

**Stranton and Burbank Community Church**

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# **SIGNPOST**



**Rooted in God's love  
Growing together with Jesus  
Branching out in the  
Power of the Holy Spirit**

**40p**

**Aug/Sept 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 September 15th 2019 and will continue to take place on the Third Sunday of each Month**

## **And finally . . .**

Many thanks for all the kind messages and cards, generous presents and goodwill that attended the party in July to celebrate my "retirement". It was a wonderful, happy, humbling occasion that will stick in our memory for some time.

It is not normal for clergy to "stay put" when they retire, but that is what Elspeth and I plan to do, at least for the short term. However we will mainly "disappear" for at least the 6 months that is the minimum the Bishop will allow for retiring clergy before considering giving them "permission to officiate" (i.e. lead services, baptise people and conduct weddings and funerals). Even then it is not certain what we will do after that. It will bear little resemblance to the ministry I have had the privilege of being part of to this point. So thank you all for having been partners in this ministry - and pray with us that we will find the new path and patterns through which God in Jesus can be glorified.

One of the better known passages in the Old Testament is in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 - "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die . . ." - and so on. Sometimes people stop reading this too quickly. The passage doesn't make much sense without the later verses: "... I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him".

I can't think of a better way of signing off (for the time being, at least) than with words from the hymn we sang on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July: "Angels, help us to adore him - you behold him face to face. Sun and moon bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, praise with us the God of grace".

May the blessing of God, Heavenly Father, who is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end of everything; His Son who revealed His love for us through his reconciling sacrifice; and His Holy Spirit who will touch us with that love if only we will open ourselves up to receive it - be yours now and in all the future time that God gives you to serve him.

**Andrew**

## **Mothers Union**

Earlier this month I went down south to stay with my eldest daughter for a few days. Many people thought this was for a mini break. It wasn't. My daughters and I attended a Thanksgiving Service for a very dear family friend. Roger and his wife Kate were part of our history, family indeed, and Kate really needed our support.

MU has been around a long time also giving support, training and love to people in great need, leading people to those who can help in difficult situations and offering prayer and encouragement. Our MU Prayer Diary Daily enables us to be aware of those members around the world who are facing problems, needing encouragement or are helping us in their witness to God's love and grace in their lives.

Thank you to those who came to support our Strawberry Tea. Thank you also to those members who helped in the kitchen and waited on tables. All money raised is going to the MU Summer Appeal.

Our Stranton Branch joined with MU members from St Luke's at Gelato's in Seaton for a very enjoyable tea. We had a lovely time chatting, being looked after and went home with 'doggy bags' too! Hopefully more joint enterprises soon.

### **Dates:**

9<sup>th</sup> August 2pm Mary Sumner Day – please note to be held at Waddington Street Chapel in Durham, as St Nicholas was double booked.

I hope you enjoy the summer ahead and return refreshed in September. We restart on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1.30pm in The Asda Room at St Matthew's Community Centre.

At the MU Durham Diocesan Service in June the Bishop used this prayer:-

Remember what God has done.

Rejoice in what He is doing.

Receive all He shall yet do.

Put your hand in His, the God of past, present and future,

And walk with Him wherever He may lead, knowing He will walk with you.

God Bless

**Ann Courtenay**

## **From the Home Front**

I have been north to Scotland over the last few days. When we left Hartlepool it was warm, but overcast and with heavy showers at times. As we travelled northwards the weather was much the same. We arrived in Dundee after travelling through rain and drizzle, but returned through dry and much warmer weather. Our overnight stop in the Borders saw the thermometer rise markedly. We travelled back to Hartlepool in air conditioned comfort, but stepped out of the car in bright sunshine to temperatures in the high 20s degree centigrade – the hottest day of the year!

As I opened up my conservatory my plants were looking very limp. The flower heads were now past their best and the petals falling. Likewise my patio tubs were looking forlorn and droopy and the tomato plants in my greenhouse were gasping!!! I had to go around them all with a generous amount of water, sometimes with added liquid food. The dead flower heads needed cutting off. After an hour's work the plants all looked better – more upright, fuller, ready to bloom, and produce again...

