

**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**

**December/ January 2019-20**

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

## Sunday

**9.00am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

**11.00am.** 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.

**7.00pm** 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 January 2020** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

# One Life Mission



As some of you know I was invited to participate in the One Life Mission trip to Newstead, Nottingham, with a small team from the Durham Diocese. Many of you kept the mission trip in your prayers for several weeks before, and I just wanted to say a big thank you to all who kept us covered in prayer.

The Archbishop of York was there for the mission along with our very own Bishop Paul Butler and 11 other Bishops from the north of England. Bishop Paul Williams, of Nottingham, welcomed us all at the launch event, which took place at Mansfield Town FC. It was a penalty shootout, with a team chosen by the Bishops, versus a team from Betel, (a Christian charity that works to rescue people from addiction). It was a great kick off, (pardon the pun but I just couldn't resist 😊), to what turned out to be three exciting days of prayer, fellowship and spreading the Good News of the Gospel across the Nottingham diocese.

We prayed and worshipped together during a commissioning service which concluded with the Bishops and their teams being sent out to the four corners of the diocese to support local churches and take part in the events they had organised. They put on more than 400 events and activities and invited people along, and boy did they come – some of the venues were packed out. Events included, ladies' evenings, men's breakfasts, film shows, picnics, barbecues, school visits, fashion shows, Messy Church and prayer walks - to name just a few.

Throughout the trip there was an, almost, tangible sense of God's presence and the people of Newstead (where I was based) were so gracious and open to the power of the Holy Spirit. It was an absolute privilege to minister to and with them and made the mission trip a real blessing to all concerned. I visited jumble sales, spoke at Giggles women's night, made pizza's, with the lovely Rick Simpson, crafted, knitted and even worked on a market stall with Bishop Paul.

## Pizza making with Archdeacon Rick



## The Archbishop of York shares his story



On the final evening of the mission trip the Archbishop of York shared his testimony, to a massive audience, at Newstead Miners Welfare club. His testimony included stories from his early life in Uganda, fleeing his country to escape persecution, and becoming 'Yorkshireman of the Year in 2007' in his role as Archbishop.

The threads which ran through the stories he shared were firstly; a powerful sense of the life and freedom that loving Jesus brings; secondly the importance of sharing God's story in our life with others. This is my heartland, because as part of my role in my sending church was to work with the congregation and facilitate spaces and places where we could meet as a church family and learn to share our God stories with confidence and joy.

I absolutely loved my time in Newstead because the people of Newstead reminded me a lot of the people I have met since moving to the North East. They were warm hearted, kind in character, massive in spirit and wonderfully authentic, they were, as my lovely mum says, 'the salt of the earth.'

## Giggles ladies evening



The trip was life giving and a great opportunity for all involved to be a witness to the Love of God and His faithfulness in their lives. One Life may have finished on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September but the mission is not over – many of the churches we worked with are now running nurture courses and altogether there are more than 70 nurture courses planned, during the next few months to support people who expressed an interest in faith during the mission.

Grace and Peace

## Mich

# Mothers Union

Our last meeting was held on Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> and we sang the hymn 'God is our strength and refuge'. I spoke of singing that hymn in the congregation at the Remembrance Service many, many years ago at my last church. I remembered the reaction of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and various other organisations present that day. They looked at each other, then stood to attention, and sang with spirit. Instead of just being token figures they became real witnesses of the past events of that day that ended the First World War in 1918.

In our present time MU has a variety of different projects to improve people's lives through practical help and illuminating focus. One is 'Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence', organised by our Awareness and Action Project. This started in our Diocese on the 25<sup>th</sup> November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until the 10<sup>th</sup> December (International Human Rights Day). Our Diocese will be holding a prayer walk through Durham to highlight and publicise the issues raised and to pray at the Cathedral at the end of the walk.

This prayer is from our Prayer Diary:  
Lord who created us in Your image  
Stir in us a resolve to speak up and  
Speak out against all forms of  
Gender-based violence.  
Amen.

Remember, gender-based violence happens to all ages, all genders and in all nations.

At the last Diocesan Meeting, we had a very interesting talk from Sarah – a Chaplain from Low Newton Prison. Sarah asked for prayer for the very varied assortment of girls and women residing there and for the branch of the MU set up there earlier this year.

I've booked the small hall at St Matthew's CC on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30pm so we can have an Advent meeting. All are welcome – a time for reflection and quiet focus.

