

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

June 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 **16th June 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

Listening to Nature

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

There are many readings I could have used to illustrate God in nature. God was a creator who created a beautiful world. When you walk along the promenade to Seaton Carew do you spend time looking at the sea, listening to the waves lapping the sand or watch an oyster catcher digging into the sand? You may not verbally hear the voice of God, but He is speaking through what you see. I will be going to youth camp this summer and I know I will see the stars and the Milky Way in all its splendour when it gets dark. Then I will ponder on the fact that this is the work of my creator God. I will feel closer to my God at that point. Even nature wants me to have a relationship with its creator.

I wonder which part of nature you enjoy? Walking up a mountain, sitting by a river, stretching out to catch the sun's rays? It could be a walk by the sea or taking a bike ride. It might be watching Blue Planet 2 with David Attenborough. I personally like to go bird watching. At the moment I am quite mesmerised by the baby robins in my garden. Unlike their mum and dad they don't have any red colour on them yet! They have a speckled breast - which actually makes them look more like a baby thrush. Then I watched mum come and feed her little ones. When mum comes into view the babies flap their wings and make a chirping noise, hoping she will pop a worm (or in the case of my garden), a sun heart seed, into their beak. While I watch this scene I don't hear God speak to me verbally, yet I do sense God more closely than before I had seen the robins!

I have a book about robins on my shelf. It tells me that in May 2015 the robin topped the poll for Britain's favourite bird. It also showed me that lots of authors use robins in their stories. It was in this book (The Robin: A Biography by Stephen Moss) that I read in Christian mythology there is a story told of a little brown bird which watched Jesus being led through the streets with a crown of thorns on his head. The bird was so shocked by this, it flew down and landed on the crown and pulled a thorn out of Jesus' head. At this point a drop of Jesus' blood landed on its breast and the brown bird was stained red from that day onwards as a symbol of how much it wanted to help the Son of God.

So when did you last go and enjoy nature? When was the last time you sat and felt the presence of God fill your body with a warmth and love with which only a loving God can? Take time to notice, and take time to be sensitive. God is waiting for you.

Rev Clive Hall.

Mothers Union

I've just come back into the house after mowing the lawn – it's the first time I've done this in the evening, as today was very hot. After the cold spell at the beginning of May I'm now trying to get the garden back into some semblance of order. I'm also battling with too much ivy – but the birds love to nest in it!

At our last meeting in May we remembered and prayed for members who could not be with us due to accident, illness or appointments.

I was hoping to talk about MU joining with the Clewer Initiative to inform about modern slavery, but my iPad couldn't pick up a wifi signal! This project enables the Church of England and its wider network to detect modern day slavery in the community and to help provide victim support and care. This initiative is funded by the Clewer Sisters, an Anglican order of Augustinian Nuns founded in 1852 to help the marginalised, (mainly females) who found themselves homeless and drawn into the sex trade, by providing them with shelter and teaching them a trade.

The work undertaken today focuses on not just women, but all who find themselves in the grip of people who hold them captive and take away any money they earn, who live in inappropriate dwellings and in isolation – they are today's slaves. One project has highlighted Car Washes around our country that treat their workers badly and there is a website where you can check if your area has an approved site or not.

The Clewer Sisters and our own Mary Sumner must have overlapped back in the day and their work also mirrors the worldwide projects to help and aid, training and education undertaken by MU all over the world. To learn more about this and to help us in prayer for this, read the middle pages of Durham Diocese MU Newsround Spring 2019.

Diary Dates:

June 3rd 2.00pm Festival Service at Durham Cathedral - all welcome

June 10th 1.30pm Meeting at St Matthew's CC

June 19th 2.00pm St Luke's MU Strawberry Tea

Our Strawberry Tea date is yet to be confirmed

July 17th Joint Tea at Gelato's Seaton Carew with St Luke's MU –
time to be confirmed

August 9th 2.00pm Mary Sumner Day at St Nicholas' Durham

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

'Keep your eyes on Jesus' is a greatly used phrase said to inspire folk in difficult or challenging times.

However I remember wondering just what did it mean and where was Jesus, in order to keep my eyes on Him?

Over the last year or so whilst my knees and walking became gradually worse and picking my feet up became increasingly difficult, I found that my fear of tripping and falling whenever I was walking grew, until I had to permanently look down at my feet to ensure I was not going to catch my toe on uneven ground and fall damaging my knees and legs further. I had to use walking sticks or railings to prevent me from overbalancing as I walked with a limp and one leg was prone to 'giving way' under me as I moved.