We then had a trip to the beach with our grandson – we dug in the sand, splodged in the sea and sat in the sunshine. After a while we were all sandy, damp, sweaty and uncomfortable, but a cooling ice-cream and a walk in the shade of trees in the park followed by long glasses of cool water soon revived us.

It is important that plants, animals and humans all need to have warmth, then again also shade, care and water if they are to thrive, live life to the full and successfully produce the next generation. God ensures we have all we need – but we humans require the additional spiritual nourishment that only building a relationship with Father God, His son our Saviour and the Holy Spirit can give to bring joy, fulfilment and salvation. Without the Love of God we wither and die inside, our lives feel worthless and our happiness transient.

God is just waiting to be invited into your life – so ask Him in today – the outcome will be worth it.

**J.A.R.**

# Ordination of Priests

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June in Durham Cathedral

Bishops Paul and Sarah after the ordination with Clive

Clive ordained & vested



Michelle and Clive enjoying their special day.

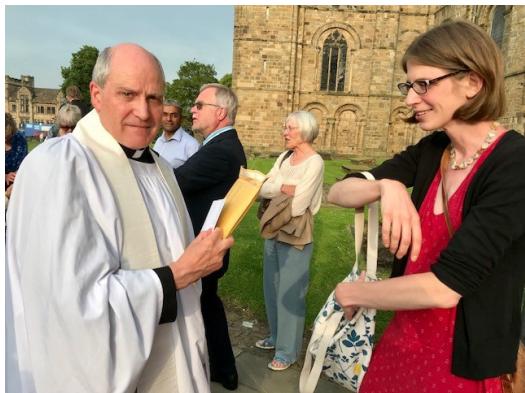
Michelle with family and supporters



Michelle looking  
a bit worried about what comes next....



Stranton supporters



Bekah Moore came to support Clive too



The trials and tribulations were eased by support from Angela, Ben & Joseph

A large number of Stranton and Burbank congregations joined with family, friends and supporters of Clive and Michelle to attend their ordination to the priesthood at Durham Cathedral which was presided over by Bishop Paul and Bishop Sarah.

The eleven ordinands were presented to Bishop Paul by the Archdeacons. Their calling and faith were affirmed and legal checks verified. The Bishop declared to the congregation the roles of a priest and asked the ordinands to affirm their faith and spoke of how they were to fashion their future lives as servants of Jesus. Prayers were said over each ordinand by their sending ministers and hymns were sung. Then all the candidates were each signed with the cross, using Holy Oil, on their hands. Then Bishop Paul blessed each one with the power of the Holy Spirit. The training incumbents (Norman for Clive and Michelle) moved their stoles from a diagonal sash to a scarf position as a sign of their status. They were then presented to the congregation amidst thunderous applause.

They all helped administer communion to everyone attending. At the end of the service Bishop Paul led the new priests back to the font where he gave each one a Bible as a sign of the authority given to them by God to preach the gospel of Christ and to minister the Holy Sacraments.

J.A.R.

# First Communion for Michelle and Clive

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June



Michelle presided at 8:30 Communion now able to perform all the priestly duties.

Chocolate and music to celebrate this special day



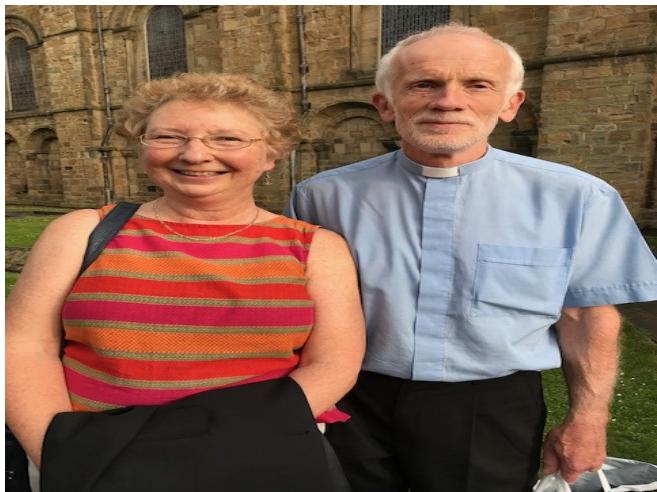
Clive presided over the 10:30 Family Communion and it was fitting for him to be robed.

