

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



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

August 2020

Ponderings of a grateful, expectant heart, as lockdown begins to ease.

Lockdown has been a first for us all and parts of it has felt dark and never ending. That said, I truly feel the initial slower pace has given many of us a chance to put on the brakes somewhat. To 'Be still and know that He is God'.

During this time both my mum and my younger brother have been gravely ill. And yet I cannot even begin to speak or write of how powerfully the Presence and Peace of God has remained with us as a family. It has been a Holy soothing balm that has lessened our burdens and eased our hearts. I know this to be as a direct result of the prayers of God's people and we are forever grateful for the power of prayer. We have felt such a constant source of love and support from so many of you, for Trinity and I during our first, very wobbly, 2 years of curacy. It has helped us massively along the way and we are forever grateful. ♥

The family of Pat Webster have been on my heart and in my prayers a lot. Prayers of thanksgiving for an amazing woman of God, a pioneer of her time and for the blessing that her family continue to be to so many people across. The Headland and Hartlepool.

So many have suffered loss, during these last 4 months and it's important that we continue to reach out to those grieving, dealing with illness or struggling with poverty or adversity. We are indeed called to feed the poor, a part of our mission that's fulfilled so beautifully here in Hartlepool. I feel that we are also now being called to feed them spiritually as well as physically. To look deeper into the systems and structures which exist that create such a depth of poverty and need in the lives of so many today.

That's why I'm so excited about Our Communities of Hope bid. It's a real chance for us to address many of the barriers that people feel about going to their local churches. We can truly begin to start addressing some of the issues that create poverty traps for many. It's time to return Hope to Communities that have been too low, for far too long.

It's an absolute pleasure and a privilege to work alongside the beautiful people in our parishes and communities. The sense of goodness just for goodness sake is growing powerfully in Hartlepool. And our amazing God continues to build and strengthen the relationships between communities and church in this beautiful town ♥

I'm excited to say I'm just about to start working beside our pastoral team at Stranton. They are an amazing group and I'm expectant of the new ways God will move among us. Pastoral care is such a crucial part of who we are as Church. Without a strong, pastoral heart, beating at the centre of a church, it can all too easily become detached from its priority to love all, becoming yet another institution sticking on plasters rather than being a part of the cure.

It's so exciting and life giving to be part of a group ministry. Especially one like ours, where people are always so ready to jump in and help when it comes to working alongside their communities. I look forward with caution because of Covid 19 and the risk it still poses to many; but also with Great Hope because of our Creator God.

I think Joshua 1:9 the verse I was given early this year is still a powerful word for us as we look to the future, post pandemic.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified: do not be discouraged, for the Lord our God will be with us wherever we go.



In Grace and Peace
Rev Michelle

Mothers Union

As I am writing this I can hear the sound of machinery and workmen further up the road tackling a water main leak in the middle of the street. What started as a small dent in the road has become a major challenge with various machines now excavating a rather large hole. It reminds me of an old song "There was I, digging a hole.." How sometimes what starts off as a seemingly trivial thing quickly becomes a major problem. This coronavirus pandemic has turned out like that. Who could have guessed earlier in the year how our lives would have changed? The one thing that doesn't alter is the knowledge that we are cared for by our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Another older chorus is "Count your Blessings, count them one by one" ending with the line "and it will surprise you what the Lord has done" - Take heart!

I have been sent only 10 copies of the "Families Worldwide Prayer Diaries" and will try to get some delivered. I'm going to photocopy the prayer sections for August and September so everyone is still able to pray for the work and needs of MU in this country and overseas.

We have had an Urgent Appeal from Sheran Harper- our MU Worldwide President. Due to the coronavirus MU, like many other organisations, has lost funds that would have normally been given during the year and thus is facing a deficit. The letter is included in Families Worldwide Magazine and when we again meet we can discuss what we will be able to do to help raise funds as the Summer of Hope Appeal and Christmas Raffle have been cancelled for this year.

It is peaceful now as the workmen are on their lunch break, or awaiting new instructions, or materials! During lockdown I started, with good intentions, various jobs around the house. I have bags full of paperwork to sort through, some of which came with me 23 years ago!

I thank God for all the faithful members of Mothers Union here in our town and throughout the world. Please pray for our branch to be able to restart in the Autumn and for the health and strength of our clergy and church congregation during this difficult and somewhat bewildering time.

God Bless
Love from
Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

My visit to New Zealand, via Australia, earlier in the year was a long planned dream coming true – with the added advantage that I would be able to attend my nephew's wedding. Although everything was booked up in September, the trip hung in the balance when my brother became terminally ill. But I felt God had His hand on us from day one!

