Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



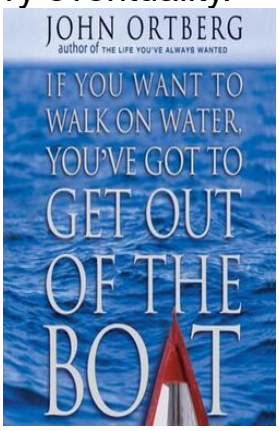
Rooted in God's love
Growing together with Jesus
Branching out in the
Power of the Holy Spirit

July / August 2026

A Leap of Faith – Putting our Trust in God…
(The musings of a priest)

Yesterday (21st June), I was really struck by a thread running through our services about faith. Especially about how we step out into new things by putting our trust in God and taking a leap of faith. Whether that's embarking on the Christian journey in baptism, exploring a call to ministry, making a career change, getting married, buying our first house, moving to somewhere completely new, doing something that stretches us, as Christians, we place our trust in God that He will be with us whatever we do, if we believe we are heading in the direction He wants us to go.

He doesn't promise it will be easy. And we see from scripture that the life of the faithful is often far from easy, but when we step out, believing we are following God's plan for us, then I genuinely believe He is with us through every eventuality.



Notice I've said when we believe we are following His plans… Sometimes we might get it wrong. Sometimes it might not be God's plan for us at all. Sometimes it might be His plan, but we are rushing ahead far in advance of His timings. And sometimes of course it's exactly what He wants us to be doing and where He wants us to be. In all of those circumstances, because we are stepping out in faith, I believe He is with us. Guiding us, directing us, showing us the way.

In order for any of us to grow in our faith, we have to be prepared to step out – just as Peter did when he stepped out of the boat and walked on water (Matthew 14). As we heard in our Sunday@6 service on 21st June, it was only when he looked down that Peter noticed the wind still blowing, realised what he was doing, and started to sink. It's an amazing story of faith, and when doubt starts to set in and Peter starts to sink beneath the surface, he cries out to Jesus, he cries out to God, who is right there beside him to offer a helping hand. Until now, when Jesus then says 'Ye of little faith', I've always heard that as a public rebuke thinking that Peter is getting a hard time while all the other disciples are keeping their heads down because they're the ones who stayed in the boat, in their comfort zone, not even attempting to push beyond their comfort zone. But I heard it in a new light. As the passage was unpacked for us, I realised that Jesus is simply saying to Peter – "you've got this!! I'm here. I'm always here with you, walking beside you." So have faith. Take a chance. Get out of the boat.

Sometimes we step out and it feels like we're walking along a dark and difficult path, but when we keep our eyes on God, we will see His light, guiding us, showing us which way to go, one step at a time.

We each have that same faith inside of us that had Peter climbing out of the boat and walking across the water to meet Jesus. All Christ said was 'Come'. God invites us on a similar journey. To step out of our comfort zone, trust in Him, and simply come. He wants to see us grow, thrive and flourish in all that He has for us. It might be terrifying, it will definitely be exciting, but as John Ortberg's book teaches us: 'if we want to walk on water, we have to get out of the boat'.

Grace and peace, Revd John

From the Home Front











My other half and I have just spent a few days away staying with good friends near Saltburn. We were in a cabin in the grounds of a Victorian country home which is now a hotel used primarily for events and celebrations.

What amazed me was the wildlife we saw everyday on the grass in the middle of the crescent of cabins. Each morning we observed and heard three peacocks, up to fourteen mallard ducks, white call ducks, blackbirds, sparrows, pheasants, a herring gull, a murder of crows, a scurry of grey squirrels, two cats and wild rabbits - all looking for food put out for them by one cabin's permanent residents. The rest of the day these varied creatures came and went – feeding, resting and wandering around the grass. Apart from the odd dispute over a tasty morsel the birds and animals lived in harmony, enjoying the relative safety of their environment and the abundance of food sources of the area which was

surrounded by trees, woodland with undergrowth, ponds and generous humans!

The origins of the creatures are varied – peacocks originate from Asia or Africa; mallards spread out from Siberia and North America then across Northern Europe; white call ducks were imported from the Netherlands but probably originated in the Far East; blackbirds evolved from ancestors that colonized the Canary Islands from Africa; sparrows are thought to have migrated from the Middle East; pheasants are native to Asia; herring gulls are native across Scandinavia and Northern Europe; crows radiated out from Central Asia; grey squirrels were imported from North America in the 1870s; all domestic cats are descended from a single wild ancestor - the African wildcat; wild rabbit populations expanded in Spain and France, with the Romans bringing them to Britain.

