

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

April 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 **19th May 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

On Sunday 17th February, Bishop Paul came to St Aidan's Church for a wonderful celebration service as we licensed the new Central Hartlepool Group of Churches.

The church was packed to the rafters, with every pew filled. The music and singing were wonderful and it was a truly joyous occasion, marking a really significant point on our journey together as the Church of God in this town. We welcomed people from all ages and stages of life; people from the town, from St Aidan's Kitchen, from the school, some dignitaries, local business people and many friends and relatives (including a surprise coach-load of people from Coventry who had left home at 5am to make it to Hartlepool in time!). It was a day to remember, and one that will always be precious to me.

It must be a little over 4 years since I first wandered into St Aidan's Church and was blown away by the beauty of the church. I could tangibly sense all of the prayers and worship that have seeped their way into the walls and pillars over the years, and I am thankful to the faithful many who have contributed those during their time and generation in this place; living and departed, together we have made our churches the worshipping places of wonder that they genuinely are today. And I stood at the foot of the cross of our Lord, on that stunning reredos, and whispered a brave prayer; "I would like to serve you here if I may?". And it turned out that God seemed to say yes, and I am forever grateful for that grace and welcome. The night before my licensing I was in church again, and I returned to that same spot at the reredos and asked the Lord that same question again. When the Bishop asked me, during the service 'Gemma, do you believe God is calling you to serve His people here', I could categorically state, with confidence 'I do so believe', and so my time as the licensed Priest-in-Charge at St Aidan's and St Columba's began.

Over the almost four years I have been in the town, I have grown to love the very streets, the people, my dog (a true Hartlepudlian!) and the nearness of the sea. As I said 'yes' to the Bishop's question that day, so I also said a resounding yes to being a lead worshipper at St Luke's, a faithful follower of Christ at All Saints Stranton, a committed citizen who will work for the good and the renewal of this town, and part of the dedicated team of Jesus-followers who are striving together to spot signs of God's Kingdom here, and to join in with the work of the Holy Spirit. Do I believe that this is what God is asking of me; of all of us; of the churches of God in this town? I do so believe. Absolutely.

Together we make church. Together we meet to worship our Living Lord. Together we try to figure out what God is calling us to do and be and become in this town. So now, as we stand on the brink of another new era, may we place our hand into the hand of the Lord, who is faithful and true, and may we walk together into whatever adventure the Lord might be calling and drawing us to next.

For all that has been; thanks!
For all that will be; YES!

With love and gratitude,
Mother Gemma

P.S. Please note my new contact details are:
St Luke's Vicarage
5 Tunstall Avenue
Hartlepool, TS26 8NF
t. 01429 704239 m. 07780 675322
e. revdgemma@gmail.com

Mothers Union

I've spent today moving stuff around in my garage – I'd love to say "having a clear out", but it's been more like having an "Oh that's where that is!", time. In order to find my bike I moved lots of wood meant for the open fire (in need of sawing up and in different stages of drying out), I found the drain rods, discovered very damp decorating dustsheets and lots of paperwork nibbled by mice – and then the bike! I hadn't used it for many years but after an appeal at church yesterday I remembered about it. It needs a good cleaning but I'm sure it will still be of use once again. Sometimes I feel the Mothers Union is like that – they're just working away quietly behind the scenes out in the world. Still very useful, just quietly praying and doing what is needed there in the background.

Michelle Delves - our lovely curate – spoke to us at our March meeting. Michelle has had experience of the work of MU in the past. She made this up for us on her way to our meeting – thinking of Proverbs 31.

M – mighty women

O – on to it

T – true

H – holy

E – eternal

R - real

S – supernatural

UNION - brings together in harmony with God, in all the works MU is involved with.

We really enjoyed having Michelle with us and we will continue to pray for her and her family.

Future Dates

Monday 1st April 2pm - Lady Day at St Aidan's

Monday 8th April 1.30pm - St Matthew's CC

We usually have a soup lunch to raise funds for the Mothering Sunday Appeal (1st April) but we will be doing something later on – I'll let you know what, where and when...

Please continue to pray for our branch and lift up those who are unwell especially Hilary Harkness and Joyce Shepherd; also remember Jill Barrett, who has spoken to us in the past about Kilimatinde. Do remember MU in Hartlepool, Durham, and our country and out in the world. Plus ongoing prayers for all members in the continuation of their support for families and many other tasks.