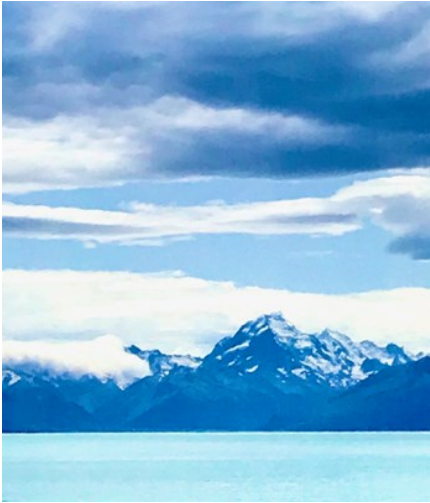
From the start I felt totally in awe of the works of God's hand which I saw at the other side of the world. The song that kept running through my mind was 'Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God.'

I have studied geology, geography and biology and I understand the underlying science, but still find the variance and oddities I witnessed quite mind-blowing. So I thought I would share a few of the things which left me feeling breathless.....

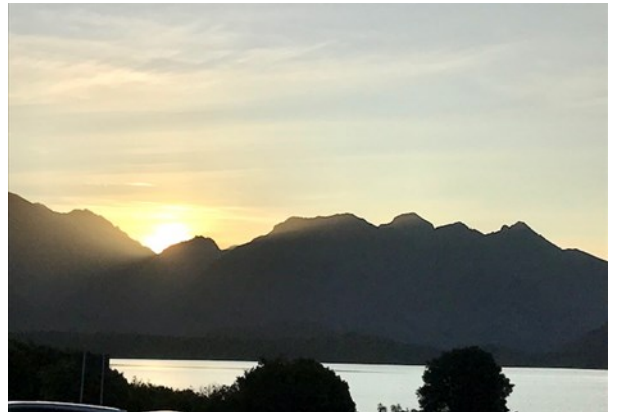
At Moaraki on the east coast of South Island on a stretch of beach – maybe only a couple of hundred feet long, there were spherical boulders which came out of the cliff face and across the beach into the sea. The sizes varied from small to large and they were circular on the outside, however where the sea had eroded them their interiors were tessellated segments.



Pukaki was a lake high in the mountain range which is the spine of South Island. The sky was iridescent blue and the lake and river which flowed from it a fantastic turquoise. The clouds floated around the peaks near Mount Cook in an ethereal way and the sun sparkled on the water like diamonds.

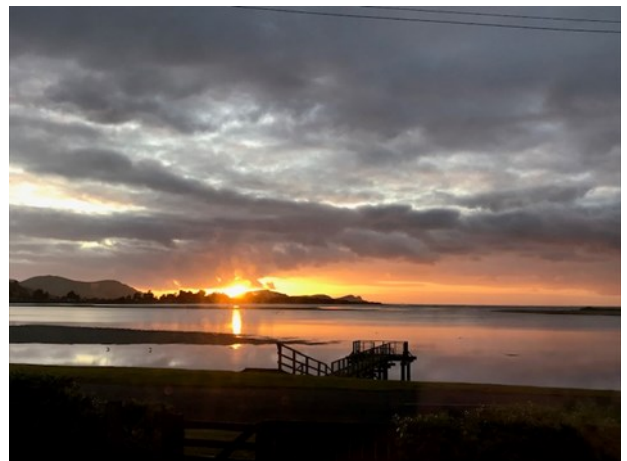


Lake Manapouri was another lake high in the mountains where the air was crystal clear. Here was where I saw one of many beautiful sunsets.



Levels near Timaru, where we spent lockdown also had fantastic sunsets.

Pounawea was a lagoon where the sunrise was mesmerising.





Gore had been subjected to a powerful flash flood a couple of weeks before our arrival. The force of the water had lifted this full container from a field beside the river, moved it a quarter of a mile downstream and bent it around this tree 3 metres off the ground (it slid down as the water receded). The water level had risen over 6 metres in an hour! That amount of rainfall and that much energy takes some thinking about!

Christchurch was hit by an earthquake in 2011 and Christchurch Cathedral was quite badly damaged. However in November 2016 a much more powerful and complex earthquake lasting 2 minutes took place - the land shook so violently that the ground liquefied. Damage was extensive to buildings and there was a large number of injuries and deaths. Four years after the earthquake this is Christchurch Cathedral – many damaged buildings have been rebuilt. However the whole of New Zealand is checking and remodelling buildings for earthquake stability. Buildings hundreds of miles from the epicentre of the 2016 quake were damaged structurally. Two twentieth century churches and a community hall in the village near where we spent lockdown, have been condemned as unsafe and closed down. The Roman Catholic Basilica in nearby Timaru is being strengthened and is still closed for worship four years on!



Queenstown is the mountain holiday resort where my nephew lives. Whilst there we witnessed a mist sweep up the lake covering the mountains and town in minutes. It was accompanied by an eerie and violent wind which blew sandy grit, whipped up from the dry high grasslands many miles away, over and into everything. Then just as rapidly the mist blew away again. A strange weather phenomenon which seemed

almost biblical!