Just stop and think for a moment, these diverse species have all ended up here in the United Kingdom. Many people accept that they are now British wild birds and animals with perhaps remembering only the exotic peacocks and pheasants plus also the grey squirrel, may have been physically brought here for sport or ornamental reasons. In the main they have learnt to adapt and become assimilated into British wildlife and norms. They play a part in our eco systems and food chains. They are accepted and live alongside the other creatures.

Isn't the migration of people from all around the world almost the same? People come for a safe environment, food, trade, work, education. Most work hard to adapt and be accepted by those around them. Given support, guidance and time immigrants will be absorbed into our culture and British ways of life. There may still be some physical and social differences, but they will enrich Britain and be part of our economy bringing new ideas and talents, increased enthusiasm, energy and much more. Let's try to be like the wildlife – learn to accept and live together in peace and mutual benefit.

J.A.R.

Installation Service at Durham Cathedral for the new Bishop of Durham on Sunday 7th June



A packed Durham Cathedral watched as the Right Reverend Rick Simpson was installed as the new Bishop of Durham.
The service of installation and welcome at the Cathedral brought together civic leaders and local politicians, visiting bishops, and representatives from churches across the Diocese of Durham, with many more joining online to share in the celebrations.
Bishop Rick, who previously was Archdeacon of Auckland, was announced as the next Bishop of Durham in February and consecrated by the Archbishop of York at York Minster in April.



Led by the Dean of Durham, the service began with Bishop Rick knocking at the North Door of the Cathedral to be formally welcomed in where he made a Declaration of Ascent and was finally installed in his cathedra, his seat in the Cathedral Church.

Members of Stranton and St Luke's attended the service, Andrew Rogers as a Lay Canon of the Cathedral was part of the Bishop's procession. Andrew said, "It was humbling to be part of a ceremony that has its roots in the 4th Century, where the people of the Diocese welcome and acclaim their new Bishop."

The service was a mixture of solemn traditional ceremonial and modern twists – the inclusion of children, worship music, a relaxed but thoughtful

sermon and introductions not only to representatives of the King and Local Authorities, but also to other faith leaders plus cleaners and stewards from the Cathedral.



Bishop Rick arrives at the North Door to knock for entrance.



The Bishop is installed on his cathedra - his seat in the Cathedral.



At the High Altar the Dean presents the Lightfoot Crozier (the Pastoral Staff) to Bishop Rick.



Bishop Rick, the Dean and honoured guests

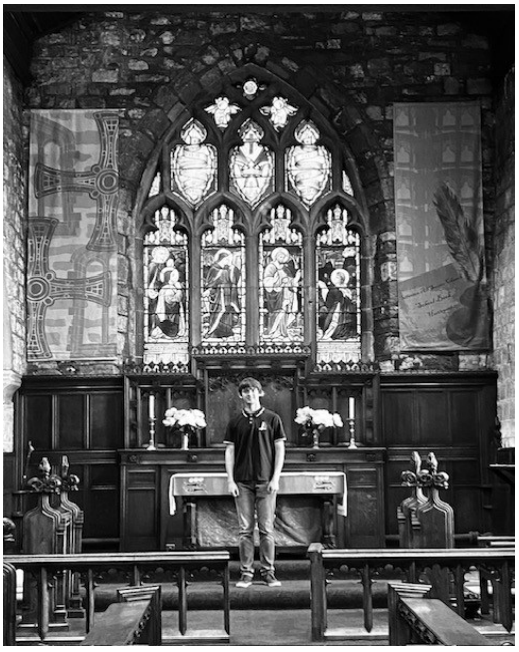
900th Celebration Banners presented to Stranton

Will Marshall, a second-year student from The Northern College of Art. was inspired to design and produce new banners for the east wall above the High Altar. Will travels from Middlesborough to participate in a three-year Textile and Surface Design Course.

He spent time in Stranton taking photographs of the stonework, windows and finding out about the history of the building. He then incorporated some of these within his banners plus elements of the original Fulthorpe Chapel school, the first free school in Hartlepool. The banners are in shades of green which can be displayed whenever there is not a liturgical colour or feast days – ordinary season.

We are extremely grateful to Will for these new commemorative additions and to The Northern College of Art for their support. The banners will be on display for the Bishop's Confirmation visit and for The Northern College of Art's Graduation Ceremony in early July.







Will brought his family to see the blessing of the banners and to be thanked by Stranton Congregation.



The banners being blessed in 11am service

Revd Claire Mead Ordained Priest in Durham Cathedral on 27th June



It is hard to believe that Revd Claire has been with us in St Luke's and Stranton All Saints for a year already. She is now a loved and valued member of the parishes.

