

**Stranton and Burbank Community**

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# **SIGNPOST**



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

**December/January 2024/2025**

# Thoughts on Advent

Yesterday I was sitting with one of our parishioners who is no longer able to come to church in person. We were chatting about how when we were children, it seemed so long from one Christmas to the next, but now it has no sooner been Lent and Easter than the summer has whizzed by and we are on our way to Advent. It is a sobering thought when you reflect back on all the Advents you have lived through, and how many more are likely to come.

This kind of thinking could seem at odds with the spirit of the season, but in fact, this is just the kind of thing that the church draws our attention to at this time. Traditionally the focus of the season of Advent was not just waiting, but the four last things: death, judgement, heaven and hell. None of them top of our list of Christmas cheer and I am pretty sure that you will not find any of these things represented in the wider world as being the point of this season. And yet these have been the focus of these weeks of waiting for 2,000 years, so there must be something in them. I think that one of the jobs of the church in these times is to tell the truth about the things that the wider world is tempted to fudge over. And so I for one am glad that there is a time set aside in our calendar to think about the fact that none of us are going to live for ever (thank goodness). That as Christians we believe that we are accountable for our actions and that we can make of our lives a heaven or hell through those actions. But I think that the crucial thing when we approach these topics is to view them through the lens of the one we are waiting for - Emmanuel, Our Lord, the compassionate, the ever merciful. And when we look at these things - death, judgement, heaven and hell, through the life and death and resurrection of our Lord, they take on a different feel. Death is framed in the light of eternal life with God, in heaven, however you understand that. Judgement and hell are framed in the unending care of our Good Shepherd, who offered paradise to the repentant thief and celebrates with feasting for the prodigal son; our Lord who entered into death so it would have power no longer and harrowed Hell itself.

It is by setting aside time to reflect on these four areas, that each year we are reminded of why the coming of the Christ Child into the mess and bewilderment we make of our lives and our world is indeed news of great joy. This is how we prepare our hearts so that when we sit in anticipation on Christmas Eve we can feel the awesome joy of the season as if for the first time, no matter how many Christmases we have celebrated before.

**Revd Becky**

# From the Home Front

As the days and nights have become colder recently I have noticed the berries and garden fruits have almost disappeared so I have begun feeding the birds again. I have a bird table surrounded by large squared mesh (to prevent the wood pigeons and magpies from eating all the food in one sitting), a pole with seed dispenser and fat balls accessible to small and larger birds plus dishes on which larger birds can perch. In addition I ground feed between pots so that the tiny and smaller birds manage to find food.

My first job when I come downstairs each morning is to put scraps, seeds and mealy worms onto the bird table and in the feeders, plus scatter some between my patio pots. The birds have realised already that this is a routine, so the wood pigeons are sitting waiting on the ridge of the greenhouse in anticipation of breakfast. As I scattered the ground food the other day a blackbird zoomed in to land on the bird table - to suddenly realise that I was still standing there - not sure who was the most surprised the blackbird or me? We eyeballed each other for a second or two before I slowly backed into the house and the Blackie could drop between the mesh for its mealy worms. Within minutes hopping around the feeding area were 2 wood pigeons, 5 blackbirds, sparrows, and some blue tits, with a magpie coming in later.

It seems that they were desperate for food after a cold night to fuel their bodies for the day ahead. But they knew where to find what they needed and at times they were prepared to face their biggest fears – humans – in order to get it!

That is how I see my life at times. I know what I need to sustain me in my faith and where it is, but I have to face my fears and trust in the Lord in order to find my anticipated spiritual food to protect me from the trails of daily life ...