One day we went down to Timaru Bay and stood on the beach watching as fog banks rolled in and out and the houses and trees on the hills around the bay disappeared and reappeared over about half an hour, with the air temperature falling and rising noticeably by several degrees. Another bizarre weather quirk.





I struggle with heights, but I screwed up my courage to observe wonders like these Ahuriri cliffs. They were hundreds of metres high. With the naked eye we could hardly see the albatross on the rock face or the huge seals swimming amongst the giant kelp beds – but they were there!.

This tiny butterfly was clinging to a fence post on the blustery cliff top – how on earth could something so delicate survive the buffeting from constant sea winds at this height – only God knows the answer!



Walking through dunes in Pounaweia we found amongst the ferns many of these strange and beautiful webs – fortunately we didn't see the spiders that made them!!!

As you drive around New Zealand you see mile upon mile of 'bushland'. It just looks like shrubs, but if you get up close you realise they are trees, not bushes! We walked through this steeply sloping hillside bush at Ahuriri. It was like a primeval forest – those small fern trees are over 3 metres high and the canopy was more than 10 metres above us. It was dark and dense and it would be easy to become disorientated if you wandered from the path. We followed the



well-trodden route to the beach in order to visit the Cathedral Caves.



Ahuriri Cathedral Caves are only accessible twice a day as the tide turns, but you still have to walk through water to view the amazing structures which are gouged over 100 metres into the cliff-face in a horseshoe but they were worth the effort of the cliff walk and the cold soaking to view what the power of the sea can do!

It was good to be reminded of God's incredible works through nature – power, beauty, mysteries and even fear.

J.A.R.

Stranton Church reopened for private prayer Sunday 21st June Father's Day

God's House was open again - but things are different inside at the present time.



The path surface was more even thanks to Mike Wiemer's hard work.



The borders were looking lovely, with thanks to our gardeners.



Welcome and registration for 'track and trace' if needed, plus hand sanitiser and instructions given.

A one way system with six marked seats on distanced pews. Music played and a screen with scrolling prayers and quotations from the Bible. Candles were available to light. Pamphlets about the stress of coronavirus were available alongside Signpost magazines.



But things keep on changing - so after experiencing several Sundays and the return of funerals (albeit restricted), alongside feedback from those coming into church by July 12th the interior looked like this...



Tape has gone and notices show you where to sit



The Church building has been opening - little by little: we have now had the first wedding and several funerals in Church so have been able to learn from these, almost as rehearsals, for wider opening up: but we are not stopping the cycle of online services and distribution of notices, so that people are not under any pressure to return to the church building until they feel safe and ready to do so.

The church pathway repointed during lockdown



COMMUNITIES OF HOPE NEWS



The official announcement has been made and applications are now invited to fill the three advertised posts – which have been advertised locally and on Durham Diocese and church websites with details.

The Communities of Hope work will build on established foundations including the St Aidan's Kitchen, along with work in schools and with families, and community outreach in places like St Matthew's Community Centre. It involves recruiting three workers to support our activities in these areas across the three parishes.


The roles advertised are: a Team Leader, a Children and Families Worker and a Community Worker/Evangelist. The first part of the project will be to grow Christian community at St Aidan's kitchen, in and through St Matthew's Community Centre, and with local schools.

A Nine days of Prayer leaflet was circulated to focus prayers as we search for the God lead applicants. Applications close on 31st July and interviews will be in early August, to hopefully start in September.




If you have access to the internet please check out Mother Gemma's video and the job descriptions at <http://stranton-church.org.uk/jobapplications.html>

	Stranton Brownies & Guides	
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We made the decision to cancel meetings in March just before Girlguiding UK stated that all meetings were to be suspended. We found the situation strange as we were not able to meet with the girls, so decided we would try Zoom for our meetings.

Girlguiding has supported this move, providing 'Adventure at Home Activities' for us to use with the girls, also having a Festival via YouTube and Facebook for the girls to follow and be involved.		
		

We have continued to have our meetings on the normal night but both only run for 40 mins but it is great to be in communication with the Brownies and Guides.

What have we done, a whole variety of activities that have allowed the girls to complete Interest Badges, plus activities, which we have modified, to complete Skill Builders and Unit Meeting Activity points(minutes) such as paper planes, bird feeders, creating own crazy golf course from the recycling bin, magic tricks, British Sign Language. Phonetic alphabet and insect hotels as examples.		
		

Many parents/adults have become 'members' of the groups as they are needed to assist the girls in activities being the other part of a pair for activities.

We are planning to continue meeting this term till the 3rd August when we will finish the term with special activities. We are aware most of the girls will now have no school and be spending lots of time at home, so are hoping to set challenges for them to do during August with possible meetings for them to share what they have done.