After Signpost has gone to print Claire will be ordained priest by Rt Revd Rick Simpson, Bishop of Durham in Durham Cathedral. We are looking forward to seeing Claire's ministry grow here in Hartlepool.

More details and photos will be in the September issue of Signpost.





Memories of my Nan, Audrey Featherstone



Nan was born on 11th September 1935 to William and Violet Brown. Fond memories from her childhood include attending the local Methodist Church every Sunday. It was during her childhood that her affinity with animals - especially cats - began, much to her mother's dismay when she came home one day to find a local cat, that Nan had dressed up like a baby, in her toy pram.

She met her husband, Ralph, in her teens. They spent many happy nights dancing together at the Rink, and married at Stranton in 1959. Nan knew they needed a cat to complete their marital home, so when her Dad told her there was a small black kitten abandoned on the railway lines, she picked him up and took him home. Granda was taken by him, and they named him Sooty. He would be the first of many pets.

Lynne and Claire, born 1962 and 1966 respectively, would complete their family and Nan was a devoted mother and wife. She had her extended family round for a Sunday dinner every week, and insisted on doing everything herself, saying that if Granda Ralph was to assist "he'd have done it wrong." This was a mutually beneficial arrangement, as it meant he could read the newspaper instead of washing up!

Their marriage was perfect - Nan would always say having each other was all they needed. Granda unfortunately fell ill with a brain tumour in the late 1980s and Nan would take on the responsibility of caring for him. During this time, she got her driving licence in order to drive him around, and she started volunteering at Alice House Hospice, where she would commit to over 5 years of unpaid service.

Following Granda's untimely death in 1991, my Mam took Nan to Stranton hoping it would offer her comfort. She went on to love attending church every Sunday and made friends with - among others - Evelyn, whom she would sit with every week. During her time at Stranton, she joined the choir and assisted with the cleaning and running of the church. It was her second home and she found solace in the teachings of Jesus and the community at Stranton.

Despite her mobility and age-related declines preventing her from attending in recent years, she thoroughly enjoyed her visits from Pam and other members of the church. She also looked forward to reading the church magazines.
She passed away peacefully on 12th June, with myself and my Mam by her side. She was a much loved, real one-off character and she will be greatly missed by all that knew her.
Sarah McKie

Memories of Audrey Featherstone

Audrey was a longstanding member of Stranton church for many years. She always sat in the same pew with her friends, Evelyn Hartley and Mary Magson (Ray Waller called them "the golden girls", as in the television programme), until she could no longer attend church. It was at that point that I got to know her, as a pastoral visitor, eleven years ago. She was a strong, independent, forthright lady with a no-nonsense attitude and a good sense of humour and we enjoyed many laughs along the way. She could be harmlessly outrageous at times!

In the early days of my visits, she would tell me stories about her younger days and the devoted husband that she so loved and missed. We would talk about our families, the pets she had had, current events, gardening (she loved her garden) and what was going on at church. She also loved to talk about how she had come to faith following her husband's death many years before, which deepened as the years went on. Unfortunately, she suffered a further tragic loss when her elder daughter, Lynne, died from cancer, but she battled on with great fortitude and with the devoted support of her younger daughter, Claire, and visits from her much loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During COVID, she broke a leg and spent the first lockdown in Sheraton Court care home, which was a very lonely and difficult time for her. After she returned home, she still managed to live alone, with Claire's continued support. There followed several stays in hospital and then in Queen's Meadow Care Home, where she spent the last months of her life. She found her increasing incapacity very frustrating and wanted nothing more than to be released to be once again with her beloved husband, Ralph.

I was still able to visit her at Queen's Meadow when she felt up to it and I was privileged to be able to see her briefly on her last day and to meet the lovely grandchildren that I had heard so much about. Audrey was great company, a great character (as Sarah says, a "one-off") and a faithful believer. I know that she would be absolutely thrilled to read Sarah's tribute to her, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and also a much valued and missed member of our congregation.

Pam Stockton





Hayley Liversidge leaves Tuesday Toddlers



Hayley stepped in temporarily to lead the Tuesday Toddlers Group at St Matthew's Community Centre almost 4 years ago when Julie Shave retired, as part of the then Communities of Hope's Community Children and Families Worker within Stranton Parish.

She has led a loyal team of supporting parishioners and carers to organise, set up, feed and run the (term time) weekly group.

Many parents, carers and grandparents have attended over the years with their toddlers, enjoying extended play opportunities with stimulation for the children and a chance for conversation and socialising for the adults.

Hayley is leaving as the now, Central Hartlepool Mission Team draws to the end of its project in the Central Hartlepool Group.

