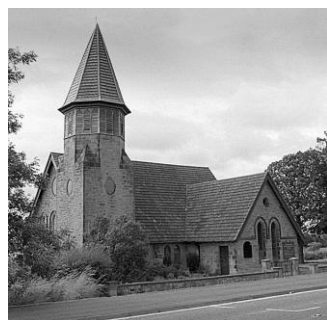


# St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



April  
2025

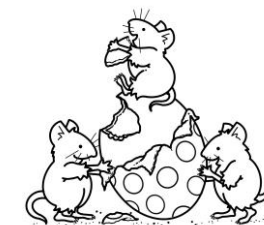
Website: [stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org](http://stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org)

## Worship & Events in April at St George's United Reformed Church

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Tues 1st   | Badminton & other activities in hall commence |  |
| Wed 2nd    | 12.30pm<br>6.30pm                             | WOW Midweek Service<br>CT Prayer Meeting   |
| Thurs 3rd  | 2.00pm  | Lent Course  |
| Sat 5th    | 10.00am                                       | Coffee Morning for our Ukranian friends  |
| Sun 6th    | 10.30am                                       | Morning Worship with Communion   |
| Wed 9th    | 12.30pm<br>7.00pm                             | WOW Midweek Service<br>Conversations About   |
| Thur 10th  | 2.00pm  | Lent Course  |
| Sat 12th   | 7.30pm  | Country Dance Club   |
| Sun 13th   | 10.30am                                       | Morning Worship for Palm Sunday  |
| Tue 15th   | 2.00pm  | Coffee Club Meeting in Hall  |
| Wed 16th   | 12.30pm<br>6.30pm                             | WOW Midweek Service<br>CT Prayer Meeting   |
| Thurs 17th | 2.00pm<br>7.30pm                              | Final Lent Course<br>Maundy Thursday Service Joint with MMC                                |
| Fri 18th   | 10.00am                                       | Good Friday Service at MMC with Walk of Witness following                                  |
| Sun 20th   | 10.30am                                       | Morning Worship for Easter Day with Communion  |
| Wed 23rd   | 12.30pm<br>7.00pm                             | WOW Midweek Service<br>Conversations About   |
| Fri 25th   | 10.00am                                       | Holiday Club in Church   |
| Sun 27th   | 10.30am<br>6.30pm                             | Morning Worship with Orchestra.<br><b>CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b><br>Evening Service |

### Stewards Rota for April

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>6</b>  | Gordon Slack and Christine Oliver               |
| <b>13</b> | Ken and Sally Davidson                          |
| <b>20</b> | Shirley and Ron Forster<br><b>Easter Sunday</b> |
| <b>27</b> | Gillian Irvine and Sarah Cleverley              |



### Flower Rota for April

|           |                   |            |                    |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|
| <b>6</b>  | Christine Hawkins | <b>Rep</b> | Joan Cooper 515682 |
| <b>13</b> |                   |            |                    |
| <b>20</b> | Easter Flowers    |            |                    |
| <b>27</b> | Dorothy Luke      |            |                    |