Matthew 6:26-27 New International Version

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

**J.A.R**



## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

**‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’.** (John 1: 5)

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you at this time of turmoil and soul-searching within our church following the publication of the Makin Review and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. I do hope that many of you will have seen this statement that Dean Philip and I made and which was posted on the diocesan website:

*“As the Acting Bishop of Durham and Dean of Durham our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been impacted by the abuse disclosed in the Makin Review. We lament the ways the church has not responded well both in the historic and more recent past. Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all, especially those of us in leadership positions. We understand and respect the Archbishop of Canterbury’s decision to resign and our prayers are with him and his family at this difficult time. In Durham Diocese we work to continually grow our safeguarding culture and accountability in all areas of church life as we seek to witness, however imperfectly, to Jesus Christ.”*

Personally, I was deeply shocked by the suffering of victims and survivors documented in the Makin review and the safeguarding process failures that allowed the abuse to continue for so long. I am struck afresh by the difference we make to the lives of others by living out faithfully our safeguarding training, placing the needs and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults at the heart of our church communities and authentic faith in Jesus Christ. I continue to be thankful for all our Parish Safeguarding Officers, our clergy and PCCs who invest so much of themselves in striving daily in our parishes to keep those who are vulnerable, young and old alike, as safe as possible. This Sunday, November 17, is designated as Safeguarding Sunday, giving an opportunity for all our church communities to reflect afresh together on this most searching of responsibilities.

Please be assured that I and the Bishop's Leadership Team, together with Beth Miller, our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, will be reflecting on, and learning from, both the Makin Review and the Scolding Review on Soul Survivor. The Diocese is also currently preparing for our Independent Safeguarding Audit which will take place in May next year and will help us continue to grow in our practice and effectiveness using the National Safeguarding Standards which you can find on the [diocesan website](#).

Finally, please do pray with me for the searching light of Christ to shine into the darkness of this time and reveal what needs to be seen and dealt with, whatever and wherever that may be.

Peace be with you

**+Sarah**

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the publication of this report and want to talk to someone independently please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or visit [safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](http://safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk).

In Durham Diocese, you can also contact our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Beth Miller at [beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk](mailto:beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk) or [beth.miller@durham.anglican.org](mailto:beth.miller@durham.anglican.org), or on 07968 034075.

## Christmas Day Quiz General Knowledge

- C** Which **C** carol is named after a city?
- H** What **H** is also known as Ilex Aquifolium?
- R** What Brenda Lee did around the Christmas tree?  
(For the oldies)
- I** What **I** is (Hedera helix or Hedera Hibernica)?
- S** Which **S** did Raymond Briggs write?
- T** What **T** happened in Christmas 1914?
- M** Which Monarch was crowned on Christmas day  
(Clue name does not start with M)
- A** Which saint has a fountain named after her in the Carol Good King Wencelas?
- S** What **S** did Santa do when got stuck up the chimney?
  
- D** Which **D** wrote about Tiny Tim?
- A** Which **A** are from the realms of glory?
- Y** What **Y** describes happy golden days of Y?



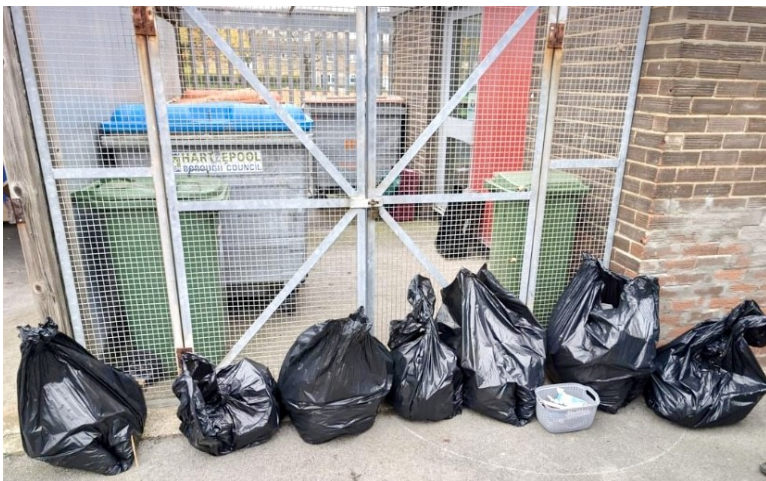
# Ward Jackson CE Primary

Urg! Student Council discussed the need to clean up our local community areas after seeing lots of litter in the streets around our school. Blanchland Class have led the charge this afternoon by cleaning up our car park and parts of Burbank Street up to the park. [Hartlepool Big Town Tidy Up](#)

We discussed some of the dangerous items we may find on our mission and were shocked at just how many things we found. It has raised awareness of the need to help our community within school and we want to work with local people to help combat some of the challenges in our area!