Norman spoke at both services. He referred to Mo Farrah and how athletes need to work hard with relentless determination, he spoke of the story of the fruit tree in the Bible which stood still and rested in the Lord in order to bear fruit and then how amateur dancers on Strictly Come Dancing rely on the professional dancer to train and guide them through the competition. These analogies were all to advise our newly ordained priests that the value of their ongoing hard work is linked to the ability to trust in God and to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. God will then enable them to reflect His love as they persevere in obedience, and tune in to His peace. They need to share the load but know when to say no to some things, so that they can say yes to others. These words were not just for Clive and Michelle, but also for all of us as we follow God's plans in our lives.

Communion successfully completed

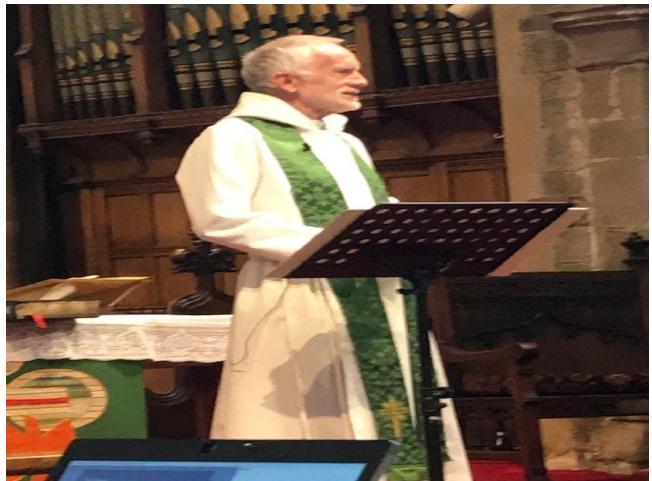


# Retirement for Rev Andrew Craig



Andrew and Elspeth Craig

**Andrew's final Communion service in Stranton was on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**



Stanton memorabilia as a parting gift from the congregations – recycled of course!

# Retirement Party for Rev Andrew Craig



Guests attended from churches supported by Andrew – St Luke's and St Cuthbert's Billingham, St Luke's Hartlepool, St Aidan's and Holy Trinity, Bellringers, Food Bank and those who have known and supported Andrew during his time at Stranton pre and post ordination.



Rev Norman Shave spoke of Andrew's contributions to the ministry over the years.



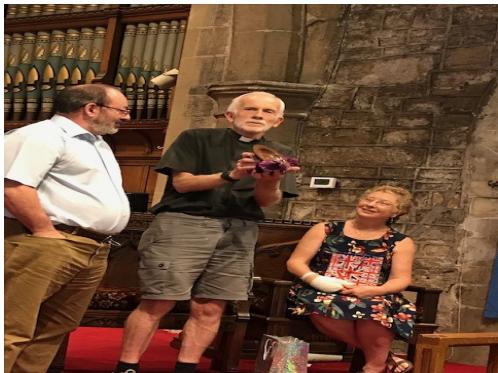
Suitably embarrassed Andrew and Elspeth....



Rev Roz Hall from Holy Trinity West View thanked Andrew for all his support.



Area Dean  
Janet Burbury thanked Andrew for his work for the Deanery over the years.



A beautiful handmade wooden bowl from a talented member of St Luke's congregation.



visiting from New Zealand.

A prayer from Rev Clive in thanks for all that Andrew has done in the furtherance of God's work throughout his years in the ministry and a blessing for his future in retirement.



The familiar face of Rev David Chadwick – Chad who came to Stranton as an Oasis Youth Team Member many years ago.

A wonderful supper and a chance to reacquaint with old friends, meet new friends and chat about all that the Rev Andrew Craig has achieved over the years...

