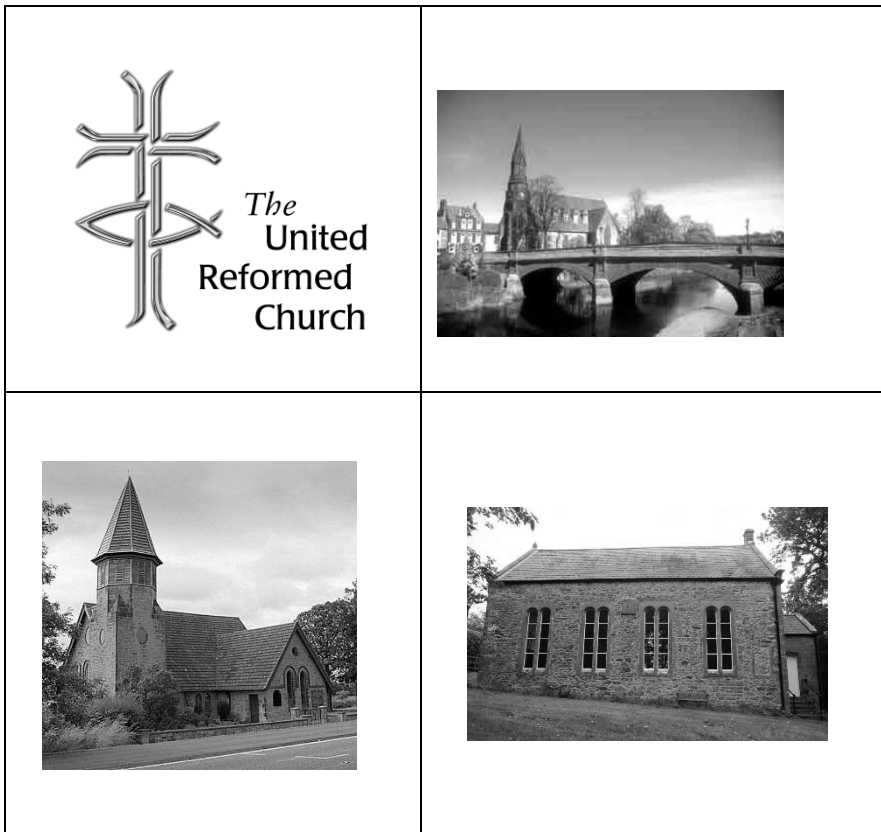


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington

United Reformed Churches

Newsletter



April
2026

Website: www.stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org
www.facebook.com/StGeorgesUrcMorpeth

St George's Diary Dates for April

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Wed 1st | 12.30pm 6.30pm | WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting |
| Thurs 2nd | 6.30pm | Mauddy Thursday Service |
| Fri 3rd | 10.00am | Good Friday Service at MMC with Walk of Witness following |
| Sat 4th | 10.00am | Coffee Morning for Ukrainian Friends |
| Sun 5th | 10.30am | Easter Day Morning Worship with Communion |
| Wed 8th | 12.30pm 7.00pm | WOW Midweek Service Conversations About |
| Sun 12th | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| Wed 15th | 12.30pm 6.30pm | WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting |
| Sat 18th | 7.30pm | Country Dance Club |
| Sun 19th | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| Wed 22nd | 12.30pm 7.00pm | WOW Midweek Service Conversations About |
| Sun 26th | 10.30am 6.30pm | Morning Worship with Orchestra CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Evening Service |
| Wed 29th | 12.30pm 6.30pm | WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting |

Worship on Wednesdays – doors open at noon for coffee

Stewards Duties for April

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 5 | Gordon Slack & Karen Howe. Easter Sunday |
| 12 | Linda Glascott & Christine Hawkins |
| 19 | Shirley Forster & Madeline Cleverley |
| 26 | Sarah Cleverley & Ron Forster |

Flower Rota for April

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 5 | Easter Flowers |
| 12 | Sally & Ken Davidson |
| 19 | Linda Clouston |
| 26 | Dorothy Luke |
| Rep | Joan Cooper 515682 |