Don't forget our Christmas Lunch at the Marine Hotel, Seaton Carew at 12.00noon on THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> December. We still have room if you would like to bring a friend, but do let me know as I will need menu choices.

On January 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 we restart with our wave of prayer, and follow with a tea party and beetle drive, where insectologists would be sorely tested to identify the species drawn during the rounds.

Thank you for all your help during the year, helping in the kitchen and for your support. Thank you to Julie for helping us to sing by playing her guitar.

A Happy and Blessed Christmas and prayers for a New Year where we will hopefully have more idea of what lies ahead for our nation. Our MU theme for 2020 (which was decided earlier this year) is "Building Hope and Confidence".

God Bless, love from  
**Ann Courtenay**

# From the Home Front

My sister has been staying in our parents' old home a great deal over the last few weeks when she comes to Hartlepool to visit our ill brother. She lives high up in a no-through valley in the Scottish Borders, she has lived in the countryside for most of her life and believes firmly in looking after the environment. She always brings one of her working Labradors with her for company on her trips here. So each day she walks along Seaton beach to exercise the dog. She always takes some sort of bag with her and as she walks she picks up litter from the paths en route and debris dropped or washed up on the beach and then empties this rubbish into the correct bins on her way home. Some days she can hardly carry the bags as they are so full of fast food cartons, bottles, cans, papers, plastic bits and packaging of every shape and size.

We are also working through all the 'stuff' in my parents' house. It is amazing how much they, with my brother, have bought or been given, kept and not used over the years. How many rolls of sellotape, pairs of scissors, watches, drinking glasses, towels, batteries, torches, baking tins; never mind out of date foodstuffs and medicines etc etc, is needed by three people??? So many things were crammed into cupboards that it was impossible to see what was behind – perhaps that was why there were so many duplications!

With this in mind I followed suit and have started to declutter my house too.

Needless to say refugees, asylum seekers and charity shops plus Christmas Fairs have profited from these excesses. Only broken or unusable items found their way to the Council waste facility. There is still a lot more to clear....

As Christmas approaches all this clearing out has also made me realise how many Christmas presents were 'unwanted' and went unused over the years. As I begin to think about buying gifts this year I feel that I need to ponder more on just what is a gift – a token of love and affection for someone, chosen with thought and care – not for how much it cost, or how much it has been advertised as a 'much needed gift'! I would like my gifts this year to be used and enjoyed, to give pleasure and enjoyment – not to be put in the back of a cupboard....

Of course the greatest gift ever was given by God – His son to the people He loved. That is what we are celebrating at Christmas (and all year round). I intend to spend more time this Advent and Christmastide with the people I love and care for, rather than be sucked into a consumer driven buying, eating and drinking fest!

**J.A.R.**

# GENERAL ELECTION OPEN LETTER

## Dear friends

We write to encourage everyone in our church communities to engage as fully as possible in the General Election process. We hope this letter will also be widely shared so that we can encourage all who are entitled to vote to do so. We believe it is vital for our long term health as a democratic nation that everyone plays their part by voting, so, if you are entitled to vote by having registered, on December 12<sup>th</sup> vote.



We want to highlight what we believe need to be core common considerations over these weeks of campaigning.

## LANGUAGE, TONE & TRUTHTELLING

Alongside many others we urge everyone involved in campaigning to take care with the language that they use of those with whom they disagree, and whom they wish to defeat in the election. Robust debate is important but this does not mean being disrespectful, rude or unkind. We plead for care in how we speak of one another. We ask for truth telling that is undertaken with humility and care for the other. Differing political views, and policies, are arrived at after considerable thought; so careful listening and critiquing are required from all of us.

We want therefore to encourage **hustings** to take place, if possible, on several occasions in each constituency. Churches and church halls are good venues for these and clergy, or leading lay people, should be able to chair impartially. Churches Together and inter faith groups are excellent bases from which to conduct these.

We also want to encourage children and young people's voices to be heard even though they do not have a vote. We hope schools will hold their own debates and mini elections. We encourage everyone to try and listen to their views in helping decide how best to vote.

## CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AND NEEDY

When assessing different policies then care for the most vulnerable and needy is always at the heart of a Christian response. Will the poor be raised up? Will the disabled be respected and supported? Will children be cared for and educated well? Will the elderly be valued? Will the asylum seeker and refugee be treated with welcome and hospitality? Will the sick and dying be cared for and respected? We can arrive at different

judgments on what policies will be most effective in answering these but they ought always to be at the centre of what a policy seeks to achieve.

## **THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NATION AND WORLD**

The long running debate on Brexit shows us that different people have very contrasting views on what is best for the nation. Nevertheless, this is the question that must stay at the heart of our consideration though never seeking simply what is the best for our own nation at the cost of the wellbeing of our neighbours in other nations. This is also true as we consider the wellbeing of the planet. Climate change and how we respond as individuals and a nation should be a key area for us to consider in deciding how we vote.

## **PRAYER**

As Christians we believe that prayer matters, and that the God to whom we pray is active in our world. So we should be praying daily for all those seeking election and for the whole process. We should also hold whoever forms the next Government before God in our prayers. So please include the election in the regular intercessions in services alongside in personal and private prayer. Some might even want to run 24/7 style prayer during the campaign. The Church of England has produced a prayer for the General Election and we encourage its use.

God of grace and truth,  
send your Spirit to guide us  
as we discover your will for our country.  
Help us to discuss the issues before us  
with courtesy, truth and mutual respect  
and grant that all who stand for parliament  
will seek to serve the common good  
through him who came not to be served but to serve  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May we all hold our nation deeply in prayer. May we find a way of moving forward afresh as a nation together committed to the common good of all in our land, and the common good of our entire world.

In Christ

**+Paul & +Sarah**



## **News round up from Ward Jackson CE Primary**

### **Our Christian Values**

**Respect Kindness Truthfulness Compassion Courage**

### **Rights Respecting School**

We are thrilled with our Silver Award from UICEF. A huge well done to children and staff for respecting their rights and the rights of others.

### **Harvest Festival**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Festival. With your support we raised £40 from our raffle and sent your Harvest donations into the community.

### **Tag Rugby**

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 tag rugby teams everyone played amazing rugby and showed excellent sportsmanship. A huge congratulations to our boys on taking 3rd place and each winning a medal.

### **What have the classes been doing this term:**

Nursery and Castle Eden Class had the best day at Flamingo Land in September.

Norlina Class have been 'Street Detectives' learning about people who work in the community.

Blanchland Class had an awesome day learning about Roman life at Vindolanda.

Wingfield Class had an amazing day at the Beacon of Light Centre at Sunderland.

Sepia Class enjoyed a visit from Kirkleatham Owl Centre and were introduced to a variety of insects and birds.

Aurora Class had a day of rollercoaster fun at Flamingo Land.

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 4th December Christmas Fayre. 3.30pm - 5.00pm. All Welcome  
Friday 20th December Whole School Carol Service @ Stranton Church.  
1.30pm.  
Everyone Welcome.

## Two Year Old Provision

We are excited to let all parents know that we are now providing 2 year old provision. If you are interested in a place for your child or would like any further information please contact Mrs Allen on the number below



Can you help by collecting **Aldi stickers** & donating them to Ward Jackson School. Hand them into the school office, the Church Wardens, Norman, Clive or Angela or Jacqui Rogers





## **#Follow the Star**

Through Advent, Christmas and above all at Epiphany we remember the wise men that came to Bethlehem seeking the new born King of the Jews. Famously they came because they saw his star in the night sky. After a long journey, a long pilgrimage, they eventually got to Bethlehem, they offered their worship, giving gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

We too, like the wise men, can journey through Advent by 'Following the Star'. This year as part of a wider Christmas campaign, the Church of England is providing advent resources to prepare for Christmas. These can be received by email or by downloading the app. More details can be found on the Christmas resources section of the Church of England website.

Then as Christmas gets closer we can also encourage others to follow the star. Christmas is the biggest opportunity we now have of encouraging our friends and neighbours to join us for a service at Church. Whether it's the Group Carol service, the Christmas Eve Carol Service or Midnight Communion, I am sure all of us know someone who would like to come and be part of our Christmas celebrations. There are invitations using the 'Follow the Star theme' available in church. May we each be alert to the opportunities this season may bring. When Christmas arrives there will be a second set of resources called '12 Days of Christmas Wonder'. These resources are deliberately accessible and will be available in a small printed book and electronically. In whichever way that works for each of us, may we indeed 'Follow the Star.'