With love,

God Bless Happy Easter

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

During this time of Lent I have been attending the Lent Course (with a difference) at St Columba's. Along with folk from St Aidan's and St Columba's, Stranton and Burbank, St Luke's, Owton Manor Baptist and Oxford Road Baptist, plus members from other churches. We have been watching the television series "Broken". This revolves around the life of Father Michael, a Roman Catholic priest in the Greater Manchester Area. The story line involves members of his diverse congregation who have sinned in a variety of ways, through circumstances, often beyond their control, but whose lives overlap and intertwine. Throughout the storylines we become increasingly aware of Father Michael's disturbed, painful and sinful past life through flashbacks and his present worries with his terminally ill mother and the demands on him as a priest.

The storylines are quite 'grim' (to quote one of the weekly watchers), they include violence, job loss, debt, sudden and violent deaths, theft, addiction, family relationships, mental health illness, a police cover-up, suicide, terminal illness, lies and sexual abuse - interwoven with guilt, fear, shame and betrayal. It is NOT easy watching.

But throughout Father Michael reminds each person he is with, by the lighting of a candle, that God is present in the situation.

Our discussions afterwards challenge us to think about how we would behave or react, what is 'a sin', what is truth, why people did what they did, justification, atonement, confession and its effects? We try to face up to hard facts, difficult decisions, question our perceptions and the understandings that occur in everyday life, to us, our families, friends neighbours and community. We are reminded of the frailty of humanity; the way we judge others without looking inside ourselves to see of what we may capable if we were in those situations; or to think through how we would react under those pressures.

We are all 'sinners' - some through actions or reactions and some by omissions. But by Christ's sacrifice on the cross we can repent of our sins, draw close to God and walk a new life with Jesus. Again this year I thank God that because of the crucifixion we are Easter People.

J.A.R.



Installation of Canons at Evensong in Durham Cathedral Sunday 10th March

Members of Stranton and St Luke's congregations, plus Julie and Norman's parents attended the service in Durham to see Norman installed as a Non-Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral.

Norman was required to make declarations and oaths as part of the legal process before being installed in a stall in the Quire. Evensong then proceeded.

At the conclusion of Evensong the choir, clergy and Chapter processed to the Chapter House. Here the Bishop in his seat at the east end, and with the Chapter and members of the College of Canons flanking the Bishop, the three newly installed canons were welcomed as members of the Chapter and presented formally to the Bishop.



Formal presentation of Canons in the Chapter House



Canon Andrew Rogers and Rev
Dr Canon Norman Shave
both from Stranton.

An explanation about just what
is meant by 'a Canon' in the

Church of England -

The College of Canons

Clergy and lay people drawn from the parish churches of the Diocese of Durham to assist the Chapter in its relations with the local parishes. The title of Canon is not a permanent title and when no longer in a position entitling preferment, it is usually dropped from a cleric's title. However, it is still given in many dioceses to senior parish priests (including some Rural Deans, those who have played a role in the wider life of the diocese, those who have served in the diocese for a long time, or similar) as a largely honorary title. It is usually awarded in recognition of long and dedicated service to the diocese. Honorary canons are members of the chapter in name but are non-residential and receive no benefits. They are entitled to call themselves canon and may have a role in the administration of the cathedral.

CATHEDRAL AND DIOCESE BID FOND FARWELL TO IAN & RUTH JAGGER



Hundreds of well-wishers gathered in Durham Cathedral on Sunday 3rd March to bid a fond farewell to the Venerable Ian Jagger and his wife Ruth on their retirement.

For the last 18 years, Ian (63) and Ruth have been faithful servants of the Church and Communities of Durham since moving to the

Diocese from Portsmouth Diocese in 2001. Ian has been Archdeacon of Durham and Canon Residentiary of Durham Cathedral since 2006, prior to that he was Archdeacon of Auckland and Rural Development Officer in the Diocese.

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham said: “Ian’s service as first, Archdeacon of Auckland, and then Archdeacon of Durham has been marked by gentle care, deep humility and wonderful wisdom. He has undertaken this as a man of prayer whose life has inspired many. Alongside him, Ruth has been a brilliant secretary and support as well as an ordained minister assisting in many places herself. They will both be greatly missed.”

The Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, Dean of Durham said: “I speak on behalf of myself and my colleagues, in saying that Ian will be greatly missed by the Cathedral community. His wisdom, gentleness and humanity have been a source of inspiration and of consolation on so many occasions. Having been with us since 2006, Ian played a significant part in advancing mission and worship at Durham Cathedral and on a broader scale within the Diocese of Durham. We wish Ian and his wife Ruth all the best in their future endeavours’.”

The Cathedral community bade farewell to the popular couple during the morning service whilst members of the Diocese did so during Evensong. Common to both services was a palpable sense of admiration and respect for a couple who have blessed our communities during their 18 years here.

In addition to his Diocesan and Cathedral roles, Ian has also served on The General Synod of The Church of England for many years as a member of the House of Clergy. He was ordained in London in 1982 serving his curacy in Twickenham before moving to the Diocese of Oxford where he held several roles before moving to Portsmouth Diocese and then on to Durham. Ruth was ordained in 1990 in Oxford. Ian and Ruth will be moving to the Portsmouth area in due course.

From Diocesan News.

On a personal note; Ian has been a good friend to Stranton over the years. We've turned to him for advice on numerous occasions and his responses have always been sound, sensible and prayerful. He was particularly supportive during our last vacancy and the appointment process in being blessed with a new Vicar.

I have known Ian for many years while serving on innumerable Diocesan committees. His quiet wisdom and sense of perspective combined with his impish humour made him a joy to work alongside. Both Ian and Ruth will be missed and they return to Portsmouth with our best wishes.

Andrew Rogers.

Thought for April

For God so loved the world
He gave His one and only son,
That whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

SARAH CLARK CONSECRATED AS BISHOP OF JARROW



L-R: James Bishop of Carlisle, Emma Bishop of Penrith, The Archbishop of York, Sarah Bishop of Jarrow, Paul Bishop of Durham. Picture by Keith Blundy

The Venerable Sarah

Clark has been consecrated as the Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow in a double consecration service conducted by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu in York Minster.

Hundreds of people gathered in York Minster to witness the consecration of the first female Bishops in the Dioceses of Durham and Carlisle.

The Venerable Sarah Elizabeth Clark, BA, MA, MBA, Archdeacon of Nottingham, has been consecrated as the Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow in the Diocese of Durham. Sarah succeeds the Right Reverend Mark Watts Bryant who retired in October 2018. She will formally be welcomed to the Diocese of Durham in a service in Durham Cathedral on the 7th April 2019 at 3.30pm Sarah was consecrated alongside The Reverend Dr Emma Gwyneth Ineson, MPhil, PhD, Principal of Trinity College, Bristol who will be consecrated as the Suffragan Bishop of Penrith, in the Diocese of Carlisle.

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham said: “I am delighted that Sarah’s consecration took place on Feb 27th. I look forward to her welcome service in Durham Cathedral on April 7th when she will begin her ministry with us.”

From Diocesan News

St Matthew's Community Centre North End Project and other news

General news:

The repairs have been completed to the railings which were damaged in a car incident in December. As a sign that spring is on its way our 'old friends' the weeds have started their growth again!

The build:

The new kitchen window being constructed. The roofing process in action.



Internal view of the new kitchen. Side view of the new kitchen - now full roofed and the internal work has now commenced.

It is certainly going to make St Matthew's Community Centre super fit for the 21st century!

George Bainbridge



Safe Families for Children

Sunday 10th March saw a visit by Becky Ward from the Christian charity, Safe Families for Children, to Stranton at the 10:30 Morning Service. This faith based charity feels that every child deserves to thrive, in their own home, supported and secure. Families often feel isolated and struggle as there are often no functioning extended family supports. The organisation believes that consistency leads to security. Safe Families come alongside those to build self-esteem and resilience through healthy friendships.

Safe Families are now starting to work with Hartlepool Local authority to give much needed support by:

- being a listening ear
- taking children out of the home for activities and breaks
- giving respite care in host homes for children who may need to leave their own home for a short time
- becoming a resource friend to provide useful items such as clothes, cots or helping with cooking or gardening
- Safe Families is an open door into families where Christians can make a difference.
- You don't need to commit to lots of time – you decide when and where you volunteer. Volunteers can be 18 to 80, retired, working or at home, married or single. There are lots of roles with training and guidance.