The parents and carers presented Hayley with a card signed by them all, a large bouquet of flowers and luxury chocolates, to thank her for all her hard work. In addition, a special cake was brought for the refreshments during Hayley's last week.

Stranton PCC would like to join in thanking Hayley and are grateful for all her hard work in the Toddlers Group, but also in her outreach to schools within the parish. We send our prayers and blessings for her future.





Gardening News – Summer

Thanks to the profusion of rain interspersed with a rather smaller profusion of sun, both my garden and the church borders have had an early prolific flowering season, not to mention the weeds! The roses have particularly benefited from these conditions and I strongly recommend any rose lovers out there to visit Wynyard Gardens, which I have never seen looking so beautiful.

The pigeon is still with us, but I'm not sure of his current marital status. We have had robins, a new family of magpies, some handsome blackbirds and a cute flock (?!) of sparrows plus one sighting of a sparrowhawk. Also, just yesterday we spotted a hedgehog in the middle of our lawn. Finally, we are getting regular visits from two cats who seem to follow each other around, though one of them seems more interested than the other one!

That's it for now. I'll be back in September with further exclusive and exciting news!

Pam Stockton

Summer's Coming Quiz

S Which **S** is a Judge from the tribe of Dan?
U Which **U** was Abraham from?
M Which **M** is an Archangel?
M Which **M** was originally Levi?
E Which **E** summoned a large heavenly army?
R Which **R** married Boaz?
S Which **S** was the first martyr?

C Which **C** is the patron saint of music?
O Which **O** was a runaway slave?
M Which **M** were defeated by Gideon?
I Which **I**s were Abraham's sons (Two answers)
N Which **N** was also known as Bartholemew?
G Which **G** is the patron saint of Paris?

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.

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Steven McConnell

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Thy Kingdom Come 2026

It was great to be a part of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ this year!

From Ascension Day until Pentecost, parishioners were invited to join in the ecumenical prayer movement. Literature was on offer in Stranton and St Luke’s churches to support individual prayer during the season; especially praying for 5 people we know to come to know Jesus for themselves.
‘Thy Kingdom Come’ began with an enjoyable time of worship at our Ascension Day service at St Luke’s. We continued with a variety of opportunities across the two churches for corporate prayer up until Pentecost. Members of our churches prayed before PCC meetings, some went on a led prayer walk through part of Stranton Parish and others came along to a prayer and soup lunch kindly hosted by St Luke’s. The season ended with the opportunity to go along to ‘Pentecost Praise’ at the cathedral.
Thank you to everyone who made these prayer events and activities take place across our churches.
Do keep an eye out for more information in the churches about future prayer meetings as we continue to explore God’s vision afresh for the parishes.
Revd Claire

Soup lunch hosted by St Luke’s







Summer’s Coming Quiz Answers

S	Which S is a Judge from the tribe of Dan?	**Samson**
U	Which U was Abraham from?	**Ur**
M	Which M is an Archangel?	**Michael**
M	Which M was originally Levi?	**Matthew**
E	Which E summoned a large heavenly army?	**Elisha**
R	Which R married Boaz?	**Ruth**
S	Which S was the first martyr?	**Stephen**
C	Which C is the patron saint of music?	**Cecilia**
O	Which O was a runaway slave?	**Oneimus**
M	Which M were defeated by Gideon?	**Midianites**
I	Which I were Abraham's sons (Two answers)	**Ishmael** and **Isaac**
N	Which N was also known as Bartholemew?	**Nathaniel**
G	Which G is the patron saint of Paris?	**Genevieve**

Messy Church

Messy Church for families is on the second Sunday of the month at 4-5.30pm in St Matthew's Community Centre. At Easter we have Messy Easter on Good Friday morning (which ties in with Eggheads in Holy Week) and on the second Sunday of December we have a Messy Christingle Service in church. The families who attend are a mix of those who attend the 11am service at Stranton, those who only attend Messy Church and those who are invited to attend a service prior to a Welcome or Baptism of children. Attendance varies between thirty and forty plus people in total, some families have been attending for several years and there is always potential for developing deeper relationships and growth with support. Consent forms and risk assessment have been updated as required and we had a fire drill in March.

We play table games for 15 minutes until everyone has arrived, then we tell a Bible story, say a prayer and sing a song. This year Kate Lawson or Rev. Claire have led a separate 20 minute activity with the small group of teenagers, during the story time. After this there are activities and crafts to complete based on the story. Last Autumn we learnt about The Kingdom of God: The Mustard Seed, The Yeast in Bread and the Pearl of Great Price. This spring we have learnt about New Beginnings: Creation, Noah's Ark and The Tower of Babel. Then we have a tasty tea together, provided by Maureen and Peter. This winter we've introduced warm food e.g. hotdogs, fish fingers and smiley faces.

