Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST

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

December 2025 /January 2026

The Fragility of Peace… (The musings of a priest)

As one church year ends and the next begins, we go back to the beginning of the cycle from Luke's Gospel in Year C to Matthew's in Year A, and as I was reflecting on this, I was also struck by the cyclical way in which so much of the world operates.

In the news this week, we have seen a fragile peace between Israel and Gaza starting to falter as Israel resumes strikes across Gaza. A 'take it or leave it' peace deal in the Ukraine conflict leaves Ukraine having to consider whether to concede territory to Russia in order to secure peace – but for how long? And we have seen an escalation in attacks on our Christian brothers and sisters in a number of nations across the world, none more so than in northern Nigeria where more than 10,000 schools have been forced to close, and Christians are living in fear of their lives. I have just been reading of the kidnapping of more than 300 girls from a catholic school in Niger state, and more Christians are killed in Nigeria for their faith than the rest of the world combined.

At a time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the people of our world seem to be caught up in a cycle of violence against one another, the people and countries change, but the cycle seems to just keep turning.

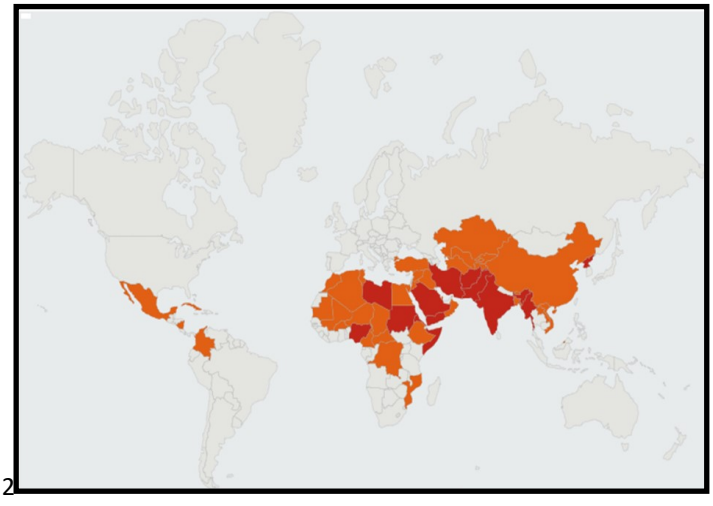
So what do we do? How do we respond? It's a really difficult question, because so much of what we can directly do seems to have so little effect.

But one of the most important things to do is make sure we are aware of the issues affecting Christians around the world, and then pray for them. We may choose to give to organisations that try to support them, and raise the awareness of such issues. Each year, Open Doors produces it's World Watch List, highlighting the top 50 most dangerous countries to be a Christian, but that doesn't mean that those further down the list are safe. As you pray, ask God to place on your heart the country or area of the world that you are to pray for, and pray for them.

Maybe it's one on the list. Maybe it's somewhere else in the world. Maybe it's a nation where Christians are persecuted, and maybe it's not. Wherever it is that's on your heart, I encourage you to pray for that place, our Christian sisters and brothers living there, for those who rule and govern, and for peace and protection for all who suffer, especially in this season of Advent and Christmas, where we should be preparing to celebrate the Prince of Peace.

You can read more on the Open Doors website https://www.opendoorsuk.org

Grace and peace, Revd John



From the Home Front

At Christmas God gave the world He had created His greatest ever gift – His only son Jesus Christ. Jesus' amazing gift to every member of the human race was through His death and resurrection all could have the opportunity of salvation and eternal life.

God also gives each one of us gifts, we don't always recognise them for what they are and often we don't use them for the work of growing the kingdom or spreading the word. These gifts are too diverse to name and all are tailor made for each individual.

Over the years I have been told that one of my gifts is commitment to keeping in touch with and drawing alongside people over a long period of time. I care about people, I find their lives absorbing and I am genuinely interested in them. I think I am a good listener, open to people's emotions. As I look back now I feel that God often prompts me to phone or text someone, call around or meet up with a person, to send them an encouraging card or gift, maybe just ask a leading question... I have been fortunate over my life to meet an amazing variety of people from all sorts of backgrounds. Some of whom I have come along side for a few weeks or months, some I have been in contact with over many years. However within that time the levels of contact and the intensity of the relationships have fluctuated as time has progressed. I have lost touch with a number of dear friends, when the circumstances altered and it was right to move on. However they sometimes still pop into my thoughts and I know I need to pray for them – a God-nudge when they are in need of spiritual support! My family Christmas letter is always a point of contact which enables me to keep the bonds with those who have moved away but whom I still care about deeply .