**What's On at St George's**  
**SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH 10.30 am**

|              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| <b>MON</b>   | <b>Age UK Exercise:</b> 9.00-12.00 noon Ronka Gbadebo   | 07952381160      |
|              | <b>Age UK Exercise:</b> 3.00 – 4.00pm As above  |                  |
| <b>TUES</b>  | <b>Morning Badminton</b> 10.00am – 12 noon<br>Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk  |                  |
|              | <b>Rainbows,</b> 5.00pm Liz Kelly 783434<br>Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com  |                  |
|              | <b>Brownies:</b> 6.00pm Susan Fairgrieve. s.fairgrieve21@gmail  |                  |
|              | <b>Guides and Rangers:</b> from 7.00pm Liz Kelly<br>Mobile 07714481089 783434 liz.kelly@jcpce.com   |                  |
|              | <b>St. George's Coffee Club:</b> 2.00pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues)<br>Contact: Sarah Cleverley  | 515257           |
|              | <b>Cobweb Orchestra</b> 7.30 – 9.30pm <b>At St Georges</b><br>Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612                                     |                  |
| <b>WED</b>   | <b>Morning Badminton:</b> 9.30am<br>Sarah Cleverley   | 515257           |
|              | <b>Knitter, Natter Crafts &amp; Chatter</b> 2.00 – 4.00pm<br>Joan Cooper  | 515682           |
|              | <b>Afternoon Bowls</b> 2.00pm Andrew Cleverley  | 515257           |
|              | <b>Zumba:</b> 6.00pm High Intensity with Lisa O<br>on 07507 179 692 or <a href="mailto:zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com">zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</a>       |                  |
| <b>THURS</b> | <b>Morning Badminton:</b> 10.00-12.00 Allen Oakes<br>allen@oakesa.co.uk   |                  |
|              | <b>Zumba:</b> 5.45pm. Low Intensity with Lisa O on<br>07507 179 692 or email <a href="mailto:zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com">zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</a> |                  |
| <b>SAT</b>   | <b>Table Tennis:</b> 10.00 – 12.00 Christine Richardson<br><b>Country Dance Club:</b> (Varies from month to month)<br>Contact: Shirley Forster          | 513913           |
| <b>SUN</b>   | <b>Orchestra:</b> Norm. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Andrew Hamnett<br>(not August) Christine Oakes   | 518485<br>518608 |

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's  
covers events in May

The deadline is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk)

**From the Vicar....** Extracted from Parish Pump website.

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure: 'Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, 'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection' (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

**New Hope:** Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

**New Love:** Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

**New Life:** When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: 'Oh, you're real, you're real!' We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.



## 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

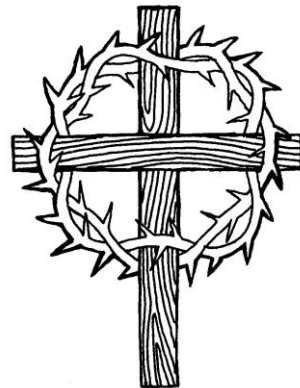
The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So – what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when You come into Your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with Me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 3:18).



## 20<sup>th</sup> April – EASTER, the most joyful day of the year...

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 30 AD or Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25<sup>th</sup> April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter. Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



## St Georges Coffee Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Our guest speaker will be

**Marie Dooley** With **'The Norman Conquest'**

Start time 2.00pm in the Church Hall

There is a small charge of £4 which includes tea or coffee and a biscuit.

For further information contact **Sarah Cleverley – 515257**

or come along to the meeting.

**Members and friends welcome.**



## St George's Knitter Natter Group

We meet each Wednesday from 2.00 – 4.00pm

In the Drysdale Room

New members will be made very welcome.

**Joan Cooper (Coordinator) 515682**

Many years ago, we were living in Scotland. It was a time when, partly to welcome the spring, as Easter was approaching, ladies bought new hats. Our young wives' group at church discussed this. Was it appropriate to be thinking about hats when the greatest event in the church calendar was to be celebrated? Should we be thinking about the service rather than admiring new hats?

One person suggested that, instead of wearing hats to church, we took to covering our heads with a lace veil. This prompted a reply that somebody would say to another: "What a beautiful piece of lace you are wearing! Where did you buy that?"

Somehow, you cannot win!!

**Submitted by Janet Brown**

## Morpeth Country Dance Club

March

8

April

12

May

20

7.30

to

9.30

find us on Facebook



### Ceilidh

**SGURC**  
live band.  
new players  
welcome

- All dances explained
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- Just come along & have fun

@ St George's Church Hall,  
Morpeth NE61 1PD

**£2.50** bring own  
drinks&nibbles

**Joseph's tomb...** Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family – and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?" Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."

**Why Easter...** A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us, and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to  
come by His raising to new life!