The Messy Church Team is small but committed, many thanks to Messy Church Team Hayley Liversidge, Peter and Maureen Anderson. Also for their help: Revd John and Daniel Bell, Revd Claire, Revd Kevin Tones, Tyler and Lorelai Anderson, Helen Threfall, Kate Lawson, Michael Gillies, Diana Wanduragala, Luke and Mark Tones. Thanks also to Trish Playfor for help with photocopying etc for crafts. Any help to set up tables, chairs etc from 3pm, help with crafts and activities and socialise with families from 4pm, wash up or tidy away from 4.30pm would be gratefully accepted!



Mary Tones



All Saints Stranton 900th Celebration Community Fun Day





On Saturday 6th June, All Saints Stranton Church in Hartlepool continued with their 900th anniversary celebrations with a Community Fun Day at Ward Jackson Church of England Primary School.

Visitors from the community who came along were treated to Medieval Re-enactments from 'Vanguard Re-enactment', songs from Musicals performed by young performers from Hartlepool Stage Society, a dance performance from pupils from Ward Jackson Church of England Primary School, face painting and a children's entertainer.







As well as these performances, families very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet representatives from the local police force and meeting police dogs, plus water safety from the RNLI with a chance to dress up in their equipment. There were also lots of games and craft activities to get stuck into and refreshments all hosted by the church.





Commenting on the day, **Revd John Bell, Priest-In-Charge** expressed his thanks to everyone who made the day a success despite the inclement weather:
"The Fun Day was a great team effort! Thank you to everyone who made the day possible. We thank



our Church of England school for kindly hosting us for the day free of charge, our local ASDA store for supporting us with refreshments, all who gave of their time to come along to perform and entertain us and our visiting organisations. We very much look forward to hosting more special events like this in the future as we continue to serve our local community'.

Revd Claire Mead, Assistant Curate, added:
'Our 900th team is very thankful for another great event and the opportunities we had at the Fun Day to connect with our local community. In July, our celebration events continue with 'Beer and Hymns' generously supported by our neighbours, Camerons Brewery; our Sponsored Tower Abseil and Past Memories Exhibition and a concert by Hartlepool Community Singers in church. Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information or contact our church office. We'd love to hear from you!'.

One Day

One day there will be no pain
And we never will again
Feel the sorrow of an aching heart.
Just think of them as being now
And you'll start to see just how
There might be something there
Silhouetted by the way.
As the night-time steals
the day we begin our
Brand new way

Lyrics remembered by **Mike Dodds**

Pentecost Sunday@6 in Durham Cathedral

What a wonderful celebration of Pentecost on Sunday🙌

Over 400 people joined us as we celebrated the gift of God through music and worship







Great musicians, led by Revd Mark Miller, wonderful praise – a blessed evening for all!



Stranton congregation members seen waiting for the start of the music, thoroughly enjoyed the worship and praise.







The speaker was Sam from The Message based in Manchester. This outreach works in the community in a socially deprived area. His testimonies were harrowing and uplifting with a real feeling of trust and hope in God.

J.A.R.

Another favourite song from the Salvation Army stable

In the love of Jesus. Tune “Hammond”

This is a setting of a poem by Colonel Mrs Ivy Mawby, In the love of Jesus and the tune by a relatively unknown Salvation Army bandsman William Hammond. It is also set, in the tradition of a lot of Salvation Army songs, to a secular melody, the well known Victorian parlour song, Love’s Old Sweet Song- “well you pays your money and makes your choice”. However, for me it is Hammond.

Here is the first verse and chorus.

Like to a Lamb, who from the fold had strayed, Far on the mountain of the dark afraid,

Seeking a shelter from the night’s alarm, Longing for shelter from the shepherd’s arm,

So Jesus found me on sin’s mountain drear, Gathered me close and banished all my fear.

Chorus

In the love of Jesus there is all I need, While I follow closely where my Lord has led,

By his Grace forgiven, In his presence blest, In the love of Jesus

In the love of Jesus is perfect rest.

I found two settings on You Tube if you care to listen. One is as a cornet solo arranged by Ray Steadman Allen and played by Philip Cobb and the other by a full band – The Hendon Band at Bristol Easton S A Citadel.

Jeff Parsons in conversation with J Cornelius Starbuck

Coffee & Cake & Company

Our usual meet up in St Matthew’s CC on the first Saturday of the month will restart in September.
Looking forward to seeing you all again.