# All Saints Stranton Church



Harvest  
Ceilidh Social

Live Music by  
**Sunniside-up  
Ceilidh Band**

**Saturday 5th October 6.30-10pm at  
St Matthew's Community Centre  
Elwick Road.**

**Tickets £2 & £5 for Family Tickets**

**It will be a Faith Supper , please bring any drinks you wish. Tea, Coffee and Juice will be provided. Please call the office for tickets or more information 01429 894006 or see Trish Playfor, Norman Shave, Michelle, Clive Hall or Maureen Anderson.**

**Overload  
For God sake stop doing  
things all over the place!  
(or non stop).  
Wait patiently in between.  
One thing at a time.**

**M.C.D.**

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## Bishop Sarah opens St Matthew's Community Centre Extension



Photographs showing the building of the extension to the kitchens and storage area.



The Civic Mayor, Rev Norman Shave and Bishop Sarah who officially opened the extension.



A bouquet to thank Barbara Butcher for all the hard work and effort she put in to secure the grants required to fund the project.

A selection of visitors who attended the opening





## Thoughts for August & September

God sent His Son to save us through persuasion rather than through violence, for there is no violence in God. God sent him to call us rather than accuse us. He sent him to love us rather than to judge us.

Anonymous c200 AD

When we begin to follow Christ in his character and teaching, we will encounter many who will contradict us, many who will try to forbid us, many who will actively seek to dissuade us. This can even occur among those who are companions of Christ. Remember, the people who tried to prevent the blind man from calling out to Jesus were the same people who walked at Christ's side. Whether, therefore, it is a matter of threats or flattery or prohibitions, if you wish to follow Christ, turn to the cross, endure, bear up and refuse to give in.

Augustine (354-430 AD)

# St Luke's Garden Party

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July



The event was opened by Mother Gemma and was well attended. There was lots of attractions including a coconut shy, facepainting, bouncy castle, balls in the bucket & hoopla. There were tombolas and raffles, stall of books, bric a brac, cakes, and crafts plus refreshments and hotdogs.



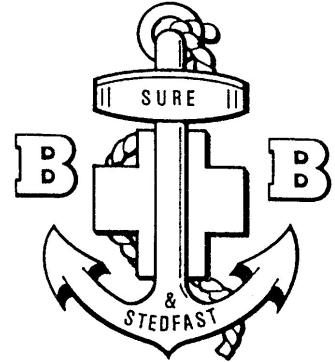
## Ward Jackson CE Primary

After a year working towards SATs and developing their curriculum skills Y6 children were given a fitting send off by all the other classes in the Leavers Worship. Each child received a Bible from Rev Andrew Craig and Peter Anderson representing Stranton Church and Governors. The SATs results are now published and the children should be proud of all that they have achieved. School Staff and Governors wish them all blessings as they move on to their new Secondary schools for transition.





## Boys Brigade The Build Up to Camp Begins!!!!!!



As we hit July, our plans for camp at Melton Scout Centre are stepped up, games gear, transport plans, food - are all checked and plans finalised (food will be delivered via the internet - modern life!!). Medals, First Aid equipment are bought and replenished.

The programme is confirmed and the sun ordered to shine - hopefully - but rain or shine we aim to have a great time.

**Summer Fayre** - our final total was £696.96 many thanks to all who supported us.

**Summer Plans** - Boys Brigade life does not stop after camp - we aim to label all the shelving we have put up in the new store and to improve the quality of activities we offer our members and look forward to the Harvest Festival Service in October.

**New Members** - if you know any Boys/Lads from the age of 6 up to 16, who would like to join please let us know so we can remind them when we start back in September.

**George Bainbridge**

# **Margaret Lumley – remembering the early years**

Firstly I want to thank you for all your prayers, expressions of sympathy and practical help to me and to other relatives on the occasion of the sad loss of my sister, Margaret. Also I have much appreciated all the kindnesses shown to Margaret by those at Stranton All Saints, especially in her later years of failing health.

Margaret and I were born in West Hartlepool and baptised at Stranton All Saints Church in 1936 and 1938 respectively.

With our mother (and at first also Grandma) Margaret and I spent four and a half very happy years in Swaledale during the Second World War. Our first memories of church were attending Sunday School and Evensong at the village church, Holy Trinity in Low Row, Swaledale. (Margaret's ashes have now been buried in the churchyard there in the valley she loved).

