not lead people to faith. One or two mature Christians who have studied the Bible systematically would be welcome to help lead the course.

To find out more: <http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/about-pilgrim>.

If enough people are willing to commit to 8 sessions, each of about 1 ½ hours, then we will begin towards the end of February. Times and frequency of meeting and venue(s) will depend on the needs and preferences of the participants, but I could envisage meeting fortnightly in someone's home on a weekday evening.

Have a word with Andrew via revdrandrewcraig@gmail.com if you are interested."

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

February

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

Congratulations

to Malinee & Aga

on the arrival of

**Thilinee Diane Wanduragala
Serugo-Lugo**

on 28th December

**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

Diary Dates for February and March

February

Saturday 2 nd	9.30am Coffee Morning at St Luke's
Monday 11 th	7:30pm Lighthouse Planning, Browning Ave
Tuesday 12 th	3.15pm 'Create', Ward Jackson C of E Primary School
Sunday 17 th	10.30am United Celebration of the Central Hartlepool Group Ministry with Bishop Paul at St Aidan's, followed by lunch 4:00pm Messy Church at St Matthew's CC
Wednesday 13 th	7:30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sunday 24 th	10:30am Lighthouse Service, Church
Monday 25 th	7.00pm Meeting with Bishop's Council Reps
Tuesday 26 th	7:30pm Buildings and Finance, 57 Claremont Drive

March

Wednesday 6 th	Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins Lent course – details to follow.
---------------------------	--

Thought for February

But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless. Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as rubbish. All I want is Christ and to know that I belong to him.

Philipians 3: 7-9

Jesus is:

**The Doctor's cure; The Pharmacist's prescription;
 The athlete's prize; The baker's bread
 The tailor's pattern; The builder's foundation;
 The musician's melody;
 The composer's symphony;
 The artist's palate; The writer's story;
 The poet's rhyme; The traveller's pathway;
 The explorer's true north;
 The sailor's safe haven;
 The mountain climber's summit;
 The perfumer's fragrance;
 The jeweller's precious stone; The gardener's rose;
 The astronomer's morning star; The banker's riches;
 The counsellor's wisdom; The lawyer's truth;
 The heart's delight.**

Roy Lessin

Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
3rd February	B Butcher	N Proffit A Craig
10th February	P Porritt	S Shepherd K Shepherd
17th February	M Hutchinson	No Service
24th February	P Thompson	J Lawson K Lawson



Funerals –2018

11th December	John Barnfather
14th December	Sylvia Smith
14th December	John Ashton
20th December	Eleanor Jackson
21st December	Tommy Johnson



Baptisms 2019

6th January Foxx William Carse McCully



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

Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

Associate Minister

Revd Andrew Craig 25 Egerton Road 422461

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd 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

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.