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will begin with a service in St Hilda's at 4pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The following 5 days there will be prayer and soup lunch in 5 venues across the town, all starting at 12noon. Members of all denominations are welcome as we come together in unity for prayer and fellowship. See notices in this magazine for venues.

## **Shared Ministry**

At the November PCC we agreed to continue as a 'Shared Ministry Parish'. The Shared Ministry Development Team (SMDT) is a group of people who work in partnership with the clergy and PCC to encourage the development of our ministry and our mission. For this team to work well it is really important to have a variety of people on the team – women and men of different ages and with different experiences and gifts. In the early months of next year we will be renewing the SMDT and encouraging some new folk to join the team. Please be praying about who might have the gifts from within the congregation to be part of this group. Later in January everyone will have the opportunity to nominate potential members.

## Visit to Stranton by our Archdeacon, the Venerable Rick Simpson Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November



It was good to meet Ven Rick, our Archdeacon, who was visiting Stranton for the first time.

He was preaching from two difficult passages – Malachi 4: 1-2a and Luke 21: 5-19 – they were very doom and gloom but he felt that within the words Jesus was speaking into the situation we find ourselves in today, especially relating to the General Election.

Jesus warns of upcoming catastrophes when people are overconfident.

Rick, like many of us has been appalled at language and violence used by politicians towards each other, which has permeated into how we as individuals speak to others of differing ideologies and with opposing political arguments. The civility and respect (which are markers of civilisation) are no longer adhered to and this is just not acceptable or constructive to solve the issues existing in this country and across the world.

Many people are “too certain” that they have one sided answers, sound bite simplistic solutions to what are complex questions, which need patience and insight to unpick and start to resolve. The result is rising tensions, anger, intolerance, altercations and untruths. Therefore debates during this election time need to use moderated language, maintain the correct tone, and involve truth telling and honourable actions.

Jesus didn't promise that following him would ensure that everything was fine. He warns of bad times to come and problems for Christians – however we need to be faithful and truthful.

Rick suggested 5 ways to aid our listening, hearing and understanding during the run up to the election which will then aid sensible voting to benefit the majority.

Be willing to listen to views calmly and to listen fairly.

Be willing to remember many issues discussed are complex.

When you disagree with a leader or candidate be willing to see the good that is in these people.

In leaders and candidates you agree with allow yourself to be critical of views and comments – think with integrity.

Be determined to build up relationships with those you don't agree with.

JAR

**Adam Barton  
Joiner & Carpenter**

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

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

**Steven McConnell  
Roofing Contractor**

37 Greta Avenue  
Hartlepool  
TS25 5LE

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

*Member of the National  
Federation of Roofing  
Contractors*



**THE CARPET DOCTOR**  
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC  
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

[www.thecarpetdoctor.co.uk](http://www.thecarpetdoctor.co.uk)



TELEPHONE  
**0800 0371809**  
Mobile 07770 451111



**Victoria House**  
FUNERAL SERVICE

*Under the personal guidance of*



**Carl Mean**  
Dip FD, MBIE



**Apolena Wilson**  
Dip FD, MBIFD



**Andrew Evans**  
MBIE



**Andrew Gardner**  
Dip FD

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

## Hartlepool & District Hospice

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

Please contact us at:

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



## Stranton Business Centre

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

Telephone: 01429 280444

Mobile: 07932333779

Email: [strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:strantonbusinesscentre@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.strantonbusiness.co.uk](http://www.strantonbusiness.co.uk)

## Joanna's Poochies Paradise

147 Elwick Road  
Hartlepool  
TS26 9BW

**Pet Shop  
&  
Dog Grooming**

01429 270056

## K. W. Monkman Building Services

Joinery, Glazing, Property  
Repairs & Building Work



Reg. Office:  
104 Elizabeth Way  
Seaton Carew  
Hartlepool

Telephone:  
01429 277385

## BRABINER CARPETS

249 – 251 YORK ROAD  
HARTLEPOOL  
TS26 9AD

TEL: (01429) 272298

*Established for over 75 years*



**Proud to support Stranton Church News**

*Please get in touch with your Print requirements*

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

10/11 LOWER CHURCH STREET HARTLEPOOL TS24 7DJ

**Tel: (01429) 267849**

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

## LET US HELP YOU GET THROUGH YOUR LOSS

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

**MASON'S  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
01429 862021**

129 Park Road, Hartlepool.  
TS26 9HT



*John Harrington*

BRICKWORK AND BUILDING

**New Builds, Alterations  
& Extensions**

Tel: 01429 420019  
Mobile: 07960381258

**Free Estimates**



## Do you need a Helping Hand?

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

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

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

## Keith Walker Ophthalmic Opticians

28 Victoria Road, Hartlepool  
Tel: 01429 275551

## Flowers in Church

A rota is in place for people to place flowers in the sanctuary; often for Sundays near memorable dates.