I am a very visual person. I am always looking at the environment and seeing inspiration and reassurance there, God at work in the sky, the plants and trees, the wildlife. (see Clive's Leader article) I am a people watcher and learn a lot seeing how people act and react in everyday life, and also with each other.

Suddenly my world shrank to what was under my feet and what was just in front of them! Looking down in order to be safe was dull and depressing. I felt that I was missing out on so much. I was detached from people and my surroundings. Not being able to look at the things I enjoyed – birds in the trees, sunsets, familiar faces coming towards me, passing gardens – this left me feeling low and imprisoned in a boring world of paving stones, kerbs and feet!

Since my second knee operation and subsequent recovery I have learned to walk more confidently, sure that my feet are lifting properly. My sense of security has grown again and at last I can walk with my head held high and my eyes scanning the horizon at all the wonderful things along my routes. I have marvelled at the unfurling of Spring in the trees and gardens, of birds sitting in bushes singing, then building nests and finding food, people emerging from their winter layers and stopping to chat. My confidence has grown and the walking aids are no longer needed. I feel lighter physically as I no longer plod slowly along. I am happier and more positive in my approach to every day and more able to cope with whatever life throws at me.

I now know that 'Keeping my eyes on Jesus', means looking forward with faith and trust, sure that my path has been made clear and level, that I am safe and secure in the knowledge of my Saviour watching over and caring for me, because I am seeking Him as I look. I am no longer trapped in a downward place of limitations and fear.

So today look up and scan the horizon – Keep your eyes on Jesus – because He has His eyes on you!

J.A.R.

St Matthew's Community Centre Building Project



This shows the initial break through point - this time onwards St Matthew's is marching into the 21st Century.



Picture shows the area being made ready for the new double doors



The Boys Brigade store now fitted with lighting

The new kitchen is now taking shape!



We now have an end date target of 26th April. This will be when we can then apply for the final approval of the building and electrical inspectors.

The build is now almost complete – just snagging to finish off.

The future's looking good at St Matthew's Community Centre....

More from the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Following the quinquennial inspection problem areas have been addressed.

The slight damp problem in the north aisle/tower corner and the slight shifting of stonework have been investigated and remedied by the stonemasons, Mason and Forster.

The east corner wall of the church porch had a crack due to movement and the west a broken stone; these have been repaired and replaced.

Potential wood worm in the rafters has been treated.

Further repointing needs to be carried out once the risk of frosts has passed.

An electrical inspection has been carried out and it has identified several potential and actual deficiencies. Some of the issues remain to be dealt with.

Lightfoots have remedied problems associated with their installation of LED lighting.

The clock has been serviced and work to its electrics are essential as found in the electrical inspection.

The PAT testing and other electrical work will be carried out in 2019.

The church alarm, fire extinguishers and boiler have been serviced.

Daniel Cook has carried out some repairs to the organ and next year we may need to replace or augment the bellow. He has acquired replacement solenoids for the organ stops from York Minster, which he will fit in the coming year. We are waiting on a report from Daniel. Thanks go to Daniel for his ongoing care of the organ which save us a considerable amount of money.

The requests for improved accessibility to chancel, kitchen and Fulthorpe areas as well as forming an accessible toilet in the current vicars vestry goes before the diocesan advisory council on 2nd April. If advised the next step is to submit a faculty.

The vicar's vestry will be moved into what is currently the choir vestry. A log book is kept, and all alterations and repairs to the church are entered.

An inspection of articles belonging to the church has been satisfactorily completed.

Clarkson Court has had cavity wall insulation carried out.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who have faithfully assisted in all the areas mentioned above and looked after the Church, including Sidespersons, Vergers for Weddings/Funerals, and others who do cleaning tidying and gardening.

Also to the assisting church wardens Rohan Wanduragala and David House.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson

Churchwardens

BURBANK COMMUNITY CHURCH and YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The numbers have dropped since last year and our services only have 10-18 people each week, yet we still enjoy the fellowship and presence of God in our services. So the people who attend do feel like they want to continue to do so. We did feel God encourage us with various scriptures, the main one being:-

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. 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?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Luke 13: 6-9

When we put the Christmas cards into all the homes on the estate. I included a piece of paper which introduced myself as the Reverend Clive Hall to the estate. I wanted them to know that I was available to them. Since I did that, I have taken two funerals for people from the estate. I am now at the stage of my training where I can take funerals on my own.