September – we feel will continue as we are, doing Zoom meetings, due to practicalities of using the Hall and how we would need to change how the meetings run.

Stranton Brownie and Guide Leaders

Patricia Watson responds to Mother Gemma's Sermon

My views on a sermon!

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Matthew 10:34

This quote was repeated forcefully by Mother Gemma in her sermon on 21st June 2020.

". I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." The Biblical Greek for sword is μάχαира (pronounced ma-chair-a) meaning "large knife" (machete) and a knife is used to cut and divide. I think Jesus wanted his followers to be in no doubt about the consequences of following him. The cost would be heavy (Matthew 10:38 'take up thy cross')...being disowned by family and friends...resistance and/or separation from partners, children, siblings and parents. Jesus knew our nearest and dearest may feel differently, however, he wanted to teach the truth about God (John 18:37 "...the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth").

During the sermon Mother Gemma emotionally shared how her parents and family would stand with her against wrong doing... for example, Black Lives Matter, confronting the injustice suffered for years because of skin colour.

Thinking of the sword as being the word of God (Ephesians 6:17 "Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God".) then it should be wielded with gusto and precision to bring about change. We need to stand up for God! We know God is love so we need to bring about change based on love. I'll repeat that. Change based on love ...love of God, love for each other, love for equality...love which conquers bias, love which conquers poverty, love which conquers injustice ...

Mother Gemma challenged us to stand up for what is right and if you speak up against what is wrong and you are the only one ...SPEAK LOUDER.

Jesus gave us two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40)"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"

The gift for standing up for Jesus, for loving God, for loving our neighbour as ourselves, is eternal life (Mark 10:30 "...and in the age to come eternal life"). Standing up for injustice must be worth that.

Prayer for Justice

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; ... a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Amen

Blessings

Patricia Watson

JUST LIKE JESUS by Max Lucado

I heard about this book during a 3.00pm online reflection by Rev. Norman. It caught my attention because the quote seemed to relate to our present coronavirus lockdown situation. It was a story of a leper...you know the one Matthew 8:1-4 (it also appears in Mark 1:40-45 and Luke 5:12-16). "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean?" Jesus Christ reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Instantly he was cured of his leprosy.

The emphasis is Jesus **touched** him. No one will have touched him since he was declared "unclean" by a priest.

Touch ...at the time of writing ...coronavirus means no handshakes are allowed, no friendly cuddles or hugs (unless you are in a 'bubble'), disinfect and clean anything touched, lots of hand sanitizer and lots of hand washing, no passing the peace, no church services (in a building, although lots online) and if you are shielded ...well you can go out with a member of your household or if in a single household you can meet one person outside as long as you keep 2m apart...**no touching!**

Just imagine how that leper felt before he was healed and the moment he knew he was healed! Just imagine how we will feel when we can pass the peace! What joy, what emotion awaits us!

Anyway, getting back to the book ...

Not every chapter includes a story from the Bible, but does include anecdotal reflections and comments. A couple of examples being a boy being overjoyed at seeing a pilot and inside a cockpit (yes the book was first published prior to 9/11) and the author playing golf and discovering he was hitting towards the wrong green! The anecdotes or story, along with quotes from The Bible lead the reader to contemplate the title of the chapter. (Well they did me.) This chapter was entitled A Changed Face and a Set of Wings, A Worship-Hungry Heart. There are American spellings and references e.g. "garbage", "they may put a buck on the plate" as one would expect from an American author!

Eleven of the twelve chapters have two titles: one is like a hook to capture the reader's imagination (e.g. Loving People You Are Stuck With; Changed Face and a Set of Wings; Golf Games and Celery Sticks) the other relates to a heart (e.g. The Forgiving Heart; A Worship-Hungry Heart; A Focused Heart). Chapter one, however, is headed A Heart Like His and it begins '**What if, for one day, Jesus were to become you?**' ...'**What if, for one day and one night, Jesus lives your life with his heart?**' (Ah I hear you say: that's why chapters are the (something) heart!)

We contemplate this heart through Biblical quotes and stories some amusing, some sad, some serious and some which provoke different emotions. Between each chapter is a verse from the Bible which links to the following chapter.

It is not a book which is easy to pick up and read through to the end like a thriller or romance. Time is needed to read and reflect on each chapter. There is a useful study guide ... which I would have realised had I read the contents!! Oops!!

Quote before Chapter 10 "Finding Gold in Garbage" - "The Hope Filled Heart"
Romans 12:12

Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.

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Attention all readers of the Signpost Magazine!

If your main contact with Stranton Church is through receiving Signpost magazine, but you would like more, we may currently be limited in what we can do because of Data Protection Law: Just because you receive the magazine does not give us the automatic right to contact you for other purposes! We are aware that some people who are not now able to attend church for private prayer or public services, are missing out on fellowship and support,

This situation has been complicated by "Lockdown" as a number of church members have been and continue to be isolated: although lockdown is now being relaxed we know there are people who will continue to be restricted in their communications and contacts.