Our schooling began in the little village school at Low Row. After her first day at school, Margaret declared to our mother that when she grew up wanted to be a school teacher; Margaret never waivered from that ambition.

Those wonderful days of freedom to wander the beautiful countryside were replaced by town life when we returned to West Hartlepool shortly before the end of the war. We lived in Lister Street, attended Lister Street School and Stranton Church Sunday School was based there too until after the war, when it moved to St Matthew's. In our teenage years we were confirmed at Stranton and from then on very regularly went to the 8am Communion Service and to Evensong.

Loving, caring parents provided a stable background and encouraged us in all our activities: YPU, Brownies and later Girl Guides, music lessons, and later when we were at the High School for Girls we enrolled at the College of Art's Saturday morning classes for children. At home we busied ourselves with various art and craft activities. The local parks and gardens, seaside rocks and beaches and surrounding countryside were there to be explored and enjoyed by walking or bicycling. We were joined in many of our activities by Margaret's friend Margaret Bradley. A friendship that lasted from the day Margaret started at Lister Street School to the present: over 75 years.

On leaving school Margaret trained to be a teacher at Scarsbrick Hall (C of E Teacher Training College) and then she taught in Hartlepool, mostly at Golden Flatts Primary School until her retirement.

I think many of you at Stranton know more than I do of her many church and other activities with which Margaret was involved in her adult life and over the years the help she gave to many in giving lifts and visiting sick and elderly.

By contrast after school and study in Hull I taught briefly at March, in the Fens and then worked in a government unit in London, but I have continued to come back to Hartlepool frequently and have always thought of it as my home town and Stranton All Saints as my home church. But now with mobility and health problems I am unable to return as much.

I thank God for His goodness in guiding and protecting the lives of Margaret and me all our days.

**Ann Lumley**

# Coffee, Chat and Good Company



Teaching asylum seekers to play dominoes.

The celebrity quiz needed everyone working together! The internet definitely has its uses when you are completely stuck – and a younger person to work it is a definite help...



Patricia discovered that crocheting needed a great deal of concentration even when you have a good teacher. Crafts were definitely a calming pastime while having a chat.



Now this was a table of mixed interests!



This is what you missed – delicious.

Birthday cake and candles to celebrate a special day!



# Burbank Family Fun Day 21<sup>st</sup> July

Although it was a blustery and quite cloudy day we were able to put up gazebos, after litter picking the Community Gardens, and pray a blessing on the event and all who attended, ready to start promptly at 11am. There was plenty of space to accommodate the games – shuffleboard, hoopla, balls in the bucket, launch the rocket, hoolahoop and sticky bats. In addition there was face painting and balloon modelling, a story tent and prayer corner. Everyone was asked to write out a prayer or for something they wanted to happen in their lives.

With donations enabling Fast Snax to provide sandwiches and Tesco providing free fruit, plus cakes, cookies and crisps and drinks all who came went home full. Groups chatted sitting on chairs and on rugs on the grass. Over a hundred residents, children and Stranton and Burbank congregation, (in addition to a few dogs and a pony!), attended between 11am and 1pm. The day was warm and the rain stayed away until one o'clock – finishing time! There was a friendly atmosphere and the event exceeded our expectations in reaching out to and getting to know the residents, enabling us to show God's love to and for them.



Time to play and chat together.



Time for a quiet sit in the story tent

Burbank residents and Strantonians get to know each other.



Fruit donated by Tesco plus donations of drinks, crisps and a selection of cakes and cookies was greatly enjoyed by all who attended the social event.

Peter and Jeni supervised the food tent.



Everyone who came could have a hot or cold sandwich, or pie



from Fast Snax – thank you for the generous donation which enabled this. Everyone had plenty to eat and drink over the 2 hours.

Face painting  
was very  
popular and

the queue just got longer...



These sisters  
enjoyed having  
their faces  
painted.



Tuppence the Shetland petting pony put in a surprise appearance when her owner realised there were so many children at the event.

The prayer tree gradually filled up before the end. Everyone was blessed by the weather, food and company. The children all had a fantastic time. The event was a resounding success with God very much at the centre.