WHAT'S ON AT ST GEORGE'S
SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH 10.30 am

| | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| _MON | Age UK Exercise: 9.00-12.00 noon Ronka Gbadebo | 07952381160 |
| | Age UK Exercise: 3.00 – 4.00pm As above | |
| TUES | Morning Badminton 10.00am – 12 noon Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk | |
| | Rainbows, 5.00pm Liz Kelly 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com | |
| | Brownies: 6.00pm Susan Fairgrieve. s.fairgrieve21@gmail | |
| | Guides and Rangers: from 7.00pm Liz Kelly Mobile 07714481089 783434 liz.kelly@jcpce.com | |
| | Cobweb Orchestra 7.30 – 9.30pm At St Georges Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612 | |
| WED | Morning Badminton: 9.30am Sarah Cleverley | 515257 |
| | Knitter, Natter Group 2.00 – 4.00pm Joan Cooper | 515682 |
| | Afternoon Bowls 2.00pm Andrew Cleverley | 515257 |
| | Zumba: 6.00pm High Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com | |
| THURS | Morning Badminton: 10.00-12.00 Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk | |
| | Zumba: 5.45pm. Low Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or email zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com | |
| SAT | Table Tennis: 10.00 – 12.00 Christine Richardson Country Dance Club: (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster | 513913 |
| SUN | Orchestra: Norm. 4 th Sunday (not August) Christine Oakes | 518608 |



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in March. **The deadline is Sunday 19th April** Please do not wait for the deadline if you already have articles ready to be included. Please contact Stephanie. email: **robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk**

Coffee Mornings with our Ukrainian friends take place on the first Saturday of each month so that they can meet with us and also catch up with each other and iron out any small problems.

A Message from our Minister Revd Julian Sanders

Dear Friends,

Every spring, as Lent draws to a close and Good Friday approaches, the familiar scent of spiced dough drifts from the Supermarket bakeries. I love hot cross buns— partly because I can convince myself it is bread and not cake – but also because they are so ordinary we barely notice them, yet they carry a Christian message into nearly every home in the country. Their origins stretch back to the early 18th century, when a London street cry recorded in 1733 spoke of “Hot cross buns! One a penny, two a penny...”. But the idea of marking bread with a cross is even older. Medieval monks baked small loaves stamped with a cross to bless them, a reminder that even the simplest food is a gift from God.

Over time, these loaves became associated with Good Friday, and by the Victorian era, hot cross buns had become woven into the fabric of British life. Families believed buns baked on Good Friday would never go mouldy. Sailors took them to sea for protection. Some households hung one in the kitchen all year as a symbol of blessing and peace. Superstition? Perhaps. But beneath the folklore lies a deeper truth: people longed for a sign that God was near, even in the ordinary rhythms of home and work.

Today, the hot cross bun is less a charm and more a treat. Yet its symbolism remains beautifully clear. The cross speaks of Christ’s sacrifice. The spices recall the burial spices brought to the tomb. The sweetness hints at the joy of resurrection just around the corner. It is a whole gospel in a handful of dough.

And maybe that’s why this humble bun still matters. It reminds us that faith is not only found in grand cathedrals or soaring hymns, but also in the everyday things we touch, taste, and share. God meets us in the kitchen as surely as in the sanctuary.

So this Easter, as you warm a bun and watch the butter melt, pause for a moment. Let its simple story speak again: of suffering transformed, of hope rising, and of a God who chooses the ordinary to tell extraordinary truth.

With every blessing,

Julian

The funeral for Jean Elliott took place in February and Alison, David and the family would like to say thank you for the cards, kind words and support given by everyone after mum's death. It has brought a great deal of comfort to them all during this difficult time.



The People’s Kitchens budget has been cut and certain items are no longer bought. Clothes are always donated and distributed but there is a need for men's overcoats / waterproofs and joggers.

They also ask for any spare blankets please.

They can be left in the vestibule or if they need collecting, please contact Christine Richardson on 513913.

Many thanks.

Morpeth Churches Response to the Climate Emergency

The Parish of Morpeth is hosting a meeting of members of all the churches in Morpeth who are interested in exploring how we can contribute together to reducing the carbon footprint of our churches and community through changes to our:

- Worship/Teaching
- Church buildings
- Church lands
- Community and Global engagement
- Lifestyle

If you are interested in contributing to discussions around our collective response to the climate emergency, please attend the meeting in St Aidan's Church Room on Monday 27th April at 7pm. Refreshments will be available. All welcome.