So sorry that due to 900th Celebrations Events in July –
The Beer & Hymns (July 4th), then the Tower Abseil and Memories Exhibition (July 11th) plus The Hartlepool Community Singers Concert (July 17th) we will not be able to have our Coffee, Cake & Company in July and it is a holiday break in August.
Hope you will be able to join in with some of these 900th events – everyone is welcome

The Imposter

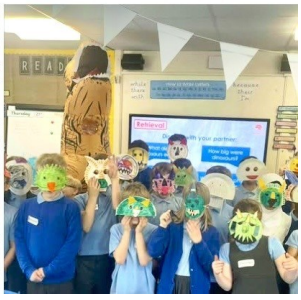
Before I had even entered the house, I felt something was not right.
A feeling of dread filled my whole being. The hair stood up on the back of my neck. Yet, I still turned the key and walked through my front door.
I saw him, before he saw me; he was wearing a black hoodie. His hood covered all of his face. He was sitting cross-legged on my lounge floor.
I froze, dropped everything I was carrying.
They say your fight-or-flight response will kick in. Mine did not.
I stood as if my feet were cemented to the floor.
So many questions ran through my brain. Who was he? What did he want?
What felt like hours of me standing staring at this impostor must've been only minutes.
He slowly raised his head, and he looked into my eyes.
His eyes were black like marble.
Then he opened his mouth to speak, and he spoke in a growling voice.
"I am fear, and I now live here".
The sound of his voice made my blood run cold.
The whole room felt like he had sucked the oxygen right out of it.
He then began to speak.
"You haven't planned for your future"
"You don't have enough money in the bank"
"What will happen if your husband dies?"
"You should really get your health checked out; it's most probably something sinister"
This impostor seemed to know all my thoughts and was feeding into all the fears I had ever thought. My hands flew to my ears trying to cover out the sound of his cold, eerie voice, but he just shouted louder.
Although the room in front of me was cold, I felt a warm hand on my back
I slowly turned around to see who was there.
Love had come quietly behind me. I breathed a sigh of relief.
Love whispered gently in my ear,
"Do you want me to deal with this impostor?"
I nodded. I couldn't find the words to express my gratitude for his being there.
Love gently moved me to one side. He stood in front of me.
Loved covered me so I could no longer see into fear's dark, piercing eyes.
Love spoke with authority.
"Love conquers all fear. You are not invited here; you must leave"
Fear stood slowly. He seemed agitated as he walked past me. He tried to intimidate me with one last look.
He stormed out of the house, slamming the door behind him.
The lounge began to feel warm again.
I had the urge to clean the whole house, never mind the place where fear had sat.
Instead, love took my hand, and we walked into each room; the warmth and light that radiated from love cleansed the whole house. We sat together, love holding my hand.
I asked,
" Love, why did I feel so intimidated by fear?"
With no condemnation in his voice, love just said
"You just forgot I was near"

Ang Hall

Ward Jackson CE Primary Update

🦕🌋 ROAR-some fun in Wingfield Class for International Dinosaur Day! 🌋🦕
Our young palaeontologists had an amazing day learning all about dinosaurs, creating explosive volcano experiments, and writing their very own dino-inspired poetry! ✏️🦴
From towering T-Rex facts to erupting volcanoes, the classroom was full of creativity, curiosity, and prehistoric excitement. Well done, Wingfield Class — you are DINO-mite! 🦕✨
#wardjacksonway







What a wonderful time Blanchland class had at Roseberry Topping. The children demonstrated strength, resilience and outstanding teamwork on our challenging 5 mile hike 🥾. We made some great memories and the children learnt how strong they really are; they will remember this when they face challenges in the future. 🙌⛰️







Our Year 6 children had a wonderful time at their leavers service in Durham Cathedral 💙💛







BB
Summer Programme

The Anchor Boys enjoyed a sandcastle competition which ended up in a draw, so all enjoyed winning a 99 ice cream - we will rebuild next summer!
They also enjoyed a nature trail in the Burn Valley and a Superheroes night in St Matthew's - Spiderman was the most popular character.

The Juniors have enjoyed Jump 360, Beach Olympics, the Blue Lagoon and a Nerf Gun Battle in St Matthew's CC.

🔥 Teamwork makes the dream work at our Juniors Bonfire evening at the Blue Lagoon beach last night 🔥





The Company Lads have enjoyed a visit to Go Climb, the Blue Lagoon including open cooking on a bonfire and a trip to Castle Eden Dene.

Camp
A small expeditionary corps visited Bonaly Scout Centre near Edinburgh, stopping at Jedburgh and sticking to 20mph. (They are very keen to enforce that speed in Border towns!).