My life has been, and continues to be, greatly blessed by this God given gift. The people I have encounted have enriched my life and helped my faith and trust to grow. God's gifts are limitless. This Christmas look for your gifts from God – they won't be under a tree, they will be inside your heart, mind and soul. Open them up and use them as God intended…

J.A.R.

Stranton bells ring out to launch 900th Anniversary celebrations!

On the evening of 1st November, the eight bells at Stranton Church rang out to celebrate the start of a year's celebrations marking the 900th anniversary of the church. Church members and residents of the parish were invited to come along and support the bellringers and the start of the celebrations. As well as listening to the bells, those that came along enjoyed delicious homemade refreshments and getting to know each other further. Since Medieval times, Stranton All Saints Church has been a centre of Christian worship in Hartlepool.

Revd John Bell, Priest in Charge, commented on the event: "We are so very grateful to our dedicated band of bellringers who ring regularly for our Sunday services, calling people to worship God. It was wonderful to

have the support of our bellringers at the launch of our celebrations, kicking things off for us with a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Major. Thank you also to friends who joined the ringing band for the evening. I also want to give special mention to one of our talented young ringers who has designed our 900th anniversary logo that was on display at the launch, and to offer thanks to all who are contributing as we gather photos and memories of Stranton Church across the years."

Revd Claire Mead, Assistant Curate, said, "Our Anniversary Team is really excited about the services and events that we have coming up over the year. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations! We'll be launching a new monthly evening service Sundays@6 on 16th November, there will be a Wedding Exhibition on 14th February 2026, a community fun afternoon in Ward Jackson CofE Primary School next summer and even a tower abseil! Many things to look forward to!"

If you have a personal connection to Stranton All Saints and have memories to share the Anniversary Team would love to hear from you! We're particularly inviting those who have been married in the church to get in touch with our Parish Office (admin@stranton-church.org.uk, 01429 894006), as we prepare for our Wedding Exhibition, 'Stranton Weddings through the years', on 14th February 2026. If you know someone who was married in the church, please do invite them to get in touch with us and share their memories. We'd love to be able to display photos and wedding dresses as part of our exhibition.

Do keep an eye out for more information about the services and activities taking place each month on our church Facebook page and in the local press. Everyone is very welcome to join in the celebrations!

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900th Anniversary Fundraiser
Christmas Hamper Winner

Two raffles were held during the Boys Brigade Christmas Fayre - A luxury Christmas Hamper and a raffle which included several of Trish Playfor's crafts and other luxury items. The hamper was won by Mel Hutchinson (seen above receiving it at home) and the first prize of the other raffle - a quilted Advent Calendar - was won by Rebecca Bell. £195 was raised for the 900th Anniversary Funds.

In addition the Bottle Bag Tombola run by Maureen and Peter Anderson raised £150 towards social events to be held in 900th Anniversary Year. Thank you to all those who kindly made donations and those who bought tickets.

Editor

The First Christmas Quiz

1. In the Beginning who was with and was God?
2. Who was the father of John the Baptist?
3. Who was Mary's cousin?
4. What initially did Joseph plan to do quietly when he found that Mary was pregnant?
5. Who decided there would be a census?
6. Why is the number 14 important in Matthew's Gospel?
7. What is the collective name for the wisemen?
8. How many wisemen were there?
9. What did they follow?
10. Name the three gifts the wisemen bought?
11. Who was the King of Judea (Full title please)?
12. Who were working on the hills?
13. What appeared to them?
14. Where would they find the baby?
15. What was the message of the heavenly host?
16. Who were warned not to go back to Herod?
17. What order did Herod give?
18. What country did the Holy Family flee to?
19. After Herod died to where did the Holy Family move?
20. Which gift was used at the first Easter?