Reform of the Refugee System. April 2026

In the light of reforms to the asylum system which the government is pursuing I thought it might be useful to share information which has been provided by the West End Refugee Project. It refers to these reforms as "deepening an already hostile environment."

They say "These changes are happening at a time when the world is becoming more unstable. We are now experiencing the highest number of armed conflicts since the end of the Second World War. Behind every conflict are people whose lives are disrupted or destroyed - and some will seek safety in the UK in the months and years ahead.

At the same time, people fleeing war, conflict, poverty and climate crises are too often blamed for wider problems in our society."

They explain that WERS is seeing the harsh reality of the asylum system every day. Sadly, these new reforms deepen the problems of an already broken system instead of fixing them. The main features are:-

Refugee status now has an Expiry Date – Under the new rules, refugees will receive 30 months' permission to stay instead of 5 years. People are trying to rebuild their lives – learning a language, finding work and helping their children settle in school. Now they must do all of this knowing that the life they are building may not last.

Living far from community and support – Living long-term in hotels or far from communities makes belonging much harder. Integration is a two-way process – it cannot happen when people are isolated. Every day we see people trying to build a life despite these conditions.

The Reform Package includes proposals to remove the legal duty to provide asylum support, higher language requirements for some settlement routes, consultation on the return of families whose claims have been refused.

What these changes do not change – no new safe routes have been created for people seeking protection, many people will still wait years for a decision on their asylum claim, during this time they cannot work, the move-on period gives people just 42 days to find somewhere to live.

The Chief Executive of WERS, Andy Durma, says "We are sharing this with you because your voice matters.

If you feel concerned about the direction these reforms are taking, we strongly encourage you to write to your local MP and ask them to consider the real human consequences of these policies."

Margaret Brock

News from the 'Morpeth for Ukraine' group

Thank you to all who supported the recent 12-hour Vigil which some of our congregation took part in on 5th March. A grand total of £600 was raised through collections and sponsorship which has been added to our Ukrainian funds.

The focus of our support has changed over the last four years and as our friends have settled into their new homes, we have turned our attention to supporting children and families in Ukraine, responding to requests from those in need.

Below is a list of where the aid has gone and where we have been able to support children and families in need.

We have sent 11 boxes of children's toys to an orphanage in Kropiniski.

Makariv area

We have donated a vehicle to Makariv to be used to help meet the needs of refugees there. We have also sent

4 boxes of duvets - 40 air beds - 40 sleeping bags

High viz snap bands for children walking to and from school in the dark

6 boxes children's toys - Money for 50 gas rings

Lviv area

The following aid has been sent to UNICEF in Lviv for children returned from Russia

10 boxes duvets - 50 polo shirts

75 hoodies and sweatshirts

1 box knitted hats

High viz snap bands

Sumy area

100 hot water bottles

Box of children's blankets

Byshiv town

3 boxes duvets

2 boxes knitted goods

1 box hot water bottles

We couldn't have done any of this without your invaluable support so thank you for all your continued efforts. Unfortunately, the needs are not going to go away in the near future so, with your help, we will continue to do what we can to help in the identified areas.

Wordsearch for April

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with his disciples, he warned them he was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and his blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup might be removed from him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.



Jesus Ate Last Passover Meal Disciples Warned Betrayed Bread Blessed Wine Thanks Drink Covenant Law Old New Body Blood Gethsemane Cup Removed Will Easter Approach God. Solution on page 19



Polite...A New York traffic expert says that some London taxi drivers are refreshingly different – and witty – compared to those in New York. He tells the story of the London taxi driver who screeched to a halt when a tourist bolted into the road, and then stopped, looking around in confusion. Leaning out of the window the taxi driver asked very politely: "I say, sir, may I ask, what are your immediate plans?"

Sidesman...Sidesman to newcomer at church door: "Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?"

Baffled newcomer: "Well, all the way, of course."

.Palm Sunday & Holy Week, an overview

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples. Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.



Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!



Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.



I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple



Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.



Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.

