Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



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

May 2025

From Heaven [He] Came... not to be served, but to serve…
(The musings of a priest)

In Luke's Passion Gospel which we heard on Palm Sunday, we read that a dispute arose among the disciples as to which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24-27), where Jesus tells them that we need to turn our worldly view on its head and seek not to be served but to serve, just as He, came from heaven as a helpless babe to serve us. This is our God, the Servant King (as the song puts it) serving us in such countercultural fashion. And there are many other songs which talk about the servant heart of Christ, or how we might respond to that – from 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you' to 'Casting Crowns' "Life-song" – 'Lord, I give my life, a living sacrifice. To reach a world in need. To be your hands and feet'.

Luke's Gospel got me thinking about all the roles we have within our parishes, and how so few people actually step into these roles. There are many gaps that we need to fill especially with our APCMs coming up. We have (or could have) Church Wardens, Treasurers (and assistant treasurers), Parish Safeguarding Officers, PCC Members, PCC Secretaries, Deanery Synod Representatives, Children's Workers, Youth Workers, Pastoral Visitors, Prayer Warriors, Home Communion Teams, Small Group Leaders, Readers, Intercessors, Sides-people, Chalice Assistants, Musicians, Welcomers, Vergers, Sacristans, Sound and Screen Operators, Cleaners, Caretakers, Tea & Coffee Servers, those who prepare people for Baptism and Marriage, Pastoral Visitors, Flower Arrangers, Prayer Ministry Teams, Discipleship Teams, All Age Teams, Hospitality and Social Event Teams, Grounds Keepers, Magazine Editors, School Governors, and the list goes on.

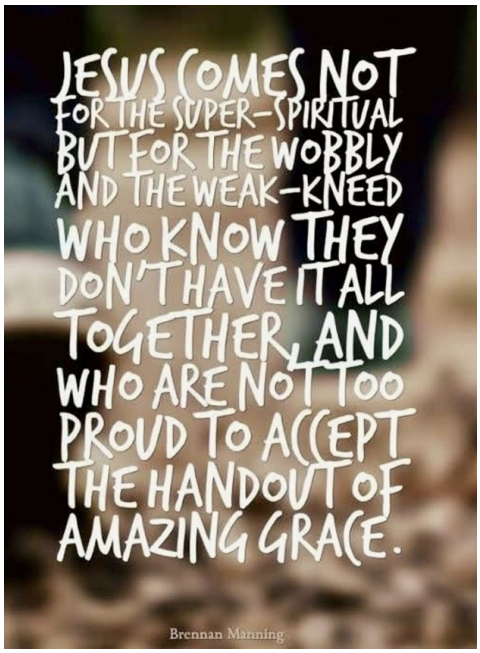
Now there could be many varied reasons why people aren't able to serve in regular and visible ways, and that's absolutely fine – perhaps you're already overcommitted elsewhere, perhaps you have erratic or unpredictable shift patterns, perhaps you are looking after sick relatives, perhaps you have your own health concerns. This isn't about trying to guilt anyone into serving – but it is about asking people to take a look at where they might be able to serve, what they might be able to offer. For those who might be thinking 'I have nothing to offer', come and have a chat about that too. God can use and does use the most unexpected people to do great things for his kingdom.

There's a phrase 'God loves a cheerful giver'. It stems from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7) where Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to give financially to the poor in Jerusalem, not out of a sense of duty or obligation, but because that is what they have decided to give, happily not reluctantly.

I think the same principle in Paul's letter applies to our service too – God wants us to serve happily, cheerfully, willingly, not reluctantly, or out of a sense of duty or obligation. It's why I try and encourage people to seek out their gifts, what it is that they have to offer, what makes their heart sing rather than just trying to find someone to fill a gap – if you're in the wrong role at the wrong time, you won't be happy doing it, it won't be fulfilling, it won't make your heart sing. But, there are so many opportunities for people to serve within our church services and events, within our outreach into the community, within our mission, that there will almost certainly be some way in which you can be involved in the life of the church, something that excites you, something you can really give your heart to.