So if you feel that we could do more to keep in touch with either yourself or someone you know, do let us know and we will be happy to help in any of the following:

- Visiting you at home (subject to distancing and hygiene measures in force)
- Delivering weekly notices and worship materials to your home.
- Occasional telephone calls for a chat (with a minister or member of the pastoral team)

Practical help in any other ways

Please telephone or email the Church Office - 07305 4550009 or email - admin@stranton-church.org.uk

Hymns for different occupations/situations

Meteorologist	Lo he comes with clouds descending
Baker	He (k)needs me every hour
Insomniac	Morning has broken
Astronaut	Nearer my God to thee
	You raise me up
Jam maker	God, preserve me
Tesla	Oh God thy power is wonderful
Brexiteers	Lord of all hopefulness
Census	Another year completed
Party planners	Deck the halls
Stalkers	Just a closer walk with thee
Cleaners	Lord in this dust thy sovereign voice
Shoemakers	Help, Lord, the souls which thou hast made
Lamplighters	Now the daylight fades
	Light of the anxious heart
	Lead kindly light amidst the encircling gloom
Motorists	Guide me o thou great Jehovah
Specsavers	Be thou my vision

Pastoral care during lockdown

As the pastoral team was arriving for its regular meeting towards the end of March, Boris Johnson had just finished making a speech to the House of Commons as a precursor to the announcement of the lockdown starting the following day. As a result this turned out to be a meeting with a difference, with Norman organising us all to ensure that between us we kept in touch with all the more vulnerable members of our congregation.

So, like so many others during the lockdown, we have been keeping in regular contact with those who have been shielding. This has been a variation on the work we usually do, ie visiting and in some cases taking communion to those who are unable to come to church, because we have been keeping in touch with more people, but by phone rather than visiting.

Of course, the lockdown has affected different people in different ways. Those who normally lead a very active life have accepted it as a necessary evil, but have inevitably found it very frustrating. Others, who are used to being largely housebound, have had to forego the visits from family members and others that keep them connected to the outside world and help to keep them going.

I know I am not alone in being amazed at the way they have managed the isolation and loneliness of this time so patiently and uncomplainingly. Some have compared the battle against the Coronavirus to the war years, but have then drawn a sharp contrast in that, rather than being separated from their families, they shared their wartime experiences with their families. It seems that the shortage of food in those years was more bearable than being without their loved ones in this more recent crisis. Then, of course, there has been dismay at the unnecessary shortages brought on by bulk panic buying.

It has only been towards the end of the lockdown that I have detected some frustration about how it has been going on for so long. I know, because I have often been told, that it is faith that has kept them going and this has been their strength.

As the world starts to re-open its doors, let us remember and give thanks for our more elderly Strantonians, especially those who will still be confined to home. For some, this means that they are no longer able to attend church. Despite this, they are still an important part of our church family and are keen to stay connected to the congregation that they have been part of for many years. They play a valuable part in our church life, always keen to hear church news and sustaining us through their prayers.

I know we are all looking forward to being able to continue with our visits when it is safe to do so – I think we have all missed the face to face contact. As pastoral visitors, we receive far more than we give and we have much to learn from the example of the experience and wisdom of those we visit.

Pam Stockton



Boys Brigade News



Although we are not meeting at the moment, it is hoped that by September it will be possible to hold face to face meetings again.

If this is the case, then we are confident that with a big recruitment drive (we normally do one every September) we can soon be up and running as a functional Boys Brigade Company and hopefully still have a few 90th Birthday Celebrations. As I compose this article I am reflecting that this is the first July/August where we have not had a Company Camp/Holiday since 1996 - so no washing up or minibus driving for me this year!!

In the meantime all our leaders are talking and planning to ensure whenever we get back we can quickly revive our Company.

Stay Safe

George Bainbridge

Lockdown Blues by George Bainbridge



I'm queuing in a strange long line
Respecting in a 2 metre type of way
For it is my shopping day.
No-one speaks or says hello
Am I such a strange fellow?
For fear is on the top of everyone's list
Essentials are there to be found and too buy
Every one shops without a smile, just a sigh.
Careful observation must be used
in case someone is too close to you.
You feel very wary and even abused.
It's strange times now when buying.
Who'd have thought a family shop
Was all about avoiding dying!
Of course you could use the internet
But it's a three week waiting at best
So purchasing in 2020 is a frustration
But pull together – save the nation.