We have also started a new 'Family Outreach' within Ward Jackson School called 'Create'. For the first one there were 24 adults and 40 children PLUS 9 Afterschool children, not including staff and volunteers. So 73 at the club and a total of about 85 people. The afternoon went well, but we knew we could improve on it. The second Create saw a lower number but the quality of the event went up. The number of good conversations also increased.

These events could be seen as fruitful, but it has not brought new numbers into the church. As a leadership team we felt we would give church a year to see if numbers improved - the year will end in June 2019, we will then need to make some decisions about the future of Burbank Church.

Overseer for Youth, Children and Family work

We have had more leaders stand down this year from their roles as leaders at YF and Bridge Builders. We appealed for new leaders. I am happy to say that a mum from the Burbank Estate has joined us at Bridge Builders. I too am now a full time leader at Bridge Builders to help support this group. We also have had two more leaders for YF. Again I have taken on a major role in leading this group. It is good that these groups have been able to continue though if anyone would consider helping at YF on a Sunday evening then do please speak to me.

A reminder here that I also am in charge of the volunteer recruitment process. If anyone would like to join any of the church groups or Sunday School clubs there are a few volunteer forms that need to be signed, along with DBS checks. Do please send me the names of anyone who would like to volunteer in Stranton Church.

I would also add that the Inspire New Wine weekend was also very good. There was good teaching and worship and great fellowship with all the other church members who attended. The weekend has now been replaced with a full week's church conference at Peterborough. Stranton church has a number of people going along on 4-10th August this year, myself included. Do speak to Norman or me if you're interested in attending.

Bridge Builders

This year there are about 10-18 children attending. I have already mentioned a mum from the estate helping, we also have two students from the YFC outreach team coming along weekly, Angela and myself are the main leaders. So this group continues to meet each Wednesday.

Ward Jackson School

Here is a clip from the Hartlepool Mail.

'Ward Jackson Primary School, in Clark Street, was buzzing after receiving the letter in the post this week from Education Secretary Damian Hinds and Nick Gibb, the Minister for State School Standards. They praised staff and pupils after they were among only the top 3% of schools in England for their results in last year's Key Stage 2 tests.' Ward Jackson had the greatest progress in reading of any school in the country.

This shows how the new Head David Akers is progressing at Ward Jackson. It was also very good to hear from David himself when he attended a Stranton Service.

Angela continues to work at Ward Jackson School where she is being trained as a Thrive Practitioner, which is developing her skills when working with the children. She, along with Lee the assistant head, will be able to facilitate training for all staff so that it can become a Thrive School.

Personal News

On the 1st July 2018 I was ordained a Deacon at Durham Cathedral. A very special service for me, I was told I didn't stop smiling all day. Coming back to Stranton Church and sharing the time with family and friends made it even more special. Thank-you for all your support and a big thank you for those people who planned and prepared all the catering for that day. The 29th June 2019 will see me becoming a Priest. I am really looking forward to presiding at my first Eucharist service on the 30th June with my Stranton family. I will of course still be fulfilling my contractual work of running Burbank Community Church and Community work and Overseeing the Adults and Children work.

Foodbank

I would say this has been a hard year for foodbank - a number of organisations turned us down for grants this year. But the Council stepped up and provided further financial support. We also have had an increase in the number of people

coming through the door, so donations go out as quickly as they come in. There is a lady called Penny Thompson who works for the council. We have just taken her on as an Advisor to the Trust. We know she will be a valuable asset to us.

Rev Clive Hall

We continue to be a full, happy unit. We have 18 mostly 5 year olds who attend every week.

Our leadership team is gradually increasing with 2 young adults working towards qualified leader status and a new young leader.

We had been disappointed to attend a campfire without a fire, but this year the girls got the opportunity to cook over an open fire 3 times (well we actually melted marshmallows over a fire pit but the girls were really thrilled!). We went to 3 town wide events with Brownies and Guides, Thinking Day, a campfire and a day to celebrate the Trefoil Guilds 75th Birthday where we made hobby horses using pool noodles. We enjoyed an evening at the forest school with our Brownies and Guides and had great fun at Pets At Home where we were joined by Norman on his Clergy visit.