So the challenge for each of us is this – What is our life-song? What is it that makes our hearts sing for Jesus? This is where we can best serve the kingdom of God within the life of our church.
I leave you with some more words from the Casting Crowns song 'So may the words I say and the things I do make my life-song sing, bring a smile to you… Let my life-song sing to you'.

Grace and peace, Revd John



From the Home Front

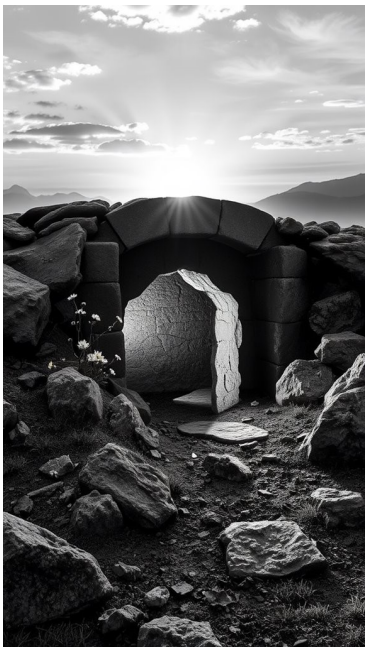
We went to visit a College friend in Cumbria last week and even though we had a lovely visit I left her with a profound sadness in my heart. As a group of eight girls we met over 50 years ago when we started our teacher training course in Durham. We have stayed friends over the years through marriages, children and childlessness, divorces, illnesses, deaths and remarriages. Despite geographical separation we have managed to meet up as individuals, couples and a group whenever the opportunities presented and we kept in touch via letters, phone calls and in recent years through a WhatsApp Group.

My Cumbrian friend was widowed two years ago and this was the first time we had spent time alone with her since her husband's death. She had met her husband at College and he was a lovely man with a quirky sense of humour and an infectious laugh. He was an extrovert. He was an excellent primary teacher who became an amazing headteacher, loved by staff, children and parents alike. Unfortunately he discovered he had cancer and had to take early retirement to undergo long term treatment, although they knew there was no cure. They were a devoted couple living in a large village community and had always attended the local church.

Yet when he died her husband had a direct cremation with no church service or get together for family and friends to say goodbye. This had upset us at the time as we had been unable to visit our friends to offer our support as his illness coincided with the Covid pandemic. By the time restrictions had ended he was at too high a risk from any infection due to his treatment and he was in the terminal stage of his illness, for us to visit. In video chats he was always upbeat and although he knew the end was coming his conversations were uplifting and filled with humour drawn from his situation, as he was determined to enjoy every minute of the time he had left.

So why no church service? After two years we finally found out why.

The leaders and members of their church, who they thought of as friends, had never visited or called to offer support or solace, to pray with them or talk to them throughout the years of his illness. Our friends felt abandoned by the Christians they knew. Unfortunately throughout her widowhood my friend has also found that these same people are the ones who cross the road when they see her out and about or avoid eye contact in the supermarket. As a couple, and now she, felt totally let down by the Christian church family they had expected to come alongside through this difficult time to pray and comfort them. That translated in their lives as being deserted by the church so they stepped away their faith gone...



As Christians we are travelling through life in the sure knowledge that Jesus died so that our sins are paid for if we accept Christ into our lives – He conquered death so that we can have eternal life. Just as everyone of us is born, so everyone of us will die. But the events of Holy Week and Easter celebrated His death and resurrection and reminded us of this awesome promise of God's grace. Illness and death of those we love is always incredibly painful, saying goodbye in this life is so hard. But as Christians it is our duty and our privilege to come alongside the dying and the grieving during this time, to give them the love and reassurance of our faith and trust. It is fine to tell someone that you don't know what to say, to just tell them you are thinking of them, praying for them - just let them know that you care. Christians don't avoid or walk away - they just love and show compassion!

J.A.R.

.Commissioning of Rebecca Bell, Kate Lawson, Jordan Thornhill, Jacqui Rogers, Andrew Rogers and Pam Stockton on completion of the Wings for Worship Training.