**Mouse Makes**

**Jesus is risen!**  
The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He  
has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*

**Jesus is here**  
Jesus said:  
"Where two or three  
come together  
in my name I am  
there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*

**Jesus will come again!**  
Jesus said:  
"I will come back  
and take you to  
myself so that you  
will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*

READ the story of  
the resurrection in:  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Mark 16:1-19**  
**Luke 24:1-49**  
**John 20:1-29**  
and **21:1-14**

JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN  
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING  
RESURRECTION  
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER

MESSIAH • REDEEMER  
CHRIST • SON OF GOD  
HOSANNA • PRAISE

REDEEMER  
EASTERPI  
SAVIOURS  
ULTIMJAE  
RIEDELIN  
RVJESUSS  
EEWBSPEP  
CCLOISSN  
THOSANNA  
IRROHYEU  
OIDNPPWS  
NSGOTELL  
KTAFOAIO  
IYOGJCFR  
NUJOYEEB  
GOODNEWS

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Sudoku for April Solution on page 14

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

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**Mr Bones...**The orthopaedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his boney arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office." The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

**The taxi...**The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!" The passenger apologised and said he hadn't realised that a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

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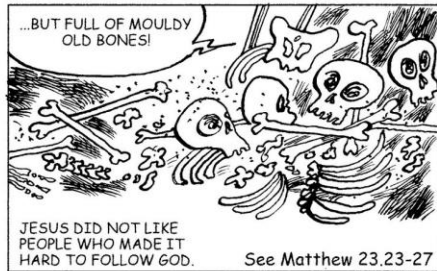
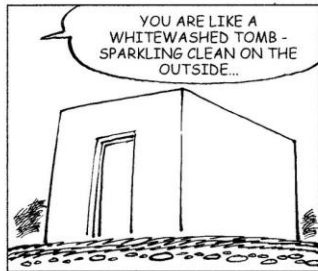
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# "Some tough talking"



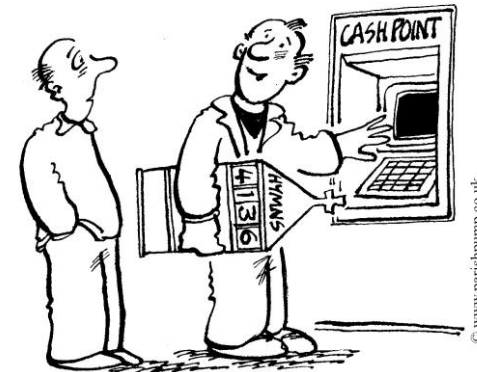
"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

**Good Friday...** I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

## What can I eat for Easter?

- Can't eat beef.....mad cow.
- Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.
- Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.
- Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.
- Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.
- Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.
- Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs.
- Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

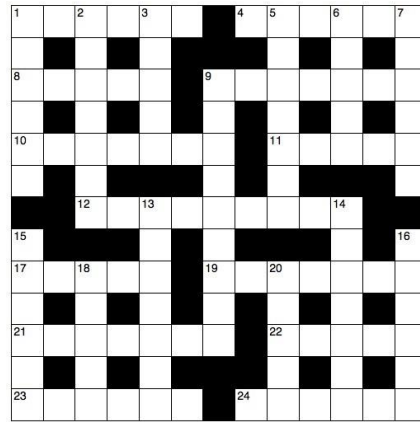
**Easter chocolate dilemma...** 364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!"

On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

## 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 14*



## Bulletin announcements that didn't come out quite right...

On Easter Sunday, our bulletin read: "Jesus was buried in a bomb but He lives today!"

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even though he dies, yet shall he live."

Hymn: 'I Need Three Every Hour'

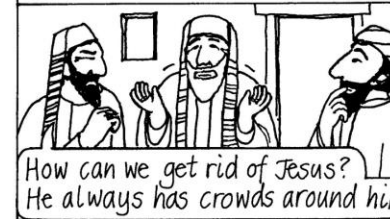
## Bible Bite

### A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem...

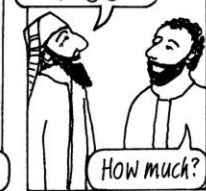
The Chief Priests were plotting



Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



We'd be happy to pay you



30 silver coins



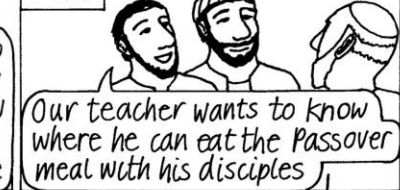
30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed Ex.31:32



Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



They did, and asked the house owner



The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



## RUBBISH

**Please do not put any rubbish straight into the black bin or blue bin outside church.**

All rubbish going into these bins needs to be either in a black bag for ordinary rubbish or a green recycling bag for all items that can be recycled such as cardboard, paper and plastic.