Letters from Our Heavenly Father

Dear Child

Keep wearing my armour.

The helmet of salvation protects your thought life. Fix your thoughts on me.

Keep lassoing those wandering thoughts that are not from me, and think of me.

The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart. It keeps you on the right path.

The shield of faith protects you from the arrows of doubt. Keep trusting as you lift that shield.

The sword of the Spirit. My word is powerful; keep speaking it out.

The belt of truth keeps all the armour together. Walk in my truth.

The shoes of the gospel of peace. Keep sharing the hope that is within you.

Keep sharing my peace.

Often, the people you meet don't need your words; they need your presence.

Your unwavering peace. Your unconditional love.

I need to remind you, child, that you can't do anything in your own strength.

My spirit within you is all you need.

Love from
Your Heavenly Father

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour, put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the

gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Dear child

Today, as you walk through your day.

As you wear my armour, the enemy will try to take a shot at you.

Each arrow will be dipped in lies, slander and hate.

The armour will repel each arrow. Hear it ping off you as if you are wearing metal armour.

My son's blood is over you. You are washed in it.

The enemy cannot get near you when you are washed in Jesus' blood and wearing the armour.

Keep your eyes fixed on me, not on your situation or the problems you are facing.

Speak out my truth over you.

My word is also a powerful weapon.

Love from
Your Heavenly Father.

"No weapon forged against you will prevail,

and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,

and this is their vindication from me" Isaiah 54:17

Ang Hall

The First Christmas Quiz Answers

1. In the Beginning who was with and was God? **The Word**
2. Who was the father of John the Baptist? **Zechariah**
3. Who was Mary's cousin? **Elizabeth**
4. What initially did Joseph plan to do quietly when he found that Mary was pregnant? **Divorce Mary**
5. Who decided there would be a census? **Caesar Augustus**
6. Why is the number 14 important in Matthew's gospel? **Generational time marks?**
7. What is the collective name for the wisemen? **Magi**
8. How many wisemen were they? **We don't know**
9. What did they follow? **A star**
10. Name the three gifts the wisemen bought? **Frankincense, myrrh and gold**
11. Who was the king of Judea (Full title please)? **Herod the Great**
12. Who were working on the hills? **Shepherds**
13. What appeared to them? **An Angel**
14. Where would they find the baby? **In a manger**
15. What was the message of the heavenly host? **Peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind**
16. Who were warned not to go back to Herod? **The Magi**
17. What order did Herod give? **Kill all boys aged two and under**
18. What country did the Holy family flee to? **Egypt**
19. After Herod died to where did the Holy Family move? **Nazareth**
20. Which gift was used at the first Easter? **Myrrh**

St Matthew's
Community Centre
Elwick Road

Coffee Cake Company

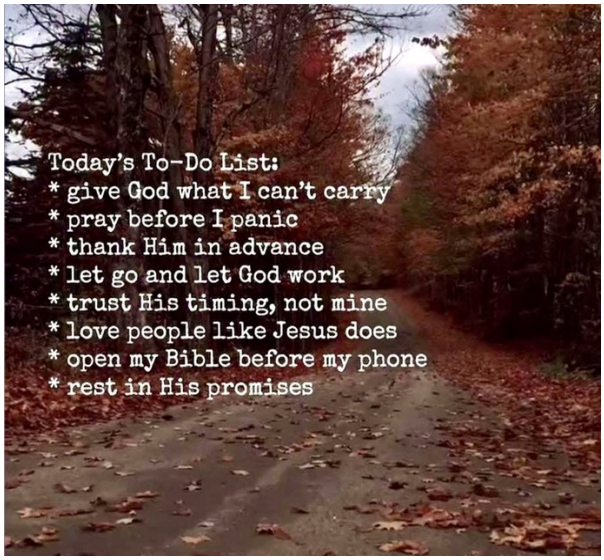
Coffee or Tea, Cake and Company

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

Saturday 6th December 2025

3rd January 2026

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



Ward Jackson CE Primary Update

As the first snowfall of the year arrived, we loved how our playground was quickly transformed into a winter wonderland! ❄️ The children couldn't wait to wrap up warm and go outside to enjoy every magical moment of the snow! ☃️