This course is designed to equip people to lead services of the word, assist in non-eucharistic aspects of a communion service, and to preach at services in their local parish, under the guidance of the Incumbent/ Priest in Charge.
Every member of the church is called to work and witness for Christ and different gifts are given for different ministries. The Church leadership believes that these people have been called and equipped by God for this particular ministry.



You are Loved Beyond Measure…



Each seed was planted on the same day and the same time.
Each seed pushed through at a different rate. No two plants looks alike.

A long spindly green shoot. A short stubby shoot. A tiny dot of green peeping out!

Like my sweet pea shoots. We too all grow at different rates.
Not one seed or flower is in competition with the other.
They each push through the dirt, brave the winds, rain and heat and yet grow at their own pace.

The Christian journey is not a contest or a competition.
God is not looking at who prays the best, who tells the most people about Jesus, who loves the hardest, who is the kindest.

God on His throne is and is booming over us:
"You are loved beyond measure,
You are my treasure. I've created you to shine,
You are mine.
There is no need for comparison
You are all unique.
There is no need to strive for my acceptance, you already have it.
You can't earn what I give you. All what I give is free.
Paid in full with Jesus precious blood."

Walk tall in the knowledge that your creator is your biggest cheerleader and champion.
Where you are on your journey with God is exactly where He wants you to be.

Take a moment to speak these verses over your self today.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."
Psalms 139:14 NIV

"How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!"
Psalms 139:17 NIV.

Ang Hall

Ward Jackson CF Primary End of Term Update

What an amazing achievement we were able to celebrate in school this morning. 28 children completed our March Reading Challenge. They have all read every day for the whole month - that's a lot of reading! We think they're amazing 🤩 #wardjacksonway



What a wonderful Easter service today at Stranton All Saints Church. A huge well done to all our children who read, sang and danced - they were amazing! #wardjacksonway







VE Day Memorial Quiz

V Which **V** a saint has his feast day on May 8th?
E Which **E** was a queen?

D Which **D** was raised from the dead by Peter?
A Which **A** was Moses' brother?
Y Benjamin was Joseph's **y**_____ brother.

M Which **M** was Moses' sister?
E Which **E** was Jacob's twin?
M Where did **Moses** go to after murdering an Egyptian?
O Which **O** was a minor Prophet?
R Which **R** was great grandmother of David?
I Jesus trial was this because it was held at night time!
A What **A** is the fifth book of the new testament? (Full title please)
L Which book was written by Moses?

St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road



Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 3rd May 2025

Saturday 7th June 2025

A time to spend together,
meet new people, make new friends

Central Hartlepool Group Mission Project

Monday Meditation	Monday	7:00pm to 8:00pm	St Columba's
Stranton Toddlers Term Time Only	Tuesday	9:00am to 11:00am	St Matthew's
Spiritual Oasis	Wednesday	8:30am to 2:00pm	St Columba's
Friday Drop-In Cafe	Friday	10:00am to 12:00pm	St Aidan's
Friday Meditation	Friday	2:00pm to 3:00pm	St Columba's
The Fireplace	Friday	3:30pm	St Luke's

Pub Theology Group.