We are slowly introducing the New Girlguiding UK programme which is more structured than we are used to and taking some time to get to grips with,, but as long as we continue to have fun and enjoy ourselves we will adapt to it.

The Rainbow Team

Christine Robinson



In the normal weekly meeting the Brownies and Guides meet independently following their own programme doing the normal activities.

In addition to these normal activities during the year, we have again visited Go

Climb which is a very popular activity, as are the summer evenings when we go the Headland looking in rock pools and Seaton to build sandcastles, when we invite other units to join us, in these activities.

We attended the production of Aladdin on Ice at Billingham Forum and for the last meeting of the year, had a fun PJ evening playing Christmas Beetle with hot chocolate/marshmallows.

We have had visits from Clive, Norman and Andrew, which the girls and Leaders really appreciate happening. It gives the girls an opportunity to meet and chat with members of the ministry team plus we have attended Harvest and Palm Sunday (although the numbers that have attended has been low). The Brownies also attended the excellent 'Eggheads'.

Nina Ash (leader) and Grace Allan (guide) went to represent the North East/UK at an international camp in Gdansk, Poland at the start of the schools summer holidays. They had a marvellous experience, which they have shared with the units.

September saw the launch of the new programme for all sections. A full revamp, needing new books, badges, plus guidance for how the programme is followed. To access it the girls required new resources; the PCC very kindly gave us a donation towards these items, we had a number of individual donations and the girls have fundraised to help pay towards the new materials. We launched the start for us in January 2019!

Any young lady from the age of 5 is welcome to join us, to become a member of Girlguiding. Either go online, using Girlguidinguk as the search or contact me.

Cheryl Mills

(Leader with Brownies & Guides)

Ordinand in training Pete Gunstone writes

I arrived as an ordinand (trainee vicar) on placement at Stranton and Burbank a short two and a half years ago. Whilst it only seems like yesterday in some respects, so much has happened since! I have now almost completed three years training at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham and now it is time to move on again.

In June, Kirsten and I will be moving to Bradford, West Yorkshire, where I will be curate as part of a team who will be planting a new resource church in the city centre. The team will be led by Rev Linda Maslen and Rev Nathanael Poole, he was also on placement at Stranton and Burbank some years ago, will be the associate leader.

The church's name will be Fountains Church Bradford <https://fountainsbradford.org> and the vision is that it will be a fountain of life-giving water for the people and churches of Bradford. Although the church will be focussed on all who live and work in the city centre, we will have a particular focus on young people and those of less means.

As a resource church, it seeks to set in motion a wave of growth amongst the churches of Bradford. In the medium term, Nathanael will plant another church out of Fountains Church, either to a place where there currently is no Christian presence, or to strengthen an existing church.

We would be really grateful of your prayers. Linda and Nathanael begin weekly meetings of prayer and worship in the city centre in May, and the church will launch properly in September. Please pray for us as we pray, plan, prepare and seek to gather the people whom God is calling to be a part of this adventure. Thank you.

We send you all our love and good wishes,
Pete Gunstone & Kirsten Lillie



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Why Food Banks are on the increase



Unaffordable DWP loans are not the answer to the five week wait

Would you be able to go five weeks without any money?

When you apply for Universal Credit, that's the minimum amount of time you have to wait for your first payment.

We put out our year-end food bank figures last week showing that a record 1.6 million food parcels had been given out by our

network last year, a 19% increase on the year before. Universal Credit now accounts for half of all referrals to food banks due to benefits delays, and waiting for Universal Credit is a growing trigger forcing people to food banks.

While you wait, you can apply for an 'advance payment' – that's a loan from the Government to see you through that five week period. Once your Universal Credit payments start, you pay that loan back automatically through deductions from your monthly payments.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) tell us that these repayments are affordable, but we know that's not true – food banks and the people they support tell us they can leave people stuck between a rock and a hard place. Here's why:

Repayments don't take into account people's ability to afford them

It seems like common sense to assess whether you have enough coming in to pay your loan back. In the private sector, it's best practice for debt collectors to do an income assessment of the person and then set repayments at a level that won't push people into hardship.

But that's not how advance payments work – deduction levels are set by the DWP and don't take into account your ability to pay them, or whether you'll fall into financial hardship while doing so. In some cases, you can have your repayment levels renegotiated, but this is rare – and by that point, you're likely already in arrears.