Bethlehem Star

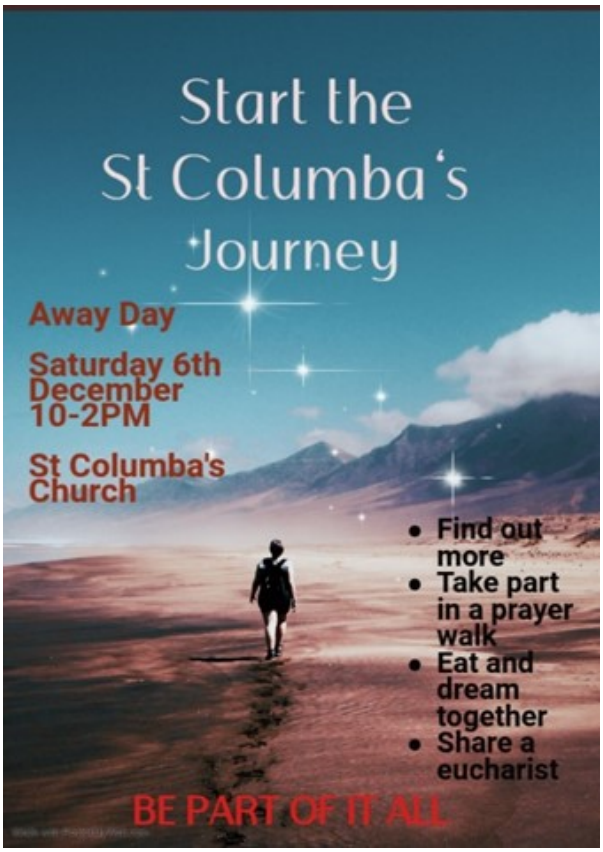
I was there right from the very start
Unless you have a theological heart.
I was a natural satellite seen from afar
Now you know me as the Bethlehem star.

I was a guide to some wise guys
Very keen followers of the skies.
A special mark in the heavenly sky
Starting a beginning a journey for the Magi.

Nearly two years it took as a guide
Whilst their camels they did ride.
They nearly got the destination wrong
King Herod's place was not on the itinerary.

Eventually over Bethlehem I shone
Over a family with God's Son.
Now I'm recalled at a certain time of the year
Along with the gifts that were given there.

Whilst you only need to recall me now and again
Try to find out daily how this Son reigned.
Ultimately He is greater than the kings in this story
Follow Him to gain a life of everlasting glory.



WINTER HELP AVAILABLE IN HARTLEPOOL
LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE PARTNERSHIP (LEAP)

FREE ENERGY ADVICE

As the cold dark winter nights are on us, our home heating systems are being switched on and we may be worrying about out fuel bills. The LEAP energy advice service can offer help in your home or over the telephone:-

How to check your energy bills to ensure you're not paying too much for your energy.

Give you hints and tips to reduce the amount of energy you use.

Advise on how to set up your heating system to keep you warm and save money.

Provide access to improvement grants to keep your home warm.

Provide free energy saving measures – eg low energy light bulbs, draught excluders.

Arrange a free appointment to help with benefits, debt and other money problems.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

The LEAP service is free if you:-

Have a low income – household income of less than £31,000 per annum.

Are aged over 65 or have a child under 5 in the property.

Receive Housing Benefit.

Receive Universal Credit.

Receive an income or disability related benefit.

Receive Pension Guarantee or Pension Savings Benefit.

Receive Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

TO APPLY BY PHONE CALL 0800 060 7567
TO APPLY ON LINE – applyforleap.org.uk

Andrew Rogers

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.

Steven McConnell

Roofing Contractor

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Offers of voluntary help are always welcome ,
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Please contact us at:

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Tel: 01429 855555

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Accountancy, Taxation and Payroll

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Hartlepool
TS25 1TX

Telephone: 01429 280444
Email: office.admin@strantonbusiness.co.uk
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Elspeth Robinson MBE

This remarkable 80+ year old retired physiotherapist from Darlington called Elspeth set up the Kumi Community Foundation.