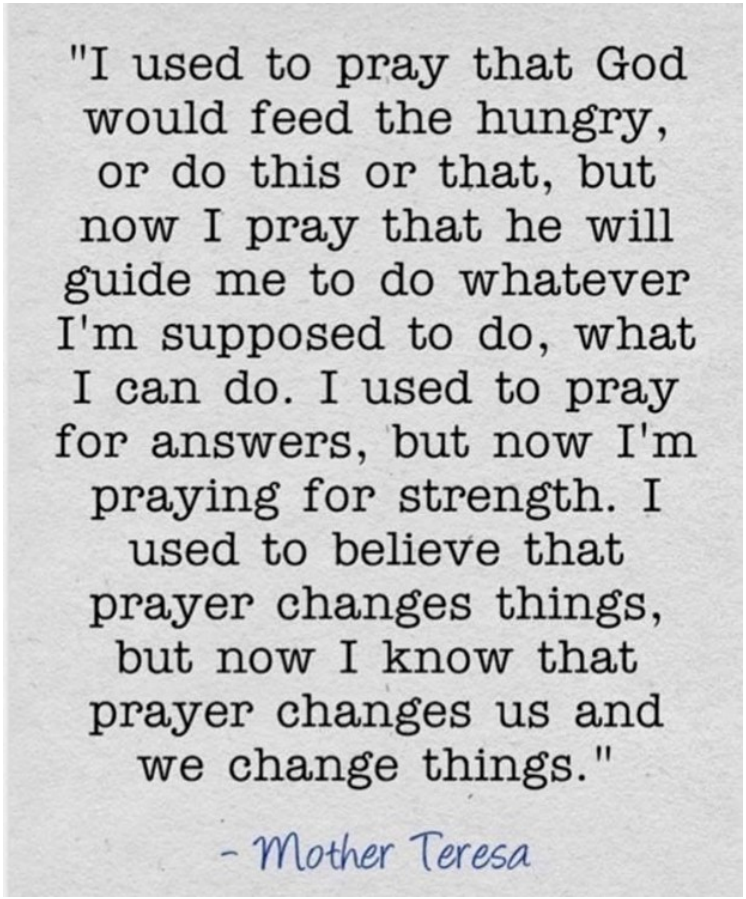
From Wednesday 9th April weekly gathering at 7.00 to 9.00pm in The Causeway pub (TS24 7QT near Stranton Church). We will be using the first room on the left as you enter the main door of the pub. All are welcome. Just bring the smile on your face.

Morning Prayer

From Monday 28th April, we will be starting Morning Prayer each week day for anyone who would like to attend. Further details on time and venue(s) will be on notice-sheets.

Cell Group

Revd Becky will be starting up a cell group (like a home group), following on from the Lent Course at St Columba's, most likely starting on Thursday 8th May, open to people from across the whole group. If you would be interested in joining, please contact Revd Becky.



Grace and Festo Kanungha Update



Dear friends,

Lent can be thought of as a bleak season as we prepare ourselves for Good Friday, a time of self-sacrifice to focus our minds on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us. But we must remember that Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ who conquered death as He rose again. I wonder how often we contemplate Holy Saturday? The day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday? When all seemed to be lost, maybe it felt like the longest of days? Festo has been in a long period of waiting. Since arriving in Bodmin in September he has sought to work with the FLOURISH project, it has taken a long time to get started. The waiting has felt very long. The FLOURISH project is a Church of England pilot which creates worshipping communities in schools. Bodmin Community College is an exciting opportunity to reach the young people of Bodmin and the surrounding area with the good news and love of Jesus Christ.

The initial plan for Festo and his team leader is to form a steering group for FLOURISH made up of students and key staff, to engage with work in the school garden, work alongside students and start to get to know them and be known by them. They will also run chaplaincy sessions for students to provide a space in which students can explore faith. Please pray that the recent positive steps taken by the project and the school will bring this season of waiting to an end.

As a family we are doing well. Grace will be priested in June (28th) at Truro Cathedral and is very much enjoying serving the churches in Bodmin benefice as a deacon. Funeral ministry is a surprising blessing and a wonderful privilege. Deacon-ing at services at St Petroc's has been a learning curve as she is not from a high church tradition, however she finds the charisma of the Anglo-Catholic tradition something she can embrace. Please cover Grace in prayer as she prepares for priestly ordination. Zeph, William and Hannah continue to settle well into their schools and life in Wadebridge. Wadebridge suits

us as a place to live and although we try not to think on it too often, there is already a cost to thinking that we will be on the move again after curacy. Please join us in thanking God for how well we have settled in this place and for the friendships that Zeph, William and Hannah have already made. Please pray that they continue to feel settled here. Festo is having driving lessons, is doing well and needs to book a test. Alongside his CMS hours, he continues to work at Wadebridge B&M, where he has settled in well and has some lovely colleagues. The move to this store has brought a change in shift pattern which on the whole suits us a little better. Please join us in thanking God for better working rhythms, please pray for Festo as he tries to book his driving test and for a positive result from it. We hope to go to Tanzania as a family this year. It is not easy as the flights cost double or more during the school holidays as we are sure everyone is aware. We are looking at almost £6,000 for the five of us to travel in August (flights only) and are in negotiation with the schools but they have little leeway. If we go in term time we will pay £480 in fines and the children will miss school. Please pray for us as we make these difficult decisions.