Some of our children suggested that we contact [Jonathan Brash MP for Hartlepool](#) to let him know of our new project and ask for help!

[#wardjacksonway](#)



Tugboats - Reception visited Hartlepool Railway Station today and explored everything they could. We were so lucky to catch three trains come through including one arriving from London! Thank you to the gate staff who also have our children their very own tickets as a souvenir. [#thewardjacksonexperience](#)





We have some new pets in The Jungle Hut! Two fish named Cutie and Tiger. Thank you Harriett for going to Pets at Homes to choose them and for naming them. We can't wait to watch them grow. 🐟



Another great Winter Warmer at Ward Jackson, and just in time for the cold weather too! We enjoyed mince and dumplings to chase Jack Frost away. Big thanks to all who came. Special mention to staff who stayed to help, Laurel Catering for the delicious meal and Mrs. Whites for the bingo! As always, our community events are completely free of charge for Ward Jackson pupils their families. If you would like to be part of our friendly and welcoming community, school places are available in limited year groups. Call our admissions on 01429 293777 to enquire. #wardjacksonway



# **Nine short prayers from Boxing Day to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

**Boxing Day: Loving Father, Thank you for giving us the gift of your only son to save us. We pray we can follow his ways, loving one another as he loves us. Amen.**

**27<sup>th</sup> December: Wonderful Creator, thank you for your beautiful world. Help us to look after it and give thanks for those who keep our church outside areas so tidy. Amen.**

**28<sup>th</sup> December: Generous Lord, thank you for the gifts of love received during this season. Help us to have an attitude of gratitude especially for those who willingly give their time to ensure our churches are running smoothly. Amen.**

**29<sup>th</sup> December: Great Councillor, support those for whom this season is not joyful but maybe a reminder of great sadness and/or need. We pray for guests at the Thursday Kitchen and Friday Drop In. Amen.**

**30<sup>th</sup> December: Lord of the Years, as 2024 is coming to a close, forgive us please for all decisions we have made which we regret. Help us to make positive considered decisions throughout 2025. Amen.**

**31<sup>st</sup> December: Caring Lord, protect from harm all those celebrating tonight and tomorrow morning. Protect all the families in our parishes and we pray revellers remain calm and happy throughout any celebrations. Amen**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2025: Lord of the New Year, help us to be more like Jesus in thought, word and deed. We pray for all priests and lay readers in our parishes and especially for Revd Becky and Revd John as they continue to care for the souls of parishioners. Amen.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> January: King of Kings, let us crown each other with peace and love during this year. Help us to discard unhelpful thoughts and deeds. Amen.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> January: Ever loving God, help us to rise to the challenges this year brings. We pray as we reflect on this current year in 12 months time, we have seen growth in our churches, less poverty and peace on Earth and goodwill to everyone. Amen.**

**May you all have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**





## **Bible Christmas Cracker Jokes**

**What did Moses say when he came down the mountain and saw the Israelites worshipping a golden calf? Holy cow**

**Who was the world's first comedian? Samson. He brought the house down!**

**The Pharisees believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees don't. That's why they're sad, you see.**

**Who was the smartest person in the Bible? Abraham, he knew a Lot.**

**Who was the first person in the Bible to swear? Job – He cursed the day he was born!**

**How many of each animal did Moses bring onto the ark? None! Moses was never even on the ark! Come on, didn't you Noah that?**

**What is a Christmas carol that you can sing to fruits on the happy event? "Have Yourself A Berry Little Christmas."**

**How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger.**

**What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve**

**What is a physics teacher's favourite Bible verse? Romans 8:39: "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**How do we know God likes coffee? Because the Bible says, He brews.**