Kumi Community Foundation is delighted to announce that Elspeth Robinson, founder and Chairman of the charity, has been awarded an MBE by his Majesty the King.
The honour has been awarded for services to Disabled People in Kumi, Eastern Uganda.
Very well deserved !!!
Please join us in congratulating Elspeth and spreading the word near and far.
We are so proud of you Elspeth!!!!

Helping Others To Help Themselves

The Kumi Community Foundation was started in 2002 by Elspeth Robinson who first went to Kumi Hospital in Uganda as a Physiotherapist. She has since continued visiting Kumi for about 10 weeks every single year and now the Kumi Community Foundation supports many individuals with disabilities and malnourishment who are living in extreme poverty in remote areas of the Ugandan bush.

Whilst Elspeth and some of the team returns to the UK to raise funds with the foundation, Harriet leads the team in Uganda to continue providing support for those who require it the most.

Reflections on times past

How often, when looking for something, do you find something else much more interesting and spend time reflecting on days long past?

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The alarm clock usually awakes around six o'clock in the morning.
"Daddy! Is it time to wake up yet?"
Short stubby fingers finding their way beneath the bedclothes, despite daddy's efforts to draw the blankets over his head; doing their best to permanently damage daddy's hearing and sight.
The acceptance that there will be no further peace until daddy moves his bones, gives him the impetus to blunder around the bedroom looking for slippers and spectacles which have mysteriously disappeared during the night.
After a quick trip to the bathroom, a brew of tea is called for to bring life and activity to a still half-sleepy family.
Breakfast is taken in fits and starts, in between catching up with the latest news and views on early morning TV, and the recent adventures of Pop-eye, what better way to prepare oneself for the rigours and ventures into another day of Local Government Administration.
Unless you have been actively involved in any "official" building work to your home you are probably as unaware of the existence of the Local Authority Building Inspector as the remaining 99.9% of the population.
The Local Authority - "The Council", has, by law, a duty to enforce a set of rules designed to ensure that any building work is carried out to an acceptable standard. This task is delegated to a band of professionally qualified persons called (amongst other things) Building Inspectors, Building Control Officers or Municipal Building Surveyors - "you pays your money and takes your choice!" And of course, in these days of increased privatisation of Public Services, you have a fee to pay for their services.
You may well ask "Who are we? What do we do? Certainly not just the men from the Council come to look at the drains - the Sanitary Inspector of days long since gone, although this aspect does feature from time to time among the myriad of tasks facing us day by day.
For most Building work it is necessary to submit plans of some description (not to be confused with Planning applications!), showing, in varying ways how the building is to be put together.
The Surveyor's task in this respect is somewhat negative, that of checking the plans and trying to weed out the incorrect and unsatisfactory aspects of the design of the building. Such is the potential scope and variation in the size and complexity of construction that they will call upon other specialists such as Structural Engineers, Drainage engineers, and Fire Prevention engineers to help them in these tasks.
The real "meat" of the operation, and perhaps the more satisfying aspect is that of "site" control, to ensure that the work carried out is technically correct. Building Construction is in many ways an imprecise science and there are often a number of ways of achieving the same objective and all equally acceptable. To the uninitiated this sometimes seems somewhat of a paradox.
In order to check the work in progress it is necessary to carry out regular inspections. These are specifically related to the foundations, the damp proofing, the floor construction, the roof and the drains, all of which will be subsequently