With love from the Kanunghas

VE Day Memorial Quiz Answers

V Which V a saint has his feast day on May 8th?	**Victor**
E Which E was a queen?	**Esther**
D Which D was raised from the dead by Peter?	**Dorcas**
A Which A was Moses' brother?	**Aaron**
Y Benjamin was Joseph's y_____ brother.	**youngest**
M Which M was Moses' sister	**Miriam**
E Which E was Jacob's twin?	**Esau**
M Where did Moses go to after murdering an Egyptian?	**Midian**
O Which O was a minor Prophet?	**Obadiah**
R Which R was great grandmother of David?	**Ruth**
I Jesus trial was this because it was held at night time?	**Illegal**
A What A is the fifth book of the new testament?	**Acts of the Apostles**
L Which book was written by Moses?	**Leviticus**

Beware the Yabbuts

YABBUTS are monstrous little beasties that inhabit the meetings and conversations that take place all over our Organisation. A YABBUT's purpose is to sap the team of its united strength by killing any new ideas or creative approaches as soon as they are suggested.
They do this by grabbing someone's tongue and making them say things like:

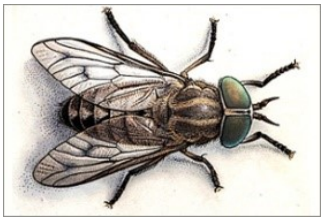
"YABBUT" we tried that three years ago
"YABBUT" we've never done it like that before
"YABBUT" the Diocese would never go along with it
"YABBUT" the members would never buy into that kind of idea
"YABBUT" They (The Ubiquitous **THEY** who control the Church) won't let us
"YABBUT" it might not work
"YABBUT" it won't work here etc, , etc.

Be aware that when these YABBUTS crawl onto the table during a meeting, or swoop down into conversation, they don't look monstrous at all. Often they adopt the appearance of a cute, cuddly, perfectly respectable, or even helpful, contribution to the discussion. But if these YABBUTS are not recognised and neutralised straight away they usually succeed in their deadly, negative missions.

The flow of ideas soon changes from **"This is how we can make this work"** to **"How can we make this work?"** and all the reasons why it won't work and therefore is not worth trying.

We are faced with major changes to our organisation and way of doing things and must change to take on board new challenges. This does not mean we have to throw out the basic tenets that have stood the test of time, but reflect the world we live in and become more meaningful to the populace outside.

In so doing we must understand there is a natural aversion to change .
Brothers and sisters – "remember what happened to the Dinosaur".
The Gadfly



Are you planning a special celebration or party and looking for a venue?

Have you thought about

St Matthew's Community Centre?

We have 2 large halls which can accommodate up to 140 persons as well as 1 large and 2 small kitchens for your catering needs. One hall is even big enough to house a bouncy castle – ideal for children's parties.

We also have our own private car park and some outdoor space if you fancy al fresco fun for your guests.

If you would like further information please call: Trish Playfor (01429 894006) or 07305 550009 during office hours, and we will be happy to help.

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The origins of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

When Becky and I attended the Church of the Good Shepherd in Shoreham-by-Sea in Sussex, we found they had an amazing way of showing their love to those in the parish community who were suffering, bereaved or going into hospital. It was truly deeply emotional to see a member of the community invited to the front of the church at the end of the service to be prayed for, to be blessed and to have a prayer shawl wrapped around them.

Whoever came up with this idea couldn't have believed the power these things could have on all concerned and it moved most of us to tears seeing this tangible love wrapped around the recipient. People would take these prayer shawls into hospitals with them, would speak of how they would put the shawl around them when they felt down and receive comfort.