The Government prevents the lending industry pushing people into financial hardship when repaying debts – so why is it allowed to get away with it?

Even small deductions can have a big impact on people living on a financial knife-edge.

Deductions are capped at 40% of your Universal Credit standard amount, and the DWP says most people don't pay this much.

But even relatively small deductions to people's living costs can lock people into poverty. We know people on Universal Credit might not have enough to cover even basic essentials like food, because of cuts to the system and the freeze on working-age benefits.

The debt advice and management charity StepChange found that 71% of the people they support have experienced hardship because of deductions, and a quarter of those with deductions had to spend less on food to get by. They found that even a deduction of just 5% can push people deeper into financial hardship.

You could be hit by multiple repayments, including ones you didn't know you had

It's hard to budget for paying back arrears – particularly if, like many people in financial hardship, you have multiple debts you need to repay.

An advance isn't necessarily the only thing you'd be repaying through an automatic deduction – you could be paying back a third party debt for energy bills or council tax. Depending on the level of your debts, these additional repayments could tip you above the 40% cap set by the DWP.

The Government is also using the move to Universal Credit to recover historic debts, so people are finding themselves hit by surprise repayments for debts they didn't know they had.

It's not just claimants themselves who feel the effects of advance payment repayments

When people can't pay their rent because their repayments don't leave them enough to cover it, they fall into rent arrears which affect housing associations and private landlords. Local Authorities, like Southwark Council and Newcastle Council have said that the five week wait for the first Universal Credit payment is a strain on their finances as their crisis funds are running out.

And we know food banks have seen higher increases in demand in areas where Universal Credit has rolled out.

So what's the solution?

In the short term, the DWP should make advance payments into grants. At the very least, this could be targeted at people who need it most – those with inescapable higher living costs such as disabled people or people who might struggle to access support.

This would help prevent some of the millions of people who will be moving onto Universal Credit from facing debt, deductions, and hardship down the line. But it won't solve the root problem. Universal Credit should be protecting people from poverty, not pushing them into it – that's why we need a longer term solution, one that deals with the fact that most people can't last five weeks without money coming in.

A true solution would be to make the wait for a first payment shorter so people don't have a significant gap between applying for Universal Credit and being paid.

The Government needs to end the five week wait now.

[Join the #5WeeksTooLong campaign and help make that happen or find out more on our website.](#)

A blog post by
Abby Jitendra *Policy &
Research Manager Trussell Trust*



Thank you

A huge thank you to Bob Sinclair who has faithfully collated and stapled Signpost magazine, plus deliver some too, over recent years. His work has been greatly appreciated by Trish and Jacqui.

Bob and his dogs, firstly Dylan and latterly Eddie, have brought a smile to our faces and those of advertisers as they deliver magazines in all weathers during their walks. Bob is a real gentleman and a special friend to Stranton Church. Due to health issues at present Bob has stepped down from his role. Thank you so much for all your dedication and hard work Bob.

Thanks also to Barbara Butcher for faithfully delivering Signpost magazines for many years – your help has been appreciated by all.

Signpost Magazine - Help needed - it could be you!

Help is needed is now needed to collate and staple copies of Signpost each month for ten months a year. Have you a couple of hour to spare once a month? The job could be shared between volunteers.

Magazine deliverer wanted for 5 magazines in the Elwick Road area – a monthly walk might be just what YOU need to keep healthy!

If you are interested in either roles and want to know more please contact:

Jacqui on 265527 or Trish in the Office.



Boys Brigade Open Night



Our Open Night was held on Friday 17th May, our special guest was our curate Michelle who inspected the Company, presented awards and gave a very good closing observation speech.

The Boys displayed their skills in music, games, trampolining, tennis plus the older ones took part in the assault course.

The Juniors Boy of the year was Adam Sparks and the Company's award went to Lance Corporal Austin Turner - well done to both members.

Summer Activities for all three sections include trips out to the beach, the Blue Lagoon, Crimdon Dene, Stranton Church, McDonalds and tea@hart.

Camp this Summer is at Melton Scout Centre near Hull from 22nd - 27th July.

Boys Brigade Store Room – this is now completed and we are in the process of putting up shelving and transferring various pieces of equipment into the store. In order to try to keep it tidy (easily said!!!) the NCO's have been given various objectives to catalogue our equipment and ensure it remains in its nominated position within the store - their biggest problem will be keeping me right!!!