**Why wasn't Boaz a nice man before he got married? He was Ruth-less.**

**Aside from Adam & Eve, who in the Bible had no parents? Joshua, son of Nun ("none").**

**What type of car would Jesus drive? A Christler.**

**What time of day did God create Adam? Just before eve.**

**It wasn't the apple in the tree that got us in trouble, but the pair on the ground.**

**What do sheep say at Christmas? A Merry Christmas to Ewe!**

# Community Children's and Family Work Update

It continues to be a busy and fruitful year for the children's and families work. In August we held a successful 2 week holiday club for primary aged children at St Matthew's Community Centre which was fun, but busy. The children learnt a bit about science but also listened to a daily Bible story to find out more about Christianity. My thanks to all those who helped and worked so hard to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Since then all the usual weekly activities have restarted:

Toddlers

Regular assemblies continue to be taken in 5 primary schools.

There are 2 weekly RE Clubs one at Stranton Primary School and one at Jesmond Gardens Primary School. We do crafts, have a Bible story, play games and pray.

Relationships with the local young families continue to be built while chatting and serving drinks to those who come to St Aidan's Kitchen.

Café Craft for young families happened over the October half term at St Matthew's Community Centre and was really well attended. Families come for light refreshments, a chat, board games and crafts.

As I write planning has begun for the Christmas activities. These include: Christingle Services at St Aidan's Primary School and at Stranton Church.

Christmas Celebrations for the whole of Jesmond Gardens Primary School and Stranton Primary School at St Luke's and All Saints, Stranton.

A two day Christmas Tree Festival at St Columba's, one day open to the public and another open to invited school classes. Not only will people be able to view the Christmas Trees but also make simple Christmas decorations and enjoy light festive refreshments. Watch out for further details nearer the time.

Also there are plans to start up a new family faith based initiative in the new year. Look out for more information nearer the time.

So overall there is a lot going on. Please continue to pray for all the work in this important ministry. As usual my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible.

Blessings  
**Hayley**

## Christmas Day Quiz General Knowledge Answers

C	Which C carol is named after a city?	Coventry
H	What H is also known as Ilex Aquifolium?	Holly
R	What Brenda Lee did around the Christmas tree? (For the oldies)	Rocking Ivy
I	What I is Hedera helix or Hedera Hibernica?	Ivy
S	Which S did Raymond Briggs write?	Snowman
T	What T happened in Christmas 1914?	Truce
M	Which Monarch was crowned on Christmas day (Clue it does not start with M)	William the Conqueror
A	Which saint has a fountain named after her in the carol Good King Wencelas?	Agnes
S	What S did Santa do when got stuck up the chimney?	Shout
D	Which D wrote about Tiny Tim?	Dickens
A	Which A are from the realms of glory?	Angels
Y	What Y describes happy golden days of Y?	Yore

### Instructions on Living in a Broken World

lean into community  
seek out love  
applaud the good you see  
keep paying attention  
talk to your neighbors  
dance to the music and embrace art  
look for love and small joys  
take breaks and relish in nourishing your body  
donate what you can  
linger at the dinner table with friends  
check in with your people  
let yourself grieve  
love one another as deeply as you can

the storm is upon us and we must hold on

don't give up, we're here together.





# Searching For Redemption

It was many years ago that the old guard reflected  
Of the guilt he felt inside of what he had inflicted.  
He'd never questioned and only followed orders  
To stop a king from leaving for foreign borders.  
Infanticide was the horrific task he had to do  
No questions asked he just carried it through.  
Mothers' screaming and pleading for mercy fell on deaf ears  
As the Innocents were slaughtered to ease a tyrant's fears.  
The thing that most concerned him  
From all the rumours he had heard,  
That this king had dodged their evil act  
And his family had left Bethlehem unhurt.  
Many years later he followed a crowd  
He heard a speaker who was spiritually wise,  
He said even worries that can leave you broken  
There would still be away to find redemption.  
The other day he heard that this preacher  
Had been caught and cruelly crucified,  
An injustice just like the babies who had died.  
He just sat there and felt so miserable inside.  
A few days later with some news he was surprised  
This preacher had risen and was very much alive.  
Who would help those who were heavy laden  
Even those who were guilty heinous crimes.  
The guard's time on earth he knows is almost up  
Never knowing he nearly killed God's only son.  
Yet solace came from His words despite what he'd done  
But did he know Christ came to offer redeem to every one!