We were met by a guide and saw the buildings we will be living in plus the games and challenges area - midge nets will be the order of the day! The plans to visit Edinburgh, water parks and adventure activities are all now in place.
We are holding our own Highlands Games Competition whilst we are there.

The **Summer Fayre** was well attended on a sunny day by a generous spending public anxious to snap up the bargains, tasty treats and to take part in the raffle and the tombola.

The Summer Fayre raised a fantastic £1111.80. . Many thanks to all who helped us.

If you would like to see any of our activities visit our Facebook page
George Bainbridge

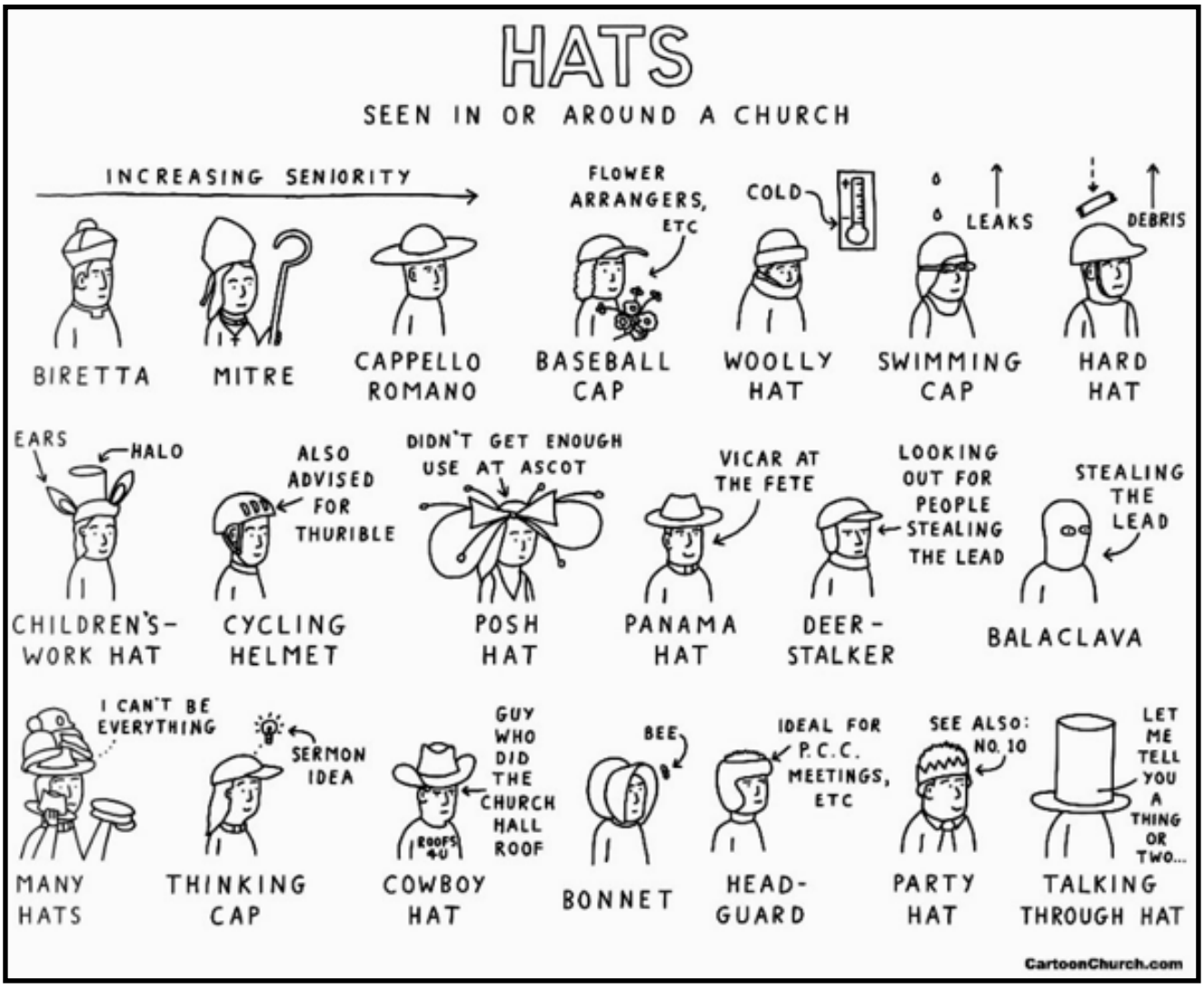
Last Friday we celebrated our annual open night, a time for all sections to join together, showcase some activities and collect some well earned awards.