# Mary Baines' Recipes

## Pork Spare Ribs

2lbs ribs  
8 tablespoons vinegar  
8 tablespoons pineapple juice  
8 tablespoons water  
3 tablespoons lemon juice + extra  
3 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 tablespoon tomato sauce  
2 level teaspoons ginger  
Good pinch of salt  
1 dessertspoon cornflour  
Dry mustard powder



Mix dry ingredients in pan, add wet ingredients – bring to boil.  
Sprinkle ribs with dry mustard powder and additional lemon juice – roast for 10 minutes uncovered then pour on sauce and cook for 30 minutes more.  
Serve with rice

## Ginger Shortbread

½ lb plain flour	¼ lb brown sugar
¼ lb margarine	1 tablespoon golden syrup
½ level teaspoon bicarb soda	½ level teaspoon cream of tartar
½ dessert spoon ground ginger	Pinch of salt

Cream the margarine and sugar, add syrup & then remainder of dry ingredients.

Put into a greased tin & press down lightly with back of damp spoon  
Cook in slow oven 150C, Gas 3. When cool but not cold, cut into squares.



# CELEBRATE!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

August

Lorelai Anderson  
Steph Boyd  
Michael Cartwright  
Ruth Smith  
Melanie Lee  
Andrew Milner  
Arthur Moore  
Linda Southgate  
Rohan Wanduragala  
David Wilson



## September

Vickie Addison  
Freyja Bruce  
Joan Herbert  
Katie Herbert  
Jack Hanlon  
Mel Hutchinson  
Maureen Wilford

## Congratulations on your Wedding Anniversary

Tim & Vikki Craig  
Andrew & Jacqui Rogers  
Angela & David Craig  
Jeni & Peter Hart  
Rebecca & Christopher Dean

# Congratulations

**Faith & Adam Barton on the arrival of  
Ronnie Victor on 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Thanks to all for prayers**

**Best wishes to Rev Andrew and Elspeth  
Craig  
on their retirement from services to the  
ministry and education.**

If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email  
[admin@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk)  
or phone 864006.

**All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.**

## Dates for the Diary

1 <sup>st</sup> September	9.00am & 11.00am	New Service times
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	7.30pm	New Beginnings
9 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm	Lighthouse Planning
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00-4.00pm	Heritage Open day Church
15 <sup>th</sup> September	4.00pm	Messy Church
21 <sup>st</sup> September	9.30-1.30pm	PCC Away Morning
24 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm	PCC
1 <sup>st</sup> October	7.30pm	New Beginnings
5 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30-10pm	Harvest Ceilidh at St Matthew's Community Centre.
6 <sup>th</sup> October		Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving Services.
20 <sup>th</sup> October		Joint Service at St Luke's



## Sidespersons



**8.30am**

4<sup>th</sup> Aug B Butcher  
11<sup>th</sup> Aug P Porritt  
18<sup>th</sup> Aug M Hutchinson  
25<sup>th</sup> Aug P Thomson

**10.30am**

S Shepherd  
K Shepherd  
D Greenwood  
B Greenwood  
J Lawson  
K Lawson  
A Craig  
N Proffit

**9.00am**

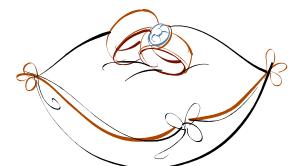
1<sup>st</sup> Sept I Walker

**11.00am**

S Shepherd  
K Shepherd

## Weddings

20 July Sam Youdale & Lauren Ferguson  
Daniel Knight & Amy Tolputt  
  
27 July George Carberry & Claire Twidale  
Keith Suggett & Judith Lloyd



# Who's Who

<b>Church Office Administrator</b>	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF Trish Playfor <b>"Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am"</b> 01429 894006 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:admin@stranton-church.org.uk">admin@stranton-church.org.uk</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.stranton-church.org.uk">www.stranton-church.org.uk</a>
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**Curate**

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**Associate Minister**

Revd Andrew Craig 25 Egerton Road 422461

**Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate**

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Secretary Susan Atkinson,  
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<b>Treasurer</b>	David Craig 57 Claremont Drive	234279
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
<b>Loyalty Treasurer</b>	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
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***Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.***