St Georges Church hall (liff) NE61 1PD

Morpeth Country Dance Club

FEB 14th  **Dancers 7.30**
Saturday
& March 14th & April 18th
Band 6.30



**No experience needed – dances are explained ,
 no need to bring a partners – we all mix up.
 Bring own drinks, and some nibbles to share.
 More info shirlsgurc@gmail.com or text 07749525269**

We have received the following message from The Beehouse Orphanage in Rivne in Ukraine.

Hello, our dear friends! Unfortunately, the war is not over yet. And what exists in other countries — we, Ukrainians, are forced to search for. One of the most important things is peace. Peace in the midst of war, when everyone around is anxious... War brings fear, exhaustion, and uncertainty. When anxiety becomes the background of life, it feels as though there is nothing left to hold on to. But faith reminds us of a simple truth: God does not abandon a person even in the hardest times. Peace is not the absence of danger, but the trust that we are not alone. When the heart holds on to the understanding that life is in God’s hands, fear does not disappear completely, but it no longer controls us. This gives us the strength to keep living, to care for our loved ones, and not to lose hope. To preserve peace, it is important to return to this trust every day: to pause, to do simple things, to support one another, and to turn to God in our own words. The awareness that He is near and will not forsake us brings inner peace even in the midst of anxiety. “The Lord is near to all who call on Him” (Psalm 145:18). Thank you very much for loving us!



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

OH! NO!!

BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.

YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

St George's Club Nite Bingo & Quiz Night



Saturday 25th April 7.00 pm

Featuring Caller - 'Ro-Fo'

And fresh from
'The Chase'
Quizmaster Jules
'The Clues'



There will also be a
meat draw!

ENTRY: £3.00 which includes refreshments of nibbles, teas & coffees

**You are welcome to BYOB*
Bring along your friends & Family.**

* Bring your own bottle if you'd like wine or beer
More info shirlsgurc@gmail.com
07749525269



For the Allstars Coffee morning we would like to include a small pop memorabilia stand. Evoking nostalgia from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's. We need help to gather items for the stand please. These items can be loaned for the day, such as personal photographs or album covers, or items can be donated with the aim of selling. LP's, Cassettes, CD's, anything with a nostalgic theme would be most welcome.

If you could contact Mary, Shirley or Steph it would be great. We can arrange for Items could be picked up, if that helps.

Thanks in advance. The Social Events Team.

St. George's Knitter Natter Group

We will be having our Easter break on 1st and 8th April.

As spring is coming, we are slowing our knitting for the children of Ukraine, thank you to everyone who has supported us with their knitting and also the wool.

Our group has been asked by 4th Morpeth Scout troupe to teach them to knit. It is their 100th anniversary and they would like to knit 100 angels? Some of you will remember the last time we did this, it was really fun for both the scouts and ourselves. There will be about 24 scouts so we will need some volunteers to help us. The provisional dates are Monday evening May 11 and 18th in the scout hut . (Near Morrisons)

Please can you get in touch with me if you can help.
Happy Easter.

Joan Cooper.

For those who only read the online version of the newsletter, to help cover the costs of production, it would be very much appreciated if you could pop a small donation into the box in the vestibule from time to time please.

Sudoku for April

Solution on page 19

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | |
| | | 9 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 8 | | | 9 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| | 2 | 5 | | | 7 | 1 | | |
| 4 | | | 2 | 7 | | | | 8 |
| | 3 | 6 | 8 | | 9 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | 5 | 6 | | | | |

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Jesus' granny... The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that his Sunday school teacher was Jesus' granny. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?" "Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him."

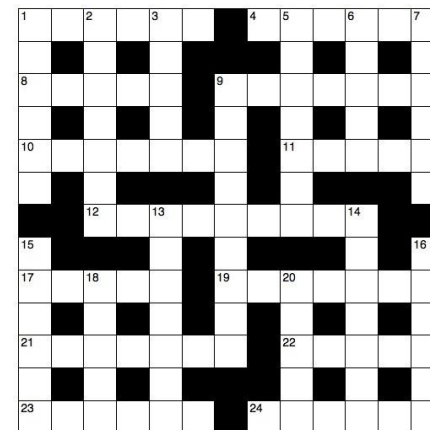
Cured... A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

Crossword for April

Across:

- 1** Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3) **9** He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7) **11** 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5) **12** Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7) **21** Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7) **22** Grill (Luke 24:42) (5) **23** 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6) **24** 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6).
Down: **1** Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6) **2** Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7) **3** Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5) **5** For example, the Crusades (4,3) **6** 11 Across is certainly this (5) **7** He reps (anag.) (6) **9** Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9) **13** Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7) **14** They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7) **15** The human mind or soul (6) **16** 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6) **18** 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5) **20** Bared (anag.) (5)

Solution on page 19



Speeding... A speeding motorist was caught by radar from a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket. "How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked. The police officer pointed soberly toward the sky. "You mean," asked the motorist, in awed confusion, "that now even God has installed speed cameras?"