Rev. Patricia Webster

07.05.34 - 10.07.20

Pat Webster was born in South Norwood, South London in 1934, the first child of William and Edith Ewen. This was quite a surprise to them both, as it was Will's second marriage and he was in his sixties and Edith in her forties didn't realise she was pregnant until a couple of months before Pat was born! Also they both wanted a boy! The Second World War broke out when Pat was five. Dad changed his mind at the last minute and wouldn't let her be evacuated, so she slept in the cupboard under the stairs during air raids and walked to school through bombed streets. There were few children to play with, but she remembers her first cat, a kitten called 'Tiny Wee'. As Pat turned seven, William suffered a serious stroke; Edith and Pat nursed him at home and lived on his pension (pre NHS/benefits). Pat remembered her Dad used her as his support when he was walking, his hand on her shoulder. Sadly William died when Pat was 14, and she then became her mother's support.

Although William was a former choir master and church warden in his original home in Fobbing, Essex, Pat did not attend church regularly until she joined the Guides and then attended Confirmation classes. Pat loved listening to the sermons in church and when she was 14 became a Sunday School teacher. Pat attended a Grammar school in spite of the flying bombs and V2 rockets and gained her school certificate when she was 15. After a couple of admin jobs, Pat trained as a teacher at 18, but instead of her preferred option of teaching Art, she was given a class of difficult top juniors to teach. During this time through church Pat became involved in hop picking missions with the Franciscans and became a member of the Franciscan Third Order.

Thanks to the help of a friend from Church who agreed to live with her mother Edith, Pat was able to move from home to train as a Parish Worker at Gilmore House in Clapham, which she paid for herself from savings and a small grant. She then worked at St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney in the East End for 2 years. Women were not allowed to read a lesson, lead prayers or preach, so her main duty was sacristy work; laundering the white linen and vestments and opening the church early in the morning for daily communion.

Pat had met David, who was training for Ministry at Lincoln theological College, on a Franciscan camp at Budle Bay, half way through her training. Their courtship was by letter and a two minute phone call once a week, all they could afford. Finally after serving two years as a Parish worker, Pat was allowed to leave and marry in 1960, but not to continue as a Parish Worker! Pat worked as a teacher in Billingham where David was a curate until she was expecting her first child. I was born in the Curate's house at St George's Doncaster, followed 18 months later by my brother Aidan. David became Vicar of Christ Church at Great Lumley near Chester-le-Street, and this was where Aby, Verity and John were born, 5 children in 9 years! Pat was also very active in the parish, visiting and organising jumble sales, socials and garden fetes. She wrote a book about children in church.

In 1972 Pat was relicensed as an honorary Parish Worker and was allowed to lead services of morning and evening prayer, to preach and eventually to administer the chalice. In 1976 the Webster family moved to Belmont near Durham where David was Vicar of St Mary Magdalene. Pat worked tirelessly for the Church and was enrolling member of the Mother's Union. Pat didn't become a Deaconess, as she felt she was called to be a Deacon and Priest, so she waited until she was allowed to go to a Selection Board and was ordained Deacon in September 1987. She married Kevin and I in 1988. After retirement with David to Hartlepool in 1993, Pat was ordained Priest in May 1994, and her daughter Verity was ordained priest in July the same year.

Pat wrote, ' It took from the age of 16 to 60 to fulfil God's calling in my life but I held onto that call through the years and felt it would happen, although it was not spoken about for very much of that time.'

'I believe that men and women are designed by God together to enjoy Him; together to serve and work joyfully to His glory, in every way. Division is transitory. Faith, hope and love will overcome fears. Hurts will be healed by God's grace. As our Lord prayed, "that they may be one...", it will be so. His prayer cannot fail.'

Pat and David continued to work in retirement in churches in Hartlepool including All Saints Stranton, St Aidan's and St Hilda's, often during interregnum, for many years until their health and age prevented them. They had also covered parishes in Sydney and Menorca for other clergy and enjoyed holidays abroad to the Holy Land, Malta, Cyprus, Spain and Greece. Pat loved warm, sunny weather. By this time they had nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and had enjoyed many family get togethers for which Pat cooked enormous meals. Pat enjoyed Art clubs exhibiting paintings and they both enjoyed the Music Society.

Eventually their much loved home in Eldon Grove became too difficult to manage, and they moved to a new bungalow just off Blakelock Road, the very street David had lived on with his parents as a child, next door to my family for support. Three years later Pat was diagnosed with cancer and died peacefully at home on the 10th of July with David and her family at her bedside. Towards the end, she wasn't speaking much, but I asked her what she was thinking about and she replied, 'Heaven.' She also said she was, 'worried about all the poor people who don't have enough to eat', which is why the family have suggested any donations in her memory could be made to Christian Aid.

Mary Tones

Lockdown Quiz Questions 3

- L Which L walked past the injured victim in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
- O Which O was the grandfather of David?
- C Which C is in charge of a ship?
- K Which K is an Irish saint from Glendalough?
- D Which D does the cowardly lion compare himself too?
- O Which O is the study of birds?
- W What W did Jesus walk on?
- N Which N was a disciple?