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Photo: Luba Estel (Unsplash)

Blessed are the poor who have nothing to own. Blessed are the mourners who are crying alone. Blessed are the guilty who have nowhere to go. For their hearts have a road to the kingdom of God. And their souls are the songs of the kingdom of God. And they will find a refuge for theirs is the kingdom of God

*From the song "The Kingdom of God."*

*Jon Guerra*



St Cuthbert's  
Parish Church



"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

**Forgive them anyway.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

**Be kind anyway.**

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

**Be honest anyway.**

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

**Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today maybe forgotten tomorrow.

**Do good anyway.**

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

**Give your best anyway.**

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

**It was never between you and them anyway."**

Mother Theresa

## Instructions on Living in a Broken World

lean into community  
seek out love  
applaud the good you see  
keep paying attention  
talk to your neighbors  
dance to the music and embrace art  
look for love and small joys  
take breaks and relish in nourishing your body  
donate what you can  
linger at the dinner table with friends  
check in with your people  
let yourself grieve  
love one another as deeply as you can

the storm is upon us and we must hold on

don't give up, we're here together.



# Gardening News – Winter

As I write, in late November, the weather has suddenly turned very cold and for me, not being one of those hardy souls who continue working in the garden whatever the weather, the gardening season is over for this year. I don't mind rain, but I draw the line at carrying on in the freezing cold. (In fact, I have today ventured out to do the weekly shop and judged that to be an act of heroism!) I have, however, managed to prune the roses and empty some of the pots and hanging baskets (apart from one, which is still resplendent outside the front door, boasting a magnificent red geranium even now) before hanging up my gardening tools.

The silver birch is now totally silver and Jet, the resident magpie, is still visiting, though not so often. We have also spotted a robin amongst the small birds now visiting the garden. Quite a few pot plants are still performing in the back garden, where it is more sheltered, and some of the bushes remain quite colourful, though needing some pruning themselves. That will have to wait till Spring, since we have run out of time and brown bin collections.

Apart from that, there isn't very much going on in my garden above ground, though I know that the roots and bulbs below ground are still working hard to keep going until Spring and Summer. However, I have recently visited a very famous garden, which has been on my bucket list (why is it called that?!)\* and is much more exciting than my garden. The garden in question is Claude Monet's house and garden at Giverny, in Normandy. As it was October, I wasn't sure how many plants would be flowering, but there was still a lot of colour, with, among other things, many roses and even sunflowers still going strong.

The gardens are laid out in colour-themed borders in front of the house, including lots of pink and purple flowers, which were stunning. These lead down to the famous water garden, with its much photographed Japanese bridge, which inspired Monet's many water lily paintings. I was disappointed, but not surprised, that the water lilies were no longer flowering, but I have stood on the bridge (a replica of the original bridge) and enjoyed stunning views of the water lily ponds, weeping willows reflected in the water, plants of every colour and trees clothed in different shades of green, red and orange leaves against the background of the lush green grass. The house too is simply and colourfully decorated with large windows looking out over the garden and is full of copies of Monet's and other impressionist artists' paintings. On my return home, after trawling through a vast number of paintings on the Internet, and,



spoilt for choice, I ordered prints of some of his paintings to remind me of the beautiful sights I saw.

On the same trip, I visited several chateaux in the Loire Valley which had very beautiful formal gardens, one of which, Chateau de Villandry, was devoted mostly to colourful vegetables, but, lovely as these were, none could compare with the glorious, informal and natural planting of Monet's garden, which was more as nature intended. Our last stop before our return trip was a visit to the Palace of Fontainebleau, with more than 1500 rooms (and it felt like we'd been in in them all!), which was the home of many of the French monarchs and is where Napoleon abdicated before being exiled. My overwhelming impression of this palace was the luxury and opulence of every room we saw, which was in marked contrast to the living conditions of the people of that time. No wonder there was a revolution. And that brought to mind the contrast between the very wealthy and the very poor today, especially in the dictatorships of the modern world.