This list is being fully revised from the New Year and we would like people who wish to continue this custom to sign up for slots, which we hope to have fortnightly. Please sign up at church or let Trish in the office know the significant date so we can organise a brand new rota.

It is possible to bring and arrange the flowers yourself (we can open church for this on Saturday mornings or Thursday evenings, or by phone appointment - talk to the church wardens) or you may give money and any particular preferences direct to either of the church wardens or Ann Courtenay.

**Angela Craig**



## Help needed at Toddlers

We are again looking for help with refreshments at Toddlers on Tuesday mornings. This term Diana, Farhad and Shadi have been an amazing help, but it is likely that they will all be moving on very soon.

The task involves cutting up fruit and putting out simple snacks on trays for the children, making tea and coffee and then washing up afterwards (everything is provided). The time involved is 9.30-10:45am.

The Toddler Group continues to be very popular and is a wonderful way of supporting and reaching out to local families. Please do consider whether you feel able to help to ensure the smooth running of the group.

Thank you.

**Julie Shave**



## Through Me

Through me let there be kind words,  
a warm smile, a caring heart.

Through me let there be a willingness  
to listen and a readiness to understand.

Through me let there be dependability,  
steadfastness, trust, and loyalty.

Through me let there be compassion,  
forgiveness, mercy and love.

Through me let there be every quality  
I find O Lord in Thee.

Roy Lessin

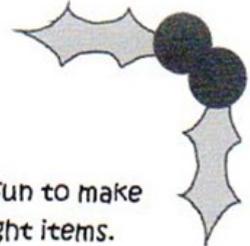
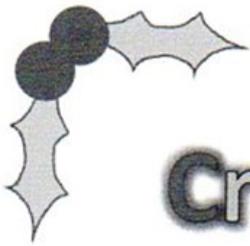
## Bob Sinclair

It is with great sadness that we report the death, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, of our Dear Friend of the Signpost Magazine.

For many years Bob collated and stapled the magazines, as well as delivering to many of our advertisers in the central part of the town. Bob, with initially his dog Dylan and latterly his dog Eddie, were familiar to many as they walked around Victoria Road, Park Road, Elwick Road and York Road delivering his magazines. He became a great friend to Trish and I. He was committed to his work with the magazines, taking pride in what he was doing and thoroughly enjoying the opportunity it gave him to meet people. We knew we could rely on him and he was devastated when he had to give up earlier in the year as his health failed.

Bob had a mischievous sense of humour and a very sweet tooth! He tackled his final illness with courage and dignity. He is fondly remembered by Trish and I as a friend and gentleman, who we feel privileged to have known.

Thank you Lord for the life of Bob.  
Jacqui Rogers



**Create** Homemade decorations and gifts can be fun to make and will mean a lot more than shop bought items.

**lights** Try and use LED lights. If you are using battery power, invest in rechargeable batteries.

**Recycle** Everything you can!! Look out for your local council tree recycling point. Recycle cards and wrapping paper.

**gifts** Buy ethically. Consider Friends of the Earth, Fairtrade, Traidcraft.

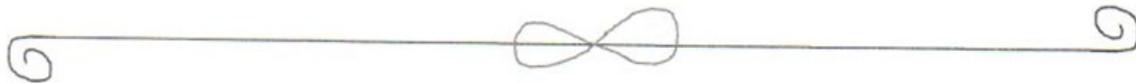
**waSte** Cut down on food waste. Don't buy more than you can eat! Also consider making soup from any leftovers.

**Tree** If you already own an artificial tree, keep using it for as long as possible. If you buy a real tree, look for the FCS certification.