Parade & inspection by Guide Leader Cheryl Mills
Inspection by BB Chaplain Revd John



CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to

July

Ajoola Akinyele
Maureen Anderson
Faith Barton
Ronnie Barton
Josh Bruce
Daniel Grosvenor

August

Lorelai Anderson
Michael Cartwright
Jordan Thornhill
Rohan Wanduragala

Wedding Anniversary
July

Faith & Adam Barton
Malinee & Aga
Ken & Sylvia Shepherd
Bill & Diane Greenwood

August

Angela & David Craig
Rebecca & David Dean
Andrew & Jacqui Rogers

Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Elspeth & Andrew Craig



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.

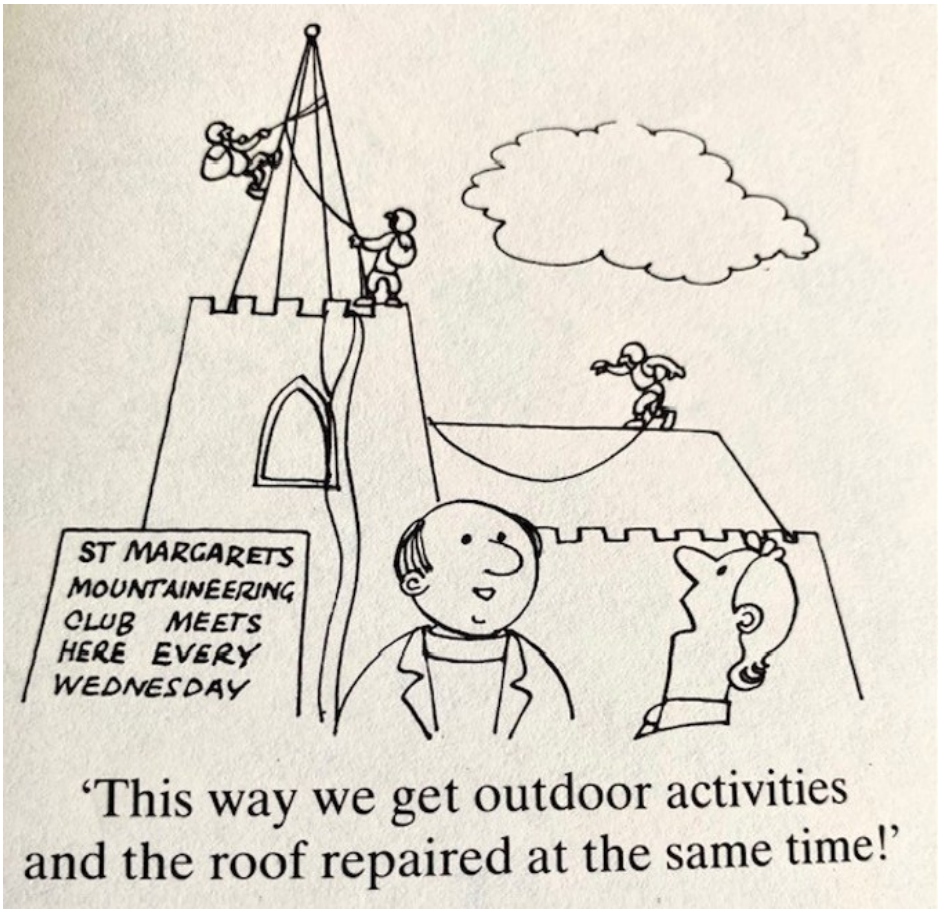
Dates for the Diary

July

Sat 4th	St Luke's Garden Party	St Luke's Church	2.00-4.00pm
Sat 4th	Beer & Hymns	Stranton Church	5.00-7.00pm
Sun 5th	Deanery Confirmations	Stranton Church	6.00pm
Sat 11th	Tower Abseil & Church memories	Stranton Church	10.00-4.00pm
Sun 12th	Messy Church	St Matthew's CC	4.00-5.30pm
Fri 17th	Hartlepool Community Singers Concert	Stranton Church	Tickets £5 7.00pm

September

Sat 5th	Coffee, Cake & Company	St Matthew's CC	2.00-4.00pm
Sun 13th	Messy Church	St Matthew's CC	4.00-5.30pm
Sat 19th	Organ recital by Daniel Cook	Stranton Church	7.30pm



Who's Who

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Revd. John Bell
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Curate
Revd Claire Mead (Stranton & St Luke's) 07598 070481
Email: **curate@stranton-church.org.uk**
Usual day off – Friday

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St Aidan's & Columba's Church
Priest in Charge
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Safeguarding: Jacqui Rogers (Stranton Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Email: **safeguarding@stranton-church.org.uk** 07749 163606

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St Mary's RC

Church Wardens Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

PCC Secretary Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
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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.