Answers on page 23

Rebecca Henderson

Rebecca has been on our prayer list for almost 7 years now. Her Mum was a work colleague and I remember clearly Rebecca being born. At around 8 years old she developed a rare form of cancerous tumour in her leg. The school where her Mum worked were incredibly supportive of Rebecca and the entire staff, including me, took part in the Race for Life and raised several thousand pounds for Cancer Research. After gruelling chemotherapy and surgery Rebecca's cancer went into remission. However it returned at the end of Year 6 when she was almost eleven. Her transition to Secondary school was interrupted by yet more radical chemotherapy. Despite the impact of the tumours and treatment on her body she became an active member of her school community. Just over a year ago the cancer returned again and it had spread further into her abdomen. She took part in a radical drug trial which made her so ill she had to withdraw. Less than a year on there is more evidence of the cancer spreading further. Rebecca has made the decision to try another new treatment and is part way through the first course of therapy. The prognosis is not good.

Please would you continue to hold Rebecca, her parents and younger brother in prayer. They need to travel up to Newcastle for treatment and check-ups – this is financially draining and time consuming. Their family life is totally disrupted and filled with anxiety. God knows how the family continue to suffer but they have been comforted by the knowledge of prayers and love from people who don't even know them... **J.A.R.**

Mary Baines Recipes

Goody-Goody cake

3 cups of SR flour
½ cup sugar
1 cup dried fruit
Pinch of salt
Level teaspoon baking powder
2 level tablespoons treacle
A little milk to mix

Mix all the dry ingredients in a bowl and stir in the treacle. Add enough milk to make a soft consistency.

Place the mixture in a greased and lined loaf tin.

Bake in a low oven for about one hour – use skewer to check if cooked.

Leave to cool in the tin.

Impossible Pie

4oz good margarine
8oz castor sugar
8oz desiccated coconut
4 large eggs
4oz plain flour
½ teasp ground nutmeg
½ teasp vanilla essence
½ pint milk

Place all ingredients into a liquidiser or food processor and run until smooth – don't overdo. If you don't have either of these simply heat all ingredients together.

Pour into a lightly greased 10' pie dish and bake for one hour 180C, Gas 4.

When cooked you will find that the mixture has formed a pastry shell with an egg custard filling and a coconut topping. It can be served either hot or cold with cream

(this sounds bizarre but it does work with a lovely change of texture and taste – try it and see!)



Introducing Rachel and Seth Price



Hi everyone!

I'm excited to be writing a few words to you by way of introduction before we join you in September.

My name is Rachel and I'm starting training for ordination at Cranmer Hall this autumn. I'm going through the Mixed Mode training pathway which means I'll be living in Hartlepool and working in the parish for around three days each week.

I've been living in Durham city and worshipping at St Nic's with my husband Seth for the past year since we got married. I'm originally from London but came to Durham for university and found it hard to leave the North East! After I graduated in 2017 I spent two years working as a Ministry Experience Volunteer in Easington Deanery in parishes that were engaging in new forms of mission. I wasn't considering full-time church ministry at the time, but those two years left me with a strong impression of the unique role of the church in providing unmatched love, hope and family at the heart of communities through Jesus Christ. Increasingly I felt compelled to be part of this.

The Central Hartlepool Group appealed to me as a placement because of the combination of traditions working together and the plans for the Community of Hope. Seth has a PhD in physics to keep him busy over the next two years but also shares my passion for mission and will be getting involved in Stranton as he is able. He's had a good year of football as a Liverpool fan; both visiting Anfield in February (as pictured) and of course the recent Premier League victory. As a Leeds supporter I'm hopeful we might be playing each other next season!

We'll be moving to Hartlepool in mid-August and hope it's not too long before we can meet you all in person!

Rachel Price

Lockdown Quiz Answers

- L Which L walked past the injured victim in the parable of the Good Samaritan? Levite
- O Which O was the grandfather of David? Obed
- C Which C is in charge of a ship? Captain
- K Which K is an Irish saint from Glendalough? Kevin
- D Which D does the cowardly lion compare himself too? Dandelion
- O Which O is the study of birds? Ornithology
- W What W did Jesus walk on? Water
- N Which N was a disciple? Nathaniel



Diocese of Durham



Lindisfarne
COLLEGE of THEOLOGY

Pastoral Ministry Course

Would you like to be involved in sharing God's love by being involved in parish visiting and offering care to those in need?
Become confident Christian pastoral ministers.

Entrance Requirements

- A recommendation/commendation from your vicar - chat to them first!
- An application form.
- Access to the course is by interview.
- Places are limited, so hurry!!



Gains

- A recognised way for lay people to develop their pastoral skills.
- A better resourced lay person, committed to pastoral care.
- Confidence to know how to act in pastoral contexts.

Want more information?