These prayer shawls were truly PRAYER FILLED SHAWLS. The ladies making them would do it for a specific person and would say prayers for them as they made them. Never underestimate the power of prayer and the sense of a deep spiritual love that came with them for the receiver.

There was always a great sensitivity around personal information and not creating a "coming out" exposure of private details for the receiver, they were usually in our community prayers already. The prayer shawl was the physical realisation of those prayers gifted in a deep faith filled love.

If you would like to get involved in this amazing prayer ministry of love, email me at patrick.hartlepoolcoh.co.uk for Stranton, St Luke's, St Aidan's and St Columba's

Patrick Reeve
Mission Enabler.

B I B L E

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When in sorrow.....John 14
When men fail you.....Psalm 27
When you have sinned.....Psalm 51
When you have worry.....Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger.....Psalm 91
When God seems far away.....Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring.....Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful.....Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical.....1 Cor. 13
When you feel down and out.....Romans 8:31-39
When you want peace and rest.....Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God .....Psalm 90
When you want Christian assurance.....Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel.....Psalm 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....Psalm 67
When you want courage for a task.....Joshua 1
When you think of investments/returns.....Mark 10
How to get along with fellowmen.....Romans 12
For great invention/opportunity.....Isaiah 55
For Paul's secret to happiness.....Col. 3:12-17
If you want to be fruitful.....John 15
If your pocketbook is empty.....Psalm 37
If your losing confidence in people.....1Cor. 13
If people seem unkind.....John 15
If discouraged about your work.....Psalm 126
If you find the world growing small, and you great.....Psalm 19

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DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD

Magnificat in the Gutter

Found a Bible in the foodbank queue,
someone left it wedged in the radiator.
Fell open to Mary's song—
The 'Magnificat', they call it.
Sounds posh.
But it hit different.
Like prophetic fire packaged in a lullaby.

She's a girl—
young,
pregnant,
shamed,
unseen by priests,
invisible to Caesar.
And still she sings.
Not soft.
Not safe.
But fierce,
like she's seen through the lies of empire
and lived to tell the tale.

'He has scattered the proud.'
Good.
Because the proud don't see me.
Not the bank manager.
Not those who hoard wealth.
Not the judge who fills out the form
and moves on.

'He brings down the mighty from their thrones.'
I've seen thrones—
not gold ones,
but high-rises full of profit
built on broken backs,
courtrooms where the suits smile
while we get time,
boardrooms where they hoard.

Mary's not playing.
She's preaching.
Like Hannah before her,
like the midwives in Egypt,
like that woman in Revelation
screaming against the Beast.

And here I am,
in a cold flat with mould on the ceiling,
shaking through another night,
and I wonder—
'Is she singing for me?'

Because if God lifts the lowly,
I qualify.
If God feeds the hungry,
my belly's ready.
If God remembers mercy,
I've got a list of things
I can't forget.

They sing this song in cathedrals—
robed choirs, golden processions.
But I think she sang it in a whisper,
mud on her sandals,
blood in her veins,
a heartbeat like revolution.

If that's true,
then maybe
this old book
ain't a fairy tale after all.

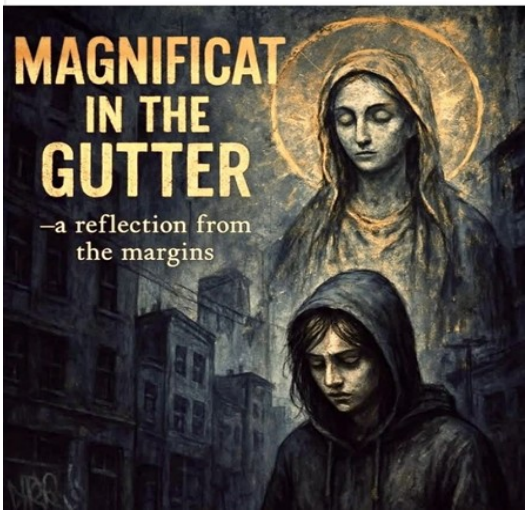
Maybe
it's a manifesto
from the margins.