P.R.E.S.S

TOTAL ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

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- » Security Lighting
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- » Fault finding -Maintenance
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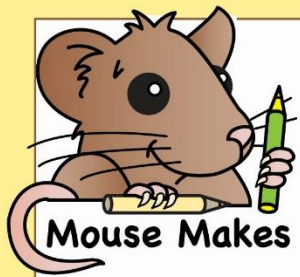
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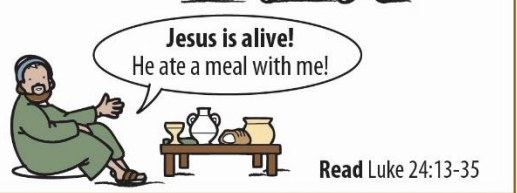
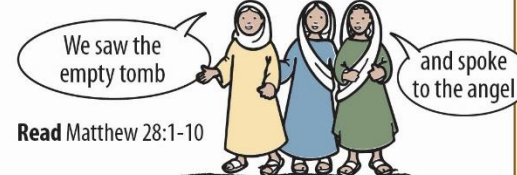
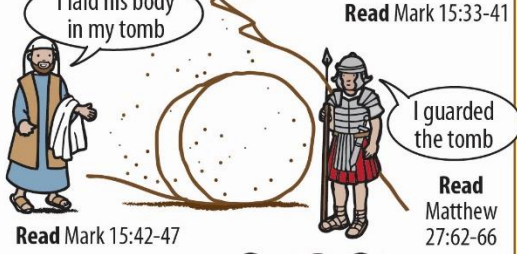
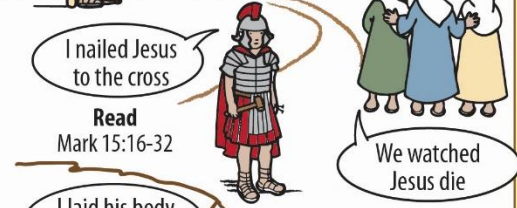
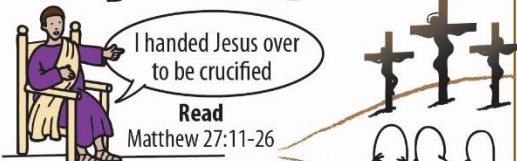
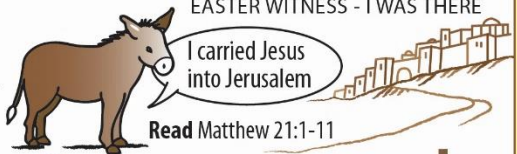
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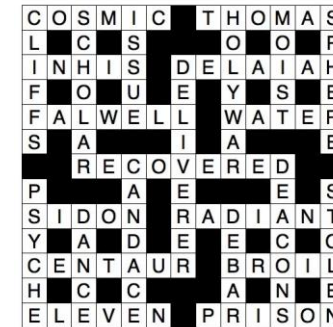
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 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Solutions:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
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| 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |



Dates for your Diaries...

- Apl 25th St George's Club Nite**
- May 23rd – All Stars Entertain**
- July 4th – Strawberry Event**
- August 15th Church Fete**



Images from the WDP



Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington

Services:

From April to October, services are at 6.30pm

Easter Sunday 5 April, 6.30pm, communion service led by Rev Julian Sanders

Sunday 19 April, 6.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Services are usually streamed on the Morpeth and Area URC YouTube channel, click on the Live tab. You can watch them live, or watch them later. <https://www.youtube.com/@morpethandareaurc8357>

April will be a quiet month as Film Night has ended for this season, and the next History Night will be on Tuesday 26 May. In any case, many people will be busy lambing in April.