I am conscious that this is becoming more like a travelogue than an article on gardening, but it is for a church magazine, so I feel justified in adding that, as well as places devoted to mankind's comfort and pleasure, I saw some wonderful houses of God with spectacular stained glass windows, which are another, if man-made, vehicle for all the colours of God's colour palette. Strangely, I have a particular love of blue flowers (eg bluebells) and find blue stained glass also to be particularly beautiful.

I managed to miss all the recent appearances of the Northern Lights which others have witnessed and photographed, but a few days ago I did see a beautiful, very clear rainbow as I walked with a friend onto the sea front at Seaton and it seemed as if it had appeared just at that moment especially for us, a celebration in colour of God's blessings and promise of grace and mercy to us individually but also to all who see and believe.

\*I had to find an answer to this question and Google told me that the term "was coined by the American and British screenwriter Justin Zacham in 1999 when he drew up 'Justin's List of Things to Do before I Kick the Bucket', which he shortened to 'Justin's Bucket List'." It's pretty obvious really, once you know, and now you do. I hope I get to do a few more things from my bucket list!

**Pam Stockton**

# SAMHAIN PRAYER

Goodness of sweet rest be yours,  
Goodness of the earth be yours,  
Goodness of heaven.

Each day be joyous,  
No day be grievous,  
Honor and compassion.  
Yours be the might of home-fire,  
Yours be the might of strong rock,  
The might of the Love on high.

Power of vision be yours,  
Power of heart's desire be yours,  
Power against all wandering spirits.  
Power of still earth be yours,  
Power of the bare branch be yours,  
Power of the cold.

from *The Celtic Wheel of the Year: Prayers & Meditations*  
coming soon from Anamchara Books

The warmth of hearth be yours,  
The warmth of sap in your bones,  
The warmth of the Prince of heaven.  
The bounty of harvest be yours,  
The bounty of heaven be yours,  
Your life whole and fruitful.

The loving grace of the Creator be yours,  
The sweet grace of the Son be yours,  
The gentle grace of the Spirit be yours,  
Washing you with grace,  
Shining you with light,  
On each dark night.

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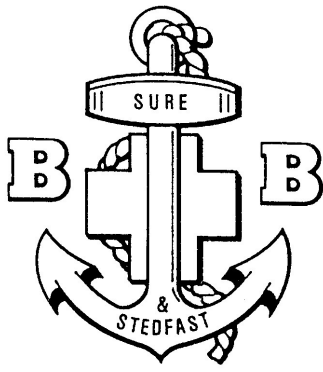


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meet new people, make new friends



# Boys' Brigade



Our Remembrance Day Display by our Anchors and Junior members



Our good friend captain Wells visited our Juniors to talk about Remembrance Day



## Remembrance Day and lead up activities

Our Juniors and Anchor Boys made a display for Stranton Church (They are on Facebook).

The Company Lads learnt about Remembrance Day via word searches and crosswords.

Finally on Remembrance Day itself we were visited by Captain Wells of the TA who spoke to the Juniors about Remembrance day

## **Christmas Carol Service**

Our Christmas Carol service is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm in Stranton Church - All are welcomed.

The Anchors are singing Away In A Manger, the Juniors are playing Boom Whackers and some Company Lads are playing carols on the keyboard and others will be providing readings and prayers.

Afterwards there will be refreshments and Christmas Goodies for all our members.

**Christmas Fayre** - We are now in full preparation for the Christmas Fayre including advertising in various media and delivering flyers to the local area.

Remember our Christmas Fayre is the one Mrs Claus sends her Hubby to.

**Membership** - our Juniors and Company are now regularly attracting 15 plus each week and we have increased the Anchor Boys to eight but we still have room for more (For 5- 8 yrs old).