Maybe
God's already here—
in the cracks,
in the cold,
in the cry of a girl
who dared to hope
in the shadow of empire.

And maybe
so can I.

- Rev'd Jon Swales, 2025





Marketing the Church - The Mission Challenge

"The Church exists for the sake of those outside it" (William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury.)
The only institution that exists for its non members (Dietrich Bonhoeffer**)**
The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside it (William Tyndale 1493-1546)
Three minds but with a single thought…….

So are we doing enough for those outside to encourage them into our midst or are we quite happy to maintain the status quo?
As you read through these brief notes you will probably keep saying to yourself "Yes, we do this or that or we tried it but it didn't work or whatever……". the Yabbut Factor!
The point of all this is to remind ourselves of what we do, try and understand and make sense of why we do it, realise where we might have gone adrift and ultimately to gather it all together in a more coherent and cohesive manner, properly codified and coordinated so that we can all sing from the same hymn sheet.

We are continually reminded that the Church is in decline, so what are we doing to arrest this trend? What have we to offer? What is **distinctive** about us compared with other churches or similar organisations?

One way in which we can put the Church on the map again and keep the show on the road is to take a more pragmatic approach and make our presence felt by adopting "business-like" methods, in this particular situation, **Marketing.**

Oh my goodness me! I have committed the cardinal sin of trying to take the church into the 21st Century by talking outside the normal box of **getting things done by "faith, hope and prayer".** Let's face it, we don't have much of a chance of pulling through if we can't face the world and use worldly tactics. Parodying General William Booth's (and others') words "Why should the Devil have all the best business methods?"

If we are that squeamish about it let's try and find another word to use in the place of Marketing but also bear in mind the following definition:
Marketing is the management process which identifies, anticipates and supplies customer requirements efficiently and profitably.

Perhaps in a Church or voluntary sector situation this might be described thus **"the process by which organisations assess and serve the needs of the community"**

Marketing must not be confused with ***advertising***, although the latter will find its place in a Marketing exercise. We advertise an event taking place, a hall for hire, a specific thing at a specified time and place. **Marketing** is something less tangible but, if worked through, much more powerful and effective over a period of time.
Marketing is about telling people about the organisation and the values and benefits of the products and/or services on offer.
In our case it is about the provision of **services**, not just the Sunday Church Services but where we are and what we do in our community, matching the needs and aspirations of the ***customers*** with our capabilities of providing or satisfying them.

What is a service?
There are a number of definitions of a service but I like the following :-
A service is intangible and perishable. It is an occurrence, a process that is created and used simultaneously (or nearly). While the consumer cannot retain the actual service after it is provided, the effect of the service can be retained.
You cannot touch it or feel it or store it on a shelf like a bag of sugar; it is time limited at the point of delivery; you cannot take it home with you. **But hopefully, it will be a pleasant experience.**
There are a number of relevant elements in a Marketing Scenario. The ingredients which go into the **Marketing Mix** vary according to whichever model you subscribe to, one of which is noted here but there are other more complex models

The 4 Ps Product Place Price Promotion

Product What is on offer?
Is there another similar product on offer nearby?
What is the likely competition?
What is the **distinctiveness** of our product?
Will we offer a range of different products from the same place?
Will our product be of an acceptable **quality**?

Place Where will the service be delivered to the customer?
What is the catchment area?
Is the place conducive to the provision of an acceptable level of service for our product?
Is the place welcoming?

Price What will be the basic cost or price of the service?
Will there be different costs for different types of service or activity?

Promotion What use will be made of advertising?
Will we use public relations or sales promotion techniques?.

We can look at the above in many different ways and in differing scenarios, either locally in our own Churches or in the wider world.

The above notes are a much simplified, but nevertheless, helpful introduction to the concept of **Marketing** and which with a little common sense, patience and Christian fortitude, can be used to our advantage.