Please take any glass home as this cannot be recycled at church.

The reason that we cannot put rubbish directly into the outside bins is that the refuse collectors cannot empty the wheelie bins directly into the lorry so have to lift the bags out of the bins and then put them into the dustbin lorry. Any rubbish not in bags is left in our bins and does not get removed.

Thank you for your cooperation. **Sarah Cleverley - Housekeeping Team**

## Wordsearch for March

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

*Passover bread wine body blood  
betrayal Jerusalem pilate judas*

*Gethsemane trial crucifixion soldiers cross nails vinegar temple curtain*

*Tomb angel stone risen gardener Mary. Solution on page 14*

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| P | G | S | A | D | U | J | B | O | D | Y | O | O |

A date for your diary.....

Saturday 28th June from 2.00pm

**Strawberries and Cream**

(Fruit salad alternative)

followed by entertainment with

**“The Grainger Singers”**

Adults £8 Children £4

Tickets on sale nearer the time

**Solutions:**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | S | M | I | C | T | H | O | M | A | S |
| L | C | S | O | O | P |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I | N | H | I | S | D | E | L | A | I | A | H |
| F | O | U | E | Y | S | E |   |   |   |   |   |
| F | A | L | W | E | L | W | A | T | E | R |   |
| S | A | I | A | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | R | E | C | O | V | E | R | E | D |   |   |
| P | A | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | S |
| S | I | D | O | N | R | A | D | I | A | N | T |
| Y | A | D | E | C | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | E | N | T | A | U | R | B | R | O | I | L |
| H | C | C | A | N | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | L | E | V | E | N | P | R | I | S | O | N |

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



## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

*Here is the news from Great Bavington*

**Services:** *From April to October, services will be at 6.30pm.*

Sunday 6th April, 6.30pm, Rev Julian Sanders.

Easter Sunday, 20 April, Communion service, 6.30pm, Rev Julian Sanders

Now that the church is connected to B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) gigabit broadband, we can stream services. If you cannot attend in person, but would like to join online, go to the Morpeth and Area URC channel on YouTube and you will find the service there. You can watch live, or catch up with it later.

### **B4RN Broadband**

The church is now connected to B4RN gigabit broadband. B4RN generously provides this free of charge to community buildings, which is a great advantage to Great Bavington Church. Not only can we now stream services, but we can also do internet research at History Night, stream films for Film Night (which will start again in September), and other organisations holding meetings here can connect to the internet. B4RN also provides a free-to-use phone line, so there is now a phone in the church which will be invaluable in case of emergency, as the mobile signal in the village is not very good. This increased connectivity will be of great benefit to walkers on St Oswald's Way too. We would like to thank the team of local volunteers who have worked with such determination for many years to enable B4RN broadband to be installed in this area, the Ray Wind Fund for providing financial support for it, and the B4RN team for carrying out the installation and set-up.