But looking ahead to May:

Sunday 3 May:

Rogationtide walk and tea, followed by the Rogationtide service.

As in recent years, we are planning Rogationtide walks from Kirkwhelpington and Thockrington, to arrive at Great Bavington Church around 5.30pm for tea and cake, before the service at 6.30pm. The band from St George's URC, Morpeth, will provide the music. The service will be led by Rev Julian Sanders.

For details of the walks, see www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC nearer the time, or email bavingtonchurch@gmail.com or phone 01830 540350.

The church is open for visitors every day during the daytime.

Nicola Bell



WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER

If you would like to add any topics to next month's prayers, please let me know.

During April, please continue to pray for:

All war zones - especially the Middle East

Peace negotiations, and that any peace agreements will hold.

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of genocide

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

The sick, both with physical and mental problems, and the recently bereaved

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

"Prayer, the Church's banquet, Angels age,
God's breath in man, returning to his birth,
The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet, sounding heav'n and earth" (George Herbert)

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details *in writing* either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the second last Sunday of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

Flowers: Flowers for April and May by Kathleen. Donations, either of cash or flowers/greenery always welcome. Easter Flowers will be arranged on Saturday 4th April from 2.00pm. Your help would be appreciated.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at easyfundraising.org.uk and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. This can range from a penny for a Kindle 99p short to several pounds for a major purchase. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me, as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £800. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. Latest payment in February was £95.47! (I'm not quite sure how!). Thank you for spending!

Fund raising: We have had no special efforts since Christmas.

Do you have an idea for fund raising? Whether a social event, or something else, please speak to the Elders about it.

Worship:

Preachers for April, along with duty rotas are in the table below. You are invited to join us for coffee/tea and biscuits (sometimes cake!) after the service.

Social:

Remember, if you have a good idea for a social event which you think people will enjoy, please suggest it to the Elders (or organise it yourself!) The first Bank Holiday Coffee Morning of the year is on Monday 6th April from 10.00am to Noon. As an innovation, bacon sandwiches will be served! Church Meeting is on April 1st in the Sunday School Room, at 11am, following Coffee Club, which is at **10.00am**.

Regular events:

1st Wednesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the Sunday School Room. but **please note** that the April meeting (on April 1st) will be in the Sunday School Room at **10.00am** to be followed by the Church AGM at 11.00am. (Do you know a good local coffee shop which could cope with a sudden influx of 12+ people and has easy access for our less mobile members? Please tell Ena Whinham about it.)

Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.30am. We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer. (If you are interested in joining us, please speak to one of the Elders, as we occasionally alter the date without notice. As the first Friday of April is Good Friday, we will meet on Friday 19th.

Open Church: Open Church will continue, on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments, and the opportunity for quiet reflection in the church. Enquiries to the above email address. Any cancellation will be communicated to the WhatsApp group. Please note that there will be **NO** Open Church on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Apologies to anyone affected.

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Search for Widdrington United Reformed Church. Please like us and tell me if you think I've missed anything that should be on. The page now has 186 likes, with another 8 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there. Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 24 (+2 following!) page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him! The **website** is at: www.widdringtonurc.org I'd appreciate some help to improve it, as it's very wordy at the moment, partly because I'm happiest with words. I'm still looking for volunteers to be additional site editors. Someone with hardware that can post pictures would be good.

WhatsApp: A WhatsApp group has been set up. To join please give one of the Elders your mobile number, and accept your invitation. Please note: as I have now joined the group, information from me will increasingly appear there!

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The Community Choir continues to meet. Over Easter we will be singing at the Maunday Thursday Service at St John's, Ulgham, (service at 7pm, preceded by Soup and Cake from 6pm) and at the Methodist Coffee Morning in the Community Centre (from 10.30am) on April 4th.

Look out for information about Christian Aid Week activities in May.

FEM

April Rota

| Sunday | Preacher | Vestry | Door/Offering |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5th Easter | Rev'd David Grosch Miller | Kathleen Bailey | Elizabeth Barber Susan Hampton |
| 12th | Rev Julian Sanders | Diana Hogg | Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon |
| 19th | Worship Group | Fiona Middlemist | Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves |
| 26th | Val Mace | Kathleen Bailey | Diana Hogg Diane Cooke |