Do you want to know more? Contact Becky Ward on beckyward@safefamiliesforchildren.com Or visit www.safefamiliesforchildren.com

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American Mission Trip 10th-14th March



Last night worship session.

The Team visited – Ward Jackson CE Primary, Eldon Grove Primary, Throston Primary, Kinglsey Primary and Stanton Primary, plus Bridge Builders, YF and Boys Brigade.

Each member of the Team spoke about their personal memorable moments during their time in Hartlepool. These varied from a child in a school remembering the name of a Team member's sister who visited last year, being allowed to discuss God and their faith freely in schools, being asked insightful questions, a member of staff in a school being struck by God in the world, our inclusive system for children with Special needs and being tricked into eating vegetables hidden in lasagne prepared by host!



Singing Happy Birthday to an embarrassed Lydia!

Crosslinks

Learning to do Youth Camps in France – are you interested? Crosslinks has worked with InterAction since 2010, helping with finances, advertisement and making sure the camps run smoothly. Each camp is packed with sports, games, activities, great food and lots of fun – all with the aim of explaining the gospel to the next generation.



InterAction France camps share the gospel in French and English with young people from France, Great Britain and beyond. We have two fun-filled camps every summer and know the same can be said of our sister camps in Belgium and Germany.

Last summer, on the camp I led, at least seven different nationalities were represented among the leaders and cooks. Despite this diversity, we served together with unity and joy to help the young people to get to know Jesus better. Nevertheless, a certain amount of flexibility is required from the non-French leaders to organise a camp and share the gospel in France.

We seek to equip all who serve at Interaction to share the gospel and disciple the young people who come. We know also that this training will help them to take God's word to his world wherever they live and serve during the rest of the year. Similarly, our prayer is that the young people will themselves take the gospel to many nations, and then return as leaders to serve alongside us at InterAction.

To get involved, you can go on an InterAction camp as a camper, student helper, leader or cook

Go to crosslinks.org/interaction for more details.

Part of article by Keith Butler writing in Crosslinks Magazine March 2019

Unexpected News from Chris and Ros Smith

With some considerable sadness we need to let everybody know that our time at Dalat International School will come to an end with the conclusion of the school academic year.

We have been trying to deal with this whole sequence of events since shortly after the funeral for Chris' mum, but it has been quite painful to discuss and it is only now that we are more ready to let supporters and prayer partners know.

We have discovered more practical difficulties than we ever expected in both being full-time staff at the same time as having both boys in the same school, AND being parents to those boys when school ended. It has not been straightforward and easy. There have been major issues of "child supervision versus class preparation". When these pressures come together it has been painful.

We knew that expectations of staff at Dalat would be high, and neither of us have any objection to working hard. We came here intending to be ready for a "long-haul" stay. However, the way in which we have been expected to work quickly became far more "prescribed" and far more "American" than we anticipated. Our experience at Faith Academy had quite a distinct "International" feel and "collaborative style" to it and did not really prepare us for what happens at Dalat.

We were taken by surprise and shocked when we were told it would only get tougher and we were strongly encouraged not to pursue Faculty status after year's end. Dalat are paying for our return to the UK. There is no suggestion of our impropriety or misconduct in the school decision.

In the midst of a huge disappointment we have had to try and put together some future-game-plan. We cannot bounce our family around new school settings and campuses any more. We cannot afford to settle back in the London area as housing costs are too high.

We are aiming to move to the York area. This is much closer to all key remaining family members. Jobs and home and schooling options are still unknowns. Ros has a place at York University for a one-year graduate course. Chris is considering formal TEFL training amongst other things.

We are very concerned for the boys. It took them a long while to settle here and get used to the school culture and begin to make friends. Thomas has found this easier than Aden. Thomas' class experience has also been "kinder" than Aden's. We have seen talents begin to blossom here in them that may be hard to sustain and friendships will again be disrupted. There are many things to pray for.

We continue to be members of Teach Beyond, at least in the immediate future, and Ros has been asked to assist in some UK-based training that T.B. provides. Teach Beyond continue to administer the support gifts we still receive, which have been deployed as promised – contributing to our pension needs and the mission-specific costs that we have also incurred that were not paid for by Dalat School. We can supply details of this upon request.