Fund Raising

Summer Fayre - is on Saturday 22nd June from 09.30 - 12noon - we are collecting bric a brac and can guarantee that there will be bargains galore at the Fayre!!

If you would like more information please visit us on facebook.

George Bainbridge

Rebecca Henderson

You may have noticed from the weekly Notice Sheet that we have started to pray again for Rebecca Henderson, she is the daughter of a work colleague. She had cancer in her leg when she was eight years old and it returned when she was ten years old. Unhappily it has returned again – this time a tumour is in her lower stomach – she is now thirteen years old. She is undergoing a trial treatment which initially made her very ill, but dosages have been adjusted and she is now tolerating it better. However she is very poorly and her family are very concerned.

J.A.R.

John and Heather McPhee



We recently visited John and Heather in Kirkliston near Edinburgh where they live. We attended their very welcoming church, where John was leading the service. They are settled and happy back in Scotland but wanted to send blessings and love to all the people they know in Stranton and Burbank churches.

J.A.R.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

June

Peter Anderson
Paul Anderson
Riley Bruce
Emma Craig
Tim Craig
Millie Dobbin
Mike Dodds
Bill Greenwood
Pam Harkness
Simon Jennett
Tim Jennett
Tyler Lithgo
Doug Macaskill
Kelly Spoors
Kevin Tones
Patricia Vaughan
Stan Vaughan



**Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary**

Ann & Andrew Cuthbert



**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

Thurs 30th May **Ascension Day - Group Holy Communion Services**
9.15am St Columba's
7.00pm St Aidan's
7.15pm St Luke's

30th May – 9th June 'Thy Kingdom Come' (see below)

Tues 4th June 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel
Sun 9th June 5.00pm Confirmation Rehearsal, St Luke's
Mon 10th June 7.30pm Lighthouse Planning, Browning Ave
Tues 11th June 6.30pm Confirmation, St Luke's
Sun 16th June 4.00pm Messy Church, St Matthew's CC
Mon 17th June 7.30pm Buildings & Finance, Claremont Drive
Sat 29th June 5.15pm Ordinations, Durham Cathedral
Sun 30th June see below
Tues 2nd July 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel

Thy Kingdom Come is an international initiative where we are all encouraged to pray for the growth of God's Kingdom between Ascension Day and Pentecost. One idea is to pray for 5 people you know to grow in their awareness of God. There are various resources to help with this available at the back of Church.

On Thursday 6th June you are invited to Prayer Walk through the 3 parishes beginning at The Causeway at 6.30pm. We will aim to finish around 9.00pm.

Ordinations: Clive Hall and Michelle Delves are to be ordained priest at 5.15pm on Saturday 29th June in Durham Cathedral. If you would like to attend the ordination please sign the list at the back of Church. On Sunday 30th June Michelle will preside at 8.30am service and Clive at the 10.30am service in Stranton Church. We will welcome members of Burbank Community Church and the service will be followed by a shared lunch. On 3rd July Michelle will also preside at the 10.00am Wednesday Communion at St Matthew's CC.

Rev'd Andrew Craig

After 16 years as a licensed minister at Stranton Church Andrew is to step down from his current role from the middle of August. To celebrate Andrew's ministry amongst us and to thank him for all his ministry we will be holding an evening social on Monday 15th July at 6.30pm in The Fulthorpe Chapel in church. Do keep this date in your diary and watch this space for more details.



The original biblical definition of hospitality meant 'the welcoming of strangers'.

We are always looking for people who are willing to open up their home on a temporary basis to host a person in need of a place to sleep. Asylum seekers become destitute for a number of reasons but primarily as a result in the withdrawal of their Home Office support (finance and housing) once a decision has been made regarding a person's application for asylum.

Open Door is one of the few agencies providing poverty relief for destitute asylum seekers in the area. Whilst we try to accommodate those destitute asylum seekers requiring support in one of our rented properties or in our night shelter provision, this is not always possible.

Usually the biggest need for hosting is for single women as we do not provide night shelter accommodation for females. However there are also occasions where it is not appropriate for some men to be placed in the night shelter.

Hosting is usually on a short term basis with an individual being hosted for a maximum of four weeks (although shorter periods are possible to suit individual circumstances).