Contact : Pamela Wilson : pamela.wilson@durham.anglican.org or 0191 374 6024 or
Alastair Prince : alastair.prince@durham.anglican.org or 0191 374 6015

Postal Address

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Diocese of Durham

Blessing our communities in Jesus' name



Coronavirus Jokes to Retrain Your Face How to Smile

It's a pundemic. By Emily Kelleher

Humour is essential, even — or especially — in tough times. Shared laughter gives us strength in adversity and can help us feel a bit more in control when the future looks uncertain. Most important, funny jokes — even funny coronavirus jokes — bring us together and help us to feel connected, one coronavirus pod to another. And laughter literally makes us stronger: Recent studies have found that a good laugh can boost our dopamine levels and even shore up our immune systems. So, while we all continue to take the situation seriously, following the recommendations from the CDC and the WHO, we also need to laugh, and to have a few moments in the day that feel lighter. A few pandemic jokes might just take your mind off the apocalypse-adjacent state of the world and serve as a reminder that there's always something, however small, to smile about.

1. Yeah, I have plans tonight. I'll probably hit the living room around 8 or 9.
2. Why didn't the sick guy get the joke? It flu over his head.
3. 30 days hath September, April, June, and November, all the rest have 31, except for March which has infinite.
4. What types of jokes are allowed during quarantine? Inside jokes!
5. What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.
6. So many coronavirus jokes out there, it's a pundemic.
7. What did the man say to the bartender? I'll have a corona, hold the virus.
8. If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.
9. What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.
10. You know what they're saying about 2020. It went viral faster than anyone thought it would.



Diocese of Durham



Lindisfarne
COLLEGE of THEOLOGY

Lay Chaplaincy Course

Would you like to be involved in sharing God's love by offering
chaplaincy support?

Become a confident Christian lay chaplain

Entrance Requirements

- A recommendation/commendation from your vicar – chat to them first!
- An application form.
- Access to the course is by interview.
- Places are limited, so hurry!!



Gains

- Are you committed to spiritual development?
- Confidence to become an outward focussed lay chaplain.
- Chaplains minister in various contexts – from shopping precincts to hostels, offices to schools, workplaces.

Want more information?

Contact : Pamela Wilson : pamela.wilson@durham.anglican.org or 0191 374 6024 or

Alastair Prince : alastair.prince@durham.anglican.org or 0191 374 6015

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Diocese of Durham

Blessing our communities in Jesus' name



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

More Coronavirus Jokes to Retrain Your Face How to Smile

It's a pandemic. By Emily Kelleher

1. What do you call panic-buying of sausage and cheese in Germany? The wurst-kase scenario.
2. Nail salons, hair salons, waxing centre and tanning places are closed. It's about to get ugly out there.
3. Why don't chefs find coronavirus jokes funny? They're in bad taste.
4. What should you do if you don't understand a coronavirus joke? Be patient.
5. The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.
6. I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.
7. Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line.
8. What do you tell yourself when you wake up late for work and realize you have a fever? Self, I so late.
9. Did you hear the joke about the germ? Never mind, I don't want to spread it around.
10. Why do they call it the novel coronavirus? It's a long story....

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to

August

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



Congratulations on your Wedding Anniversary

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

Congratulations to

Chloe & Jordan Thornhill on the birth
of Ramona Bea
on 10th June weighing 9lbs

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.

Services Resume in Stranton

From **Sunday 2nd August** at **10am** Stranton Church will reopen for a public worship service. This will alternate each week between Communion and a Service of the Word. Guidance and advice will be given at every service.

We need to keep each other and ourselves safe so Government guidance must be followed on social distancing (including family bubbles) and hand sanitising. This guidance presently stipulates there will be no singing and that Communion can only be in one kind – wafer, but no wine. Numbers in church are limited. At present masks are optional.

If you wish to attend a service please arrive just before the service start time and leave promptly at the end of the service. Follow the guidance of the Church Wardens and Sides-persons when arriving. There will be no refreshments.

There is no Sunday Club during August and parents are responsible for their children throughout the service. Parents are asked to bring quiet activities for their children, but activity packs will be available – children must take home all the paper they use in church.

10am Sunday 2 nd August	- Communion
10am Sunday 9 th August	- Service of the Word
10am Sunday 16 th August	- Communion
10am Sunday 23 rd August	- Service of the Word
10am Sunday 30 th August	- Communion

An on-line service will continue to be streamed live at 11am every Sunday during August.

We will make sure that when individuals who have been self-isolating feel able to return we have firm clear measures in place for you to be kept safe, but the advice to those with high health risk from other conditions will be to continue to stay at home.

Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 07305 550009 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk

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E-Mail: nshave1@btinternet.com

Curate

Revd Michelle Delves 40 Browning Avenue 723461

Burbank Community Church Worker & Curate

Revd Clive Hall 10 Clarkson Court 278504

Reader

Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 265625

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,
St Mary's RC

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

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