**Make** Make a difference in someone else's life this Christmas and consider giving 'Gifts of Life' rather than socks!

**wrApping** Make sure your wrapping paper can be recycled. Consider using brown paper and decorate it yourself.

**Save** Save energy. Switch off the TV. Go for a walk, play games, spend time enjoying the company of others.

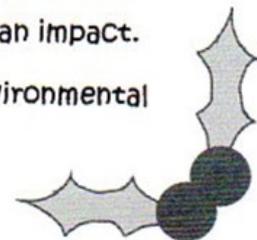
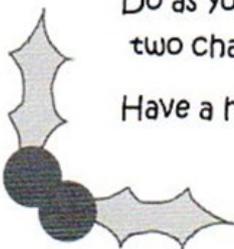


The message this Christmas is to do what you can for the environment.  
Think before you buy or throw away.

Do as you can, not as you can't and remember, if everyone makes one or two changes this Christmas, the combined effect will make an impact.

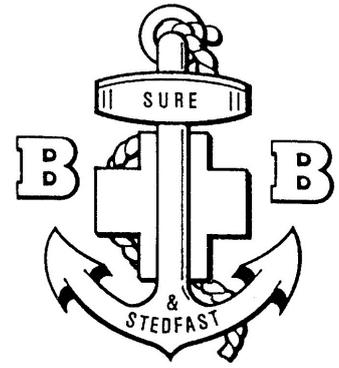
Have a happy and blessed Christmas from your Diocesan Environmental Champions.

Catherine & Danie





## Boys Brigade



### Remembrance Activities

The Anchor Boys coloured in pictures of the Great War, the Company Lads thought about remembrance in devotions and then filled in a crossword about the Great War.

The Juniors learnt about former Boys Brigade members who won the Victoria Cross in both world wars. They were visited by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Stephen Well from the Army Cadet Force who talked about the Great War. He showed the Boys all he would need to carry plus food rations for a 5 day exercise. They then they also coloured in pictures of the Great War.

All received the Boys Brigade Remembrance Badge and we gave the remainder to our friends in the Girl Guides.

### 90th Anniversary Session

This session we celebrate our 90th birthday - plans so far include a new T Shirt design, badge, group photograph competition and a celebration night including a quiz - all to be held during 2020.

### Christmas Activities

The Anchor Boys and Juniors are making Christmas crafts (thanks Trish), later the Anchors are going to the Merry Go Round and the Juniors to tea@hart.

The Company is having a Christmas party at St Matthew's Community Centre and the NCOs, Seniors and Staff are meeting for a Christmas meal at the Marine Hotel.

We do still have room for new starters in each section.

In addition any offer to help with the Anchor Boys (1hour on a Friday 6 -7.00pm would be welcomed.

**George Bainbridge**

### ++++ Breaking News +++++ Breaking News+++++ breaking News

In a competition of high drama, our Junior A team won the Battalion 5 -a-side football. After coming back from a defeat, they eventually overtook the runners-up, a combined team from the 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (St Hilda and Westbourne) to be crowned champions!

Well done Boys!!!

## Reverse Advent Calendar to aid Food Banks



### Reverse Advent Calendar

An idea to help your local foodbank this holiday season has been circulating in the form of a "Reverse Advent Calendar". Add an item to a box for each day of advent this year and donate them to us at the end!\*



#### What We Need Most This Christmas

Milk UHT  
Juice  
Cereal/Porridge  
Tinned Potatoes  
Tinned Meat/  
Meat Meals  
Coffee 100gm  
Biscuits  
Tinned Custard  
Pasta Sauces/  
Curry Sauces  
Jams  
Cuppa Soup  
Instant Mash



#### Some More Ideas From Our Shopping List

Tinned Vegetables  
Tinned Tomatoes  
Pot Noodles  
Tinned Fruit  
Spreads  
Instant Coffee  
Rice Pudding  
Tinned Soup

\*please note items donated close to Christmas will not be distributed until the New Year so there is no rush to bring them before January.