## **Programme**

Both the Anchors and Juniors are now starting their Christmas crafts including a Christmas stocking and decorations and all sections will enjoy a night of Christmas activities the Company Lads are also doing a charity rap.

Finally I would like to wish all readers and supporters of the 4<sup>th</sup> a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2025.

**George Bainbridge**

**Follow us on facebook**

## **Central Hartlepool Group Mission Activities**

(Help needed: speak to Revd John to find out how you can support us)

- **Stranton Toddlers Tuesday 9:00 am-11:00 am at St Matthew's**
- **A Bit of God Time Tuesday 1:00 pm-2:30 pm at St Aidan's**
- **Friday Drop-In Cafe Friday 10:00 am-12:00 pm at St Aidan's**



# CELEBRATE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**to**

**December**

Siobahn Connell  
Eloise Dobbin  
Diane Greenwood  
Catherine Padgett  
Elijah Sanders  
Mark Sanders  
Robbie Spoons  
Ella Spoons  
Lilly Spoons  
Chloe Thornhill  
Mary Tones  
Mark Tones  
Josie Watson

**January**

Tyler Anderson  
Sophie Bell  
Frances Boyd  
Michelle Butler  
David Craig  
Tony Grosvenor  
Clive Hall  
Daniel Hart  
Trish Playfor  
Bartholomew Sanders  
Jessica Sanders  
Isabel Spoons  
Luke Tones



**Wedding Anniversary**

Jack Rogers & Gina Guo  
Rob & Michelle Butler

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 894006.

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

# Dates for the Diary

## All Saints Stranton Church Advent and Christmas Services 2024

### Sunday 1st December Advent 1

Holy Communion	9:00 am
Family Holy Communion	11:00 am

### Sunday 8th December Advent 2

Holy Communion	9:00 am
Morning Worship	11:00 am
Christingle—Messy Church	4:00 pm

### Sunday 15th December Advent 3

Holy Communion	9:00 am
Family Holy Communion	11:00 am
Carols by Candlelight	6.00 pm

### Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

Holy Communion	9:00 am
Lighthouse Family Service	11:00 am

### Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve Family Service	4:00 pm
Midnight Holy Communion	11:30 pm

### Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day Holy Communion, 10.00 am  
(Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes joint service)

### Central Group:

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Advent Service St Aidan's	3.00pm
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cheese & wine with carols St Luke's	6.30pm
		Tickets £5
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Cake St Matthew's CC	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Sat 7 <sup>h</sup>	Scouts Christmas Fair St Luke's	10.00am
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Benediction St Aidan's	3.00pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> /Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tree Festival St Columba's	1.15-3.30pm
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9 lessons & carols St Aidan's	3.00pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Crib Service /Christingle St Aidan's	3.00pm
	Nativity Service St Luke's	6.00pm
	Christmas Night Eucharist	
	St Luke's & St Aidan's	11.30pm
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Morning Service St Luke's	9.15am
<b>January 2025</b>		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Central Group Meal at The Golden Lion	7pm for a 7.30pm start.
<b>February</b>		
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Candlemas Coffee Morning St Luke's	10.00am

# 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 or 07305 550009 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>
<b>To contact clergy by E-mail</b>	E-Mail: <a href="mailto:clergy@stranton-church.org.uk">clergy@stranton-church.org.uk</a>

**Priest in Charge** 34A Westbourne Road 07512 481115  
Revd. John Bell  
**Email:** [revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk](mailto:revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk)

**Reader**  
Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 07972 342890

## St Aidan's & Columba's Church

**Priest in Charge**  
Revd. Becky Reeve 5 Tunstall Avenue 01429 617358  
**Email:** [revbeckystaidanandcolumba@gmail.com](mailto:revbeckystaidanandcolumba@gmail.com)

## Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Susan Atkinson,  
St Mary's RC

**Church Wardens** Angela Craig 57 Claremont Drive 234279  
Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

**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** Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road 268007

**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

**St Matthew's Booking** Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

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