If you have a spare room in your house and you would be willing to host a destitute asylum seeker, please contact our office on 01642 213634 or email hosting@opendoornortheast.com

**GOD CAN RESTORE WHAT IS BROKEN
AND CHANGE IT INTO SOMETHING
AMAZING. ALL YOU NEED IS FAITH**

- JOEL 2:25

Slow Me down Lord

**Slow me down Lord.
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my hurried pace with a vision
of the eternal reach of time.
Give me, amid the confusion of the day,
the calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions of my nerves and
muscles with the soothing music of the
singing streams that live in my memory.
Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art of minute vacations
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend, to pat a dog,
to read a few lines from a good book.
Slow me down Lord, and inspire me to
send my roots deep into the soil of life's
enduring values that I may grow
toward the stars of my greater destiny.**



Mary Baines' Recipes

Turkish Lamb Stew

12oz lean boneless lamb
1 large onion cut into 8 wedges
1 garlic clove crushed
½ pepper red or green roughly diced
½ pint chicken stock
1 tablespoon Balsamic vinegar (or wine vinegar or red wine)
2 tomatoes roughly peeled & chopped (tinned can be used)
½ teaspoon sage
1 teaspoon tomato puree
1 bay leaf
12oz potatoes or sweet potatoes
Seasoning
6-8 black olives if desired



Cut lamb into ½ inch cubes & place in non-stick pan with no extra fat. Fry very slowly until sealed. Cut onions as directed. Add with garlic to lamb & fry for 4 minutes. Add the peppers, stock, vinegar, tomatoes & tomato puree, bay leaf & sage, plus seasoning. Cover & simmer for 30 minutes. Peel & cut potatoes into ½ inch cubes & add to stew. If needed add a little more stock or water if it seems a little dry. Simmer for another 30 minutes. Add olives & more seasoning if desired. Serve with a salad of shredded lettuce or white cabbage, carrot, cucumber & spring onions. Add a dollop of plain yogurt to stew when serving.

Scotch Cheesecakes

2oz butter	1 large egg
2oz ground almonds	¼ teaspoon baking powder
2oz castor sugar	1 oz ground rice
Few drops of almond essence	
Ready-made short crust pastry	jam

Using 12 case tart tin – line each section with rolled short crust pastry, and put little jam in each case.



Mix butter and sugar till creamy and white, then add the egg a little at a time.

Stir in the ground rice & remaining ingredients.

Put a spoonful of the mixture onto the jam & bake at 160C for about 15 minutes.

Funeral Ministry

Sometimes bereaved people don't want support after the funeral and don't ask for it, but sometimes they appreciate continued support from the church family. We already invite families who have had their funerals in church to the annual *All Souls* service at the beginning of November where we remember loved ones before God. Occasionally, offering sensitive friendship to a lonely and unhappy person is a significant opportunity to share about God's love and the hope that Jesus' death and resurrection gives to those who believe.

Some training in Bereavement Ministry is invaluable, helping us to understand the stages of grieving and what support can be most effective, including other resources and advice that can be brought in to help a bereaved person in need. Perhaps a bereavement you have experienced already equips you to listen effectively and accompany someone on this stage of their journey, but you could find that attending a course and improving your knowledge would give you confidence intentionally to offer this ministry.

The (Roman Catholic) Holy Family Parish is providing a training course in "The ministry of Reconciliation" in the Autumn, consisting of four weekend or evening sessions in September and October. Dates aren't firm yet. They are offering this ecumenically (to other churches). Bereavement ministry in our parish could be linked with being a verger at funerals, but it could be a stand-alone team within the communities we serve. Imagine what a team of people trained in this ministry could achieve.

There is no charge for this training to individuals offering themselves for bereavement ministry. If you are interested, please let Rev'ds Norman, Gemma, Clive, Michelle or me know. We will give you dates when they are available.

With love,
Andrew



Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
2 June	B Butcher	S Shepherd K Shepherd
9 June	P Porritt	D Greenwood B Greenwood
16 June	M Hutchinson	J Lawson K Lawson
23 June	P Thompson	A Craig N Proffitt
30 June	I Walker	S Shepherd K Shepherd



Baptisms

12 May	Harry Thomas Williams Jasmine Lola Smith
26 May	Rocco Louis Measor Georgia Darroch Collings



Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF	
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk	

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

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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.