Unit 3  
Stanley Mill Industrial Estate  
Dutton Green, Chester  
CH2 4SA

0151 355 7730

Our warehouse is open Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri :9 am – 1pm Pop by with your donation & say hi 😊

Last day before Christmas – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Open 9am-1pm on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December  
Closed all the bank holidays  
Re-opening on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017



Food Banks are encouraging families, schools and workplaces to give as well as receive this festive season by starting a "reverse advent calendar", putting aside one item each day to donate to their local food bank before Christmas. The Trussell Trust, the UK's biggest provider of food banks, said the rollout of universal credit had led to a sharp increase in demand for its services this year, predicting this December "could be our busiest yet." An estimated 216,000 food items were donated in December last year due to the #FoodBankAdvent campaign, organised by the UK's online community of personal finance bloggers, who hope even more people will join in this year. "Food poverty is a very real issue in the UK so a reverse advent calendar is a fun way to

get friends, family and colleagues to do something about it,” said Andy Webb, author of “Be Clever with your Cash” and founder of UK Money Bloggers. Faith Archer, author of the “Much More with Less” money blog, said that before starting a reverse advent calendar, donors should contact their local food bank to check which items were particularly needed. Every food bank will vary, she said, but most will have a glut of some products — typically baked beans and tea bags — but a shortage of others, such as pasta sauce and instant coffee. Donations of products containing alcohol or foods with short use-by dates will not be accepted. The Trussell Trust, which operates 428 food banks across the UK, emphasised the value of beginning calendars now and dropping parcels off by early December. This reduces the pressure on volunteers, giving them time to process and distribute emergency supplies. Emma Revie, chief executive of The Trussell Trust, said: “Christmas can be such a challenging time when you’re facing hunger and poverty, so we’re really grateful for all the extra donations that are made thanks to reverse advent calendars.” “Reverse advent calendars are wonderful,” said Jackie Humphries, centre manager of the trust’s Bromley Borough Foodbank. “On our website we list the products where our stocks are low and local households and schools have lots of fun getting involved and putting something aside every day.” Higher energy bills combined with the increased cost of extra meals while children are at home during the Christmas break means that many families in the UK increasingly rely on food banks. Between April and September this year, The Trussell Trust provided more emergency supplies to families year on year. “It’s not right that people are being forced to use food banks after weeks of waiting for universal credit payments,” Ms Revie said. “changes to the system haven’t solved all of the problems food banks see, and they won’t help people making new claims this winter. We’re seeing soaring levels of need at food banks.”

# CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

## A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARTOON PUZZLE



**TRUE OR FALSE? WHICH OF THE NUMBERED ITEMS OR FIGURES WERE AT THE ACTUAL NATIVITY?**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_

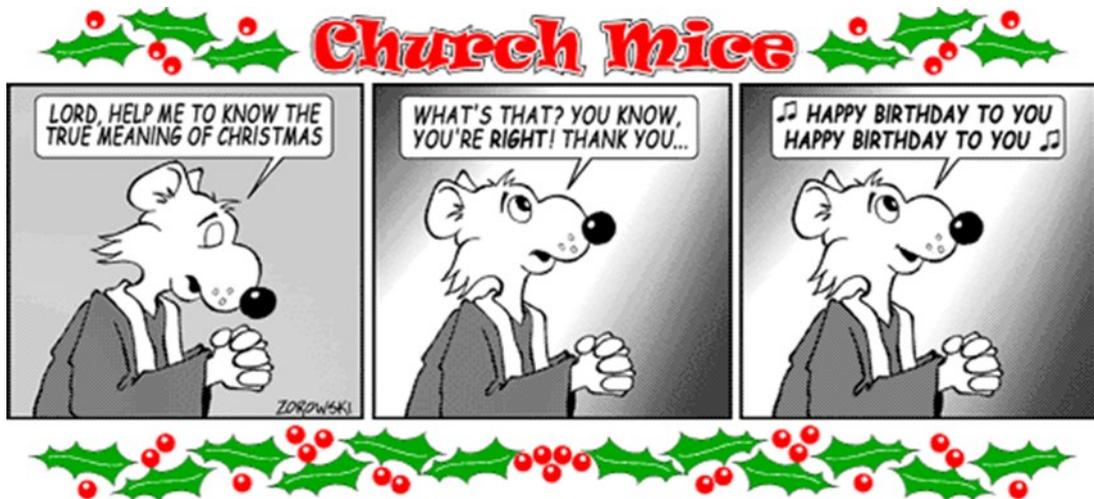
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_

(source: the Bible)

**CHURCHES TOGETHER  
IN HARTLEPOOL  
WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
JANUARY 2020**

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	United service at 4.00pm at St Hilda's Church Join in a shared service at 12 noon each day followed by a soup lunch.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford Road Baptist Church
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	St Joseph's RC Church
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Matthew's CC, Elwick Road - hosted by All Saints Stranton Church
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St George's URC
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Church of the Nazarene

These are open services and all are welcome to attend.