Please pray for Chris & Ros as they seek a new direction and home back in the UK, for God to open doors and for the whole family to feel filled with God's grace and peace over the coming months.



4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

Founded 1930

HQ - St Matthew's Community Centre

Find us on Facebook



Boys Brigade News



Anchor Boy arrested and cuffed

Our Anchor Boys and Juniors were visited by our friends from the police force (Geoff, Mark & Ian) at St Matthew's during March.

The Boys asked what seemed like thousands of questions and both Sections had an informative time.

International Visitors

Our Juniors were visited by the Texan team, led by Carlos, who spoke to the Juniors about the reason for their trip to Hartlepool and what they were doing while here.

We held an international 'tiggy' game - with England winning against the USA. Then we introduced the visitors to the joys of cricket and an enjoyable time was had by all!

Future Events

Open Night - Friday 17th May

BB Training Day in Durham - 8th June

Summer Fayre - Saturday 22nd June

Camp at the Melton Scout Centre near Hull - from 22nd - 27th July

We still have room for new starters in all Sections

George Bainbridge

++++Breaking News++++Breaking News++++Breaking News++++
Breaking News++++Breaking News

4th BB are Hockey Champions

In a thrilling tournament of high standard hockey with excitement at fever pitch, our A team won the Battalion Hockey Tournament at St Matthew's CC on Monday 18th March. Well done to everyone in our 3 teams - we'll be ready to defend the title next year! **Mr B**

Mary Baines Recipes first in Signpost in March 1998

Fresh ginger, parsnip & orange soup

3 tablespoons oil
1oz butter
2 medium onions chopped
1 lb parsnips peeled & finely chopped
1 inch piece fresh ginger peeled & chopped
Grated rind & juice of 2 oranges
1 ½ pint chicken stock
Ground black pepper



Heat oil & butter together in a deep pan, add onion & saute for a few minutes stirring.

Add parsnips & ginger, cook for 5 minutes more.

Add orange rind (keep juice till later), then the stock.

Bring to simmering point (just bubbles at the side of the pan) & simmer for 35-40 minutes.

Allow to cool a little & then liquidize. For a really velvety soup pour the liquidized soup through a sieve into a clean saucepan. Only then stir in orange juice & season to taste. Reheat to serve.

Bran Crunch

2oz butter
2 tablespoons clear honey
4oz plain chocolate broken into pieces
3oz bran flakes
1oz walnuts



Place butter, honey & chocolate into a pan & heat very gently till melted

Add bran flakes-mix well

Turn into a greased shallow 7" square, smooth the surface & chill till set. Cut into triangles to serve.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

Matt Appleyard
Rachel Cartwright
Paul Cartwright
Abigail Craig
Andrew Craig
Frank Endean
Angela Hall
Rebekah Hart
Kate Lawson
Linda Parvin
Alan Robertson
Bob Sinclair



**Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary**

Ruth Craig & Gavin Smith
Chloe & Jordan Thornhill



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

31st March **Mothering Sunday**

9.30am Bacon Butty Breakfast followed by
10.30am Lighthouse Parade Service

April

1st -5th Mon-Fri

6.00 -7.15pm Eggheads - After School Easter Club for
primary age children in St Matthew's CC

7th Sun 10.30am Joint Communion Service
followed by APCM and shared lunch

16th Tues 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel

Easter Services

18th Thurs 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion

19th Fri 10.00am Messy Easter St Matthew's CC -
An Easter service for all ages with crafts & activities
12noon Church open for quiet reflection
2.00pm An hour at the cross, service in Church

21st Sun 8.30 am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion with Easter Egg Hunt
11.00am Burbank Community Church

29th Mon 7.30pm Stranton Buildings & Finance, Claremont Ave

May

1st Wed 7.00pm Group Council, Fulthorpe Chapel

Diary Date News
Saturday 18th May
Hartlepool Ladies Choir
will perform in Stranton Church



Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
7th April	No Service	S Shepherd K Shepherd
14th April	M Hutchinson	D Greenwood B Greenwood
21st April	P Thompson	J Lawson K Lawson
28th April	I Walker	A Craig N Proffit



Funerals

21st March Dorothy Ray



Who's Who

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Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

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Churches Together in Hartlepool

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Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.