### **Looking ahead to May:**

#### **Celebrating anniversaries, Saturday 17 May, 4.00pm**

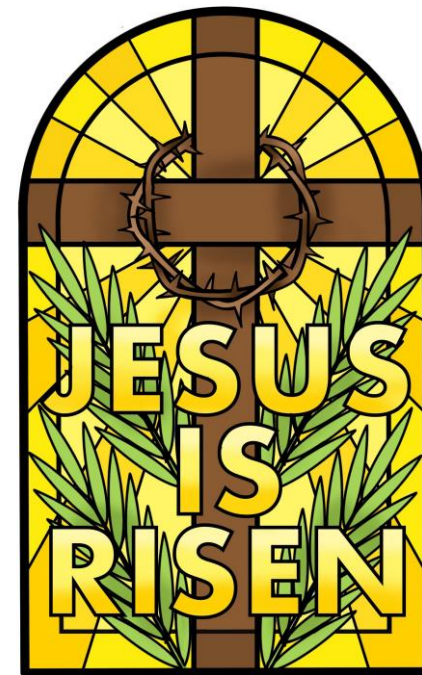
This year is the 300th anniversary of the church porch (the church itself was built around 1693), the 50th anniversary of the meeting room, and the 100th anniversary of the Bavington Presbyterian Church Recipe Book. There will be a celebration tea party on Saturday 17 May at 4.00pm., to which the congregations of St George's and Widdrington are invited. Please bring some cake, or whatever else you like, for a shared tea. Even better if it is made from a recipe out of the Recipe Book! (Copies of the Recipe Book are available at £7 each, plus p&p). Tea and coffee will be provided.

### **Rogationtide Walks, Sunday 18 May**

This year's Rogationtide Walks will be on Sunday 18 May. Traditionally, people walked the parish boundaries on Rogation Sunday and asked God's blessing on the crops, livestock and people. The walks will start at Thockrington Church and at Kirkwhelpington Church, and end at Great Bavington Church in time for refreshments before the Rogationtide Service at 6.30pm. More details nearer the time.

### **Keep in touch**

Please check [www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC) to see if there are any changes to events etc, or ring 01830 540350. Rev Julian Sanders can be contacted at [sanders.julian@talk21.com](mailto:sanders.julian@talk21.com) or 01670 225539



## 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 and any peace negotiations

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering still from Covid19 throughout the world

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

Sheep farmers as lambing continues

"Prayer, the Churches 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

It is with sadness that I report the death of Elsie Gordon on the  
7th February 2025.

A much respected and valued member of this church from whose friendship and wisdom many benefitted. Although unable to attend church in person in recent years, her interest in and commitment to this church was enduring. Elsie will be very fondly remembered and greatly missed.

**Kathleen Bailey**

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](mailto: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 in April and May by Kathleen. **Easter Flowers:** we will be arranging the Easter decorations on Saturday 19th April from 11am. Gifts of garden flowers (including late daffodils if you have them), budding twigs, and cash 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](http://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 £600. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. The last payout was £56.92. We should get more next quarter as I have been informed that in the four weeks following the payout day, we raised over £20!

**Fund raising:** no extra fund raising events to report this month. However, good ideas will always be welcome.

**Worship:** Please feel free to wear a mask - or not - as you wish. Hand sanitisers continue to be available.

You are invited to join us for coffee/tea after the service.

Preachers for April along with duty rotas are in the table below.

**Social:** Coffee Morning season starts again with our Easter Monday Coffee Morning on April 21st, starting at 10am. This will be quickly followed by the Early May bank holiday on May 5th.

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!)

**Regular events:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the church hall. On 1st April we meet in the hall at **10.00am**, to be followed at 11.00am by a Church Meeting, which will be out Annual General Meeting. Friends who join us for coffee are welcome to stay for the meeting of they wish, but only church members can vote on any issue.

(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 the Elders about it.)

**Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.00am** (please note new time) 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)

**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.

**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](http://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 Kathleen your mobile number, and accept your invitation.

**Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham**

Our Lent Course continues on Tuesdays at 2.00pm at the Community Centre.

**Christian Aid Week:** there will be a service at 12.00 on Friday 16th May followed by a lunch of soup and rolls.

**FEM**

**April Rotas**

| Sunday | Preacher                                 | Vestry           | Door/Offering                     |
|--------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6th    | Rev'd Kay Alberg                         | Fiona Middlemist | Diana Hogg<br>Elizabeth Barber    |
| 13th   | Rev'd Julian Sanders                     | Diana Hogg       | Fiona Middlemist<br>Ruth Gordon   |
| 20th   | Rev'd Julian Sanders<br>Easter Communion | Kathleen Bailey  | Diana Hogg<br>Diane Cooke         |
| 27th   | Worship Team                             | Fiona Middlemist | Kathleen Bailey<br>Audrey Grieves |