**Church Mice**

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



# Mary Baines' Christmas Recipes

## Easy Salmon dip

418g can salmon – drained  
200g carton full fat soft cheese  
4x 15ml spoon crème fraiche  
2x 15ml spoons lemon juice  
Place all ingredients in food processor & blend until smooth  
Spoon into a serving dish, cool in fridge until needed.  
Garnish with parsley & serve with crudités

2x 5ml spoons freshly chopped parsley  
salt, ground black pepper  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
Serve with vegetable crudités



## Spicy Nectarines

4 ripe nectarines  
60g butter  
30g light soft brown sugar  
½ teaspoon mixed spice  
1 tablespoon brandy or sherry (optional)  
Peel & cut nectarines in half & remove any pips  
Place nectarines in a buttered heatproof dish – cut side up.  
Melt butter & stir in remaining ingredients, then generously brush over the fruit  
Place in oven or under grill brushing frequently with the butter until it is all used.  
The nectarines will become soft and brown.  
Serve with any juices left in the dish & single cream – delicious with shortbread biscuits

## Truffles

60g quality dark chocolate  
30g butter  
½ tablespoon rum  
1 egg yolk  
sweet paper cases  
Melt chocolate & butter gently over a pan of boiling water.  
Beat in the raw egg yolk & rum.  
Remove from heat & add cake crumbs, ground almonds & icing sugar.  
Turn onto a plate to cool & firm (in fridge if necessary).  
Then roll into small even sized balls.  
Finally toss half of the truffles in cocoa powder & half in chocolate strands.  
Place in sweet cases  
Alternatives to using rum: whisky or sherry or 1 tablespoon orange juice & the grated rind of half an orange.

15g ground almonds  
120g icing sugar  
Chocolate strands or cocoa powder  
15g cake crumbs





# Dates for December 2019 and January 2020

## December

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Family Service Planning  
 Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Christingle Making, Fulthorpe Chapel

### Christmas Services in Stranton Church

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Civic Carol Service, in church  
 Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Christingle Service  
 Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am Nativity Service  
 Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Group Carols by Candlelight  
 Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm Christmas Family Service  
 Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 11.00pm Midnight Communion  
 Wed 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Christmas Day Family Communion

## January

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Lighthouse Planning  
 Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Church

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm United Service at St Hilda's

#### Lunches at 12noon:

*Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oxford Road Baptist Church*  
*Tues 21<sup>st</sup> St Joseph's RC Church*  
*Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> St Matthew's CC, Elwick Road*  
*Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> St George's URC*  
*Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Church of the Nazarene*

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Standing Committee, The Vicarage  
 Tues 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm New Beginnings, Fulthorpe Chapel  
 Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Lighthouse Service

### St Luke's Dates for Diary

Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols with cheese and wine	6.30pm
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Ward Surgery in Sunley Room	11.00-12noon
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	Toy Service	9.15am
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	St Luke's Christmas Fair	10.00am
(note change of date)			
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity	6.30pm
		Midnight Mass	11.30pm
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eucharist	9.15am

## December Sidespersons

	9.00am	11.00am
1 Dec	P Thompson	A Craig N Proffitt
8 Dec	I Walker	S Shepherd K Shepherd
15 Dec	P Porritt	D Greenwood B Greenwood
22 Dec	B Butcher	A Craig N Proffitt
29 Dec	P Thompson	J Lawson K Lawson



## January 2020 Sidespersons

	9.00am	11.00am
5 Jan	I Walker	S Shepherd K Shepherd
12 Jan	P Porritt	A Craig N Proffitt
19 Jan	B Butcher	D Greenwood B Greenwood
26 Jan	P Thompson	J Lawson K Lawson



# Who's Who

<b>Church Office</b>	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF	
<b>Administrator</b>	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 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>	

## Vicar

Revd Norman Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609  
E-Mail: [nshave1@btinternet.com](mailto:nshave1@btinternet.com)

## Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

## Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

## Readers

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

## Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,  
St Mary's RC

<b>Church Wardens</b>	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266 Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279
<b>Music Group</b>	Julie Shave 34A Westbourne Road 233609
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
<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
<b>Notice Sheet</b>	The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)
<b>Signpost Editorial</b>	Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527
<b>Signpost Advertising</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
<b>Signpost Subscription</b>	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
<b>St Matthew's Booking</b>	Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

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