And finally, in "**The Service Advantage"**, Karl Albrecht's **Moment of Truth** which I believe should always be our watchword :
"That precise instant when the customer comes into contact with any aspect of your business and on the basis of that contact forms an opinion about the quality of your service and potentially the quality of your product"

© Jeff Parsons 2025 in conversation with J Cornelius Starbuck

Boys Brigade News

We have now completed the spring session of Boys Brigade.

The Juniors have learned to make several 'shapes' in figure marching, including a triangle, a house table, chair and very impressive three part gear fully working cog engine - a sight to behold! The standard of the marching has improved each week

The Company Lads have progressed in drill from basic turns and wheeling manoeuvres to complex moves such as right and left forms and form squads (University Challenge standard). Both these activities encourage team work which this year has been very good.

Anchors have a regular number of boys (12) who have enjoyed dot to dots, spot the difference and sticky crafts to back up the bible story they are told each particular night.

Devotions: In the run up to Easter the Juniors and the Company looked at Jesus and the Romans (The centurion with faith, Pontius Pilate and the centurion at the Cross).

Future Plans

On May 16th we are holding our Open Night where every member will be on parade and will receive the badges and promotions they have earned during the BB Session.

Doors are open from 7.00pm all are warmly welcome to attend this event.

Saturday June 28th is our Summer Fayre at St Matthew's Community Centre - you know the one with BARGAINS GALORE!

Saturday July 12th is the 'Big St Matthew's Tidy Up Morning'.

July 21st - July 26th is our Summer camp at Birch Scout Centre near Scarborough.

Longer term future: We are creating a mission statement so that as a BB Company we can become more involved with Stranton and St Matthew's Community Centre.

George Bainbridge

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to

May

Barbara Busby
Sarah Cartwright
Elspeth Craig
Eve Coils
Andrew Rogers
Michael Thompson
Kath Weimer



Special 90th Birthday

Majorie Ash



Wedding Anniversaries

Andrew & Louise Robertson
David & Megan Robertson

If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email admin@stranton-church.org.uk or phone 894006.
All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.

Dates for the Diary

May

Saturday 3rd	**Coffee, Cake & Conversation St Matthew's CC**	**2.00-4.00pm**
Thursday 8th	**VE Day Afternoon Tea at St Luke's Tickets £3**	**2.00pm.**
	Cell Group Contact Revd Becky for details	
Saturday 10th	**Worship 24/7 Stranton Church.**	**3.00-9.00pm**
Sunday 11th	**St Luke's APCM following service**	
Sunday 11th	**Messy Church St Matthew's CC**	**4.00-5.30pm**
Sunday 18th	**Combined Service Stranton Followed by APCM**	**10.00am**
Thursday 29th	**The Ascension Day Service St Luke's**	**7.00pm**
Saturday 31st	**St Luke's Annual Plant Sale admission £1.**	**10.00-12.00 noon**

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll is undergoing a full revision this year, meaning everyone's name comes off the existing one. Forms are now in church or from the parish office. Please make sure you pick one up if you want to be on the new roll complete and return to church or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Easter Eggheads

This was held at St Matthew's Community Centre from Monday 7th to Friday 11th April. There were up to thirty three boys and girls who learnt about the first Easter by taking part in games, crafts, singing, watching the movie 'The Miracle Maker', a quiz plus chats given by various helpers.
Many thanks go to Maureen, Peter, Jordan, Kate, Revd John and the Boys Brigade NCOs who all played their part in making each night a fun and learning experience.
The finale of the week was when attendance Certificates and Easter Eggs of various sizes were given to each girl and boy who had attended.

George Bainbridge

Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor **"Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 or** 07305 550009 E-Mail: **admin@stranton-church.org.uk** Web Site: **www.stranton-church.org.uk**
To contact clergy by E-mail	E-Mail: **clergy@stranton-church.org.uk**

Priest in Charge 34A Westbourne Road 07512 481115
Revd. John Bell
Email: 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

Safeguarding: Jacqui Rogers (Stranton Parish Safeguarding Officer)
safeguarding@stranton-church.org.uk 07749 163606

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.