hidden when the building is complete.
Some of the most difficult jobs to control are the domestic alterations or extensions where the DIY enthusiast runs amok at weekends. Regulations for Health and Safety are of little concern to them and a hindrance in their pursuit of improving their own “bijou residence”. This is usually the time when the Surveyor’s parentage is called into question or reference made to membership of a certain band of secret police prevalent in Germany during the last war!
The Building Act of 1984, successor to the 1936 Public Health Act (no, not the Public House Act!) caters for a wide range of topics including that of dealing with Dangerous Structures. Recent gale force winds stretched the service to its limits when all the Surveyors were out and about looking at structural damage and I found myself one afternoon high above the city streets on the Fire Brigade’s latest toy, the extending mobile platform, inspecting a jumble of chimney pots and loose masonry perched most precariously and ready to fall on the unsuspecting public below.
Have you ever paused to consider your personal safety when attending the Cinema, Theatre or other place of Public Entertainment. Rules and Regulations govern the number of people allowed to enter these premises, the number and size of the exit doors and the structural and fire safety of the buildings as a whole. All in a day’s work for the Building Surveyor, another task to be fitted into the daily round.
And what of all the other incidentals which beset us on a regular basis, neighbourly disputes, anonymous telephone calls, seemingly endless rounds of meetings, both in the office and on site to deal with matters of current concern.
The Building Surveyor, as well as being professional and well qualified also needs the Patience of Job and the Wisdom of Solomon to see them through their busy day.
And so, after a hard day’s slog, back home to Bradford on Avon, a nice meal and a couple of hours in front of the telly when the children have been put to bed, and relaxation…… but not this week, I am on call and the telephone rings. My presence is required for a dangerous building, or the Fire Brigade need some advice on a burning building before they send in the firefighters or any other situation requiring immediate attention and which cannot wait until the morning.
Such was life. But despite the ups and downs and the constant need for consultation, discussion, tolerance, or whatever, I enjoyed every minute of it.
Jeff Parsons
Written May 1987 Revised May 2019 © Jeff Parsons
A Moving Finger Publication Westfield

Christmas Elfin Safety- Risk Assessments

Please note:
All members planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a RISK ASSESSMENT will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. The assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.
Please note that permission must also be obtained from landowners before their fields are entered.
To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, tools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.
The Angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

Whilst it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even Royal Personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, whilst caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins (e.g. Frankincense or Myrrh) that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Anon, adapted by J Cornelius Starbuck 2025

BB

Our Company's tribute to the Fallen (Made by All Sections)

Well done to one of our Lance Corporals, Billy, who has been raising money for the Royal British Legion by helping on the stall in our local Tesco.

Remembrance Season

This year all our Sections took part in our display at Stranton Church and other Remembrance activities which included a quiz for the Company Lads and a visit by Captain Wells of the TA to the Juniors.
All our members were presented with the BB Poppy Badge and several took part in their school Remembrance acts wearing their BB Uniform.

National Competition

Master Team

Our Company was nominated to be host for this competition - which is a national quiz.
Teams from Lanchester, Teesside, Scarborough and our Company entered. There were two teams from our Company.

As hosts it was a very successful night (many thanks to Kay, Stewart, Jack and Kevia for all their hard work)
Unfortunately, our teams being slightly younger meant we lost out to the more experienced Lanchester and Scarborough teams.

Chess

Our Chess team Lewis, Billy, Tyler and our reserve Travis were drawn away to Lanchester and in a highly thoughtful and tense atmosphere our team won 5 - 4 and progress to the next round. Congratulations.

Last night we hosted the first round of the BB Masterteam Quiz Competition. Sadly it wasn't our night, but everyone should still be proud of taking part, especially those taking part for the first time.
Well done to 5th Scarborough and 14th North West Durham for making it through to the next round!

Results:

1st - 5th Scarborough - 73.5
2nd - 14th NWD (Lanchester) - 63.5
3rd - 17th Teesside - 61.5
4th - 4th Hartlepool [A] - 51
5th - 4th Hartlepool [B] - 42

Well done to our chess team who were victorious tonight in their match against Lanchester Boys' Brigade in the first round of the BB National Chess Competition.
We'll now go through to round 2 where we will play the 3rd Harrogate BB.
Big thanks to everyone at Lanchester BB for their warm welcome ⚓♟

Christmas Activities

This year includes our Christmas Fayre, Christmas crafts, games, a 'Charity Wrap' and our Company Carol Service on Friday 12th December at Stranton Church.

Congratulations to Mrs Kevia Simmons who has now been promoted to Warrant Officer and hopefully will move on to Lieutenant once she has attended the appropriate training course.

Recruiting Numbers

Our numbers have risen slowly in each Section and we still have room for any Boy aged 5 – 16 years old in each Section.
To see us in action please visit our Face Book page

+++Breaking News +++ Breaking News +++ Breaking News

Boys Brigade Christmas Fayre total raised is £1,406

Have yourselves a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Boys and Leaders of the 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade Company.

George Bainbridge
07816 445829

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to

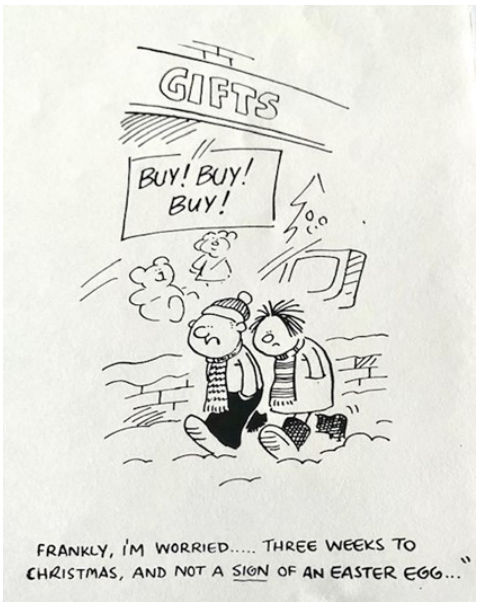
December

Diane Greenwood
Chloe Thornhill
Mary Tones
Mark Tones
Josie Watson

January

Tyler Anderson
Sophie Bell
David Craig
Tony Grosvenor
Victor Mba
Trish Playfor

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

Christmas Diary Dates and Beyond

Tues 2nd, 9th, 16th Dec	Advent Course: Everyone is welcome in Stranton. Tuesdays - coffee - 6:30pm, start - 7:00- 8:30pm	
Sun 30th Nov	First Sunday of Advent	9:00am & 11:00am
Sat 6th Dec	St Luke's Cheese & Wine & Carols - £5	6:00pm
Sun 7th Dec	Christmas Carols outside St Columba's	4:00pm
Fri 12th Dec	BB Carol Service Stranton	7:15pm
Sun 14th Dec	Christingle Service Stranton	4:00 pm
Fri 19th Dec	Stranton Primary School	9:00 am
Fri 19th Dec	Ward Jackson CE School	2:00 pm
Sun 21st Dec	Pop-up Nativity, Stranton	11:00 am
Sun 21st Dec	Carols by Candlelight, Stranton	6:00 pm
Wed 24th Dec	Pop-up Nativity, Stranton	4:00 pm
Wed 24th Dec	Christmas Eve Communion Stranton	11:30 pm
Thurs 25thDec	Christmas Day joint service at St Luke's	10:00 am
Sun 28th Dec	Joint service at St Columba's	10:00 am
Sun 4th Jan	Joint service at Stranton	11:00 am
Sat 10th Jan	Family Quiz with refreshments Stranton	5:00-6:30pm
Sun 11thJan	Messy Church St Matthew's	4.00-5.30pm
Fri 16th Jan	Central Group Meal at Golden Lion, all welcome need to book asap	

Tickets for St Luke's Cheese & Wine and Carols by Candlelight, £5, Saturday 6th December in the Parish Centre, will be available from mid November.

Upcoming 900th Anniversary Events in 2026
More details to follow
Family Quiz Night 10th January
Praise Service 18th January
Prayer Spaces - January Dates to be confirmed
Stranton Weddings through the Years Exhibition February
Concerts

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 Revd. John Bell	34A Westbourne Road	07512 481115
Email:	r**evdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk**	
Curate		
Revd Claire Mead	(Stranton & St Luke's)	07598 070481
Email:	**curate@stranton-church.org.uk** Usual day off – Friday	
Reader		
Mary Tones	40a Blakelock Road	07972 342890
Hayley Liversidge	hayey@hartlepoolcch.coh.org.uk	07712008772
St Aidan's & Columba's Church **Priest in Charge**		
Revd. Becky Reeve	5 Tunstall Avenue	01429 671358
Email:	**revbeckystaidanandcolumba@gmail.com**	
Safeguarding:	Jacqui Rogers (Stranton Parish Safeguarding Officer)	
Email:	**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	07899 897444
	Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
PCC Secretary	Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road	871266
Treasurer	David Craig 57 Claremont Drive Contact Stanton Office	894006
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.