

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



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



April  
2022

## Worship at St George's United Reformed Church for April

Sat 2nd	xxx	Messy Church Event at St George's
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 6th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert, Iona Brown (No WOW Service)
Sun 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship for <b>Palm Sunday</b>
Wed 13th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Thurs 14th	7.30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday Service.</b> Joint with MMC
Fri 15th	10.30am	<b>Good Friday Service Joint, at MMC</b> Followed by Walk of Witness
Sun 17th	10.30am	<b>Easter Day</b> Morning Worship with Communion Tea/Coffee in Hall afterwards
Wed 20th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sat 23rd		St George's Day Event (details to follow)
Sun 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Orchestra followed by <b>Church AGM</b>
Tues 26th	2.00pm	Ladies Coffee Club <b>PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>
Wed 27th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service

### Steward's Duty Rota

<b>3</b>	Katherine Smailes and Gordon Slack
<b>10</b>	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
<b>17</b>	Helen Muckle and John Muckle
<b>24</b>	Karen Howe and Christine Hawkins

### Flower Rota

<b>3</b>	Jean Hyde
<b>10</b>	Christine Hawkins
<b>17</b>	<b>Easter Flowers</b>
<b>24</b>	See Notice Board
<b>Rep</b>	Joan Cooper 515682



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in May 2022.

**The deadline is Sunday 24th April**

Please do not wait for the deadline if you already have articles ready to be included.

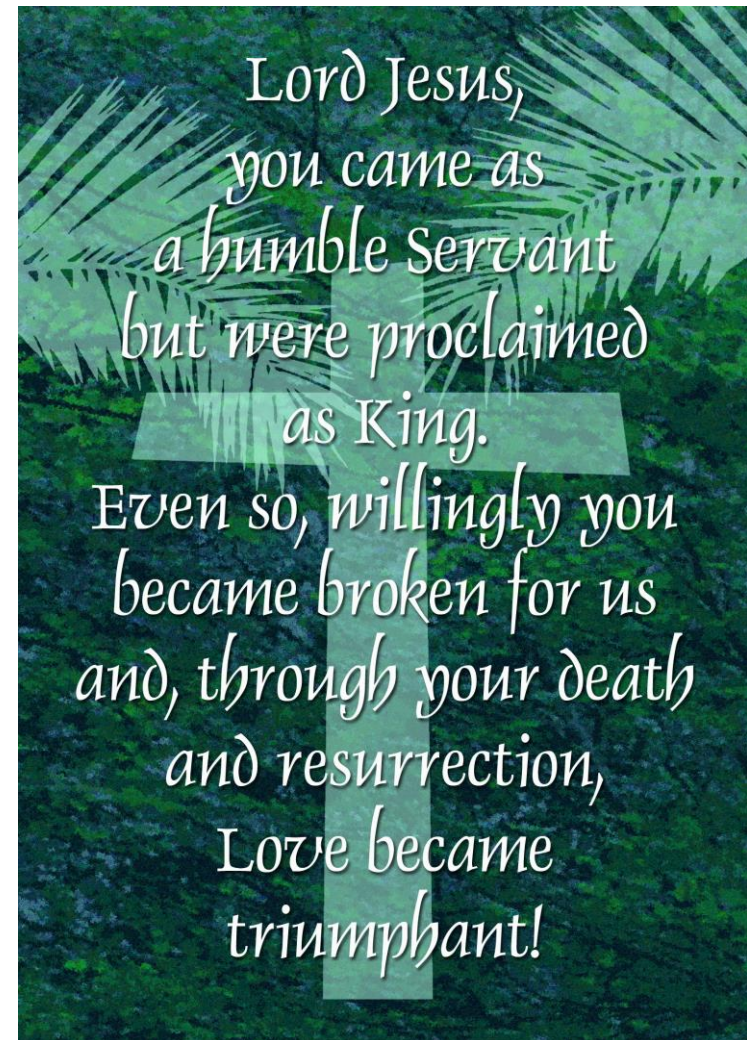
Please contact Stephanie. E-mail: [robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk)

## 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> As above	
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Morning Badminton</b> 10.00am – 12 noon Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	<b>Rainbows</b> , 5.00pm Liz Kelly 783434 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 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	<b>Ladies Coffee Club:</b> 2.00pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues) <b>nb: new start time</b> Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	<b>Cobweb Orchestra</b> 7.30 – 9.30pm In the Sanctuary Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612	
<b>WED</b>	<b>Morning Badminton:</b> 9.30am Sarah Cleverley	515257
	<b>Knitter, Natter Crafts &amp; Chatter</b> 2.00 – 4.00pm Joan Cooper	515682
	<b>Afternoon Bowls</b> 2.00pm Andrew Cleverley	515257
	<b>Zumba:</b> 6.00pm High Intensity with Lisa O 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 allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	<b>Zumba:</b> 5.45pm. Low Intensity with Lisa O on 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 <b>Country Dance Club:</b> (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	513913
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Orchestra:</b> Norm. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Andrew Hamnett 518485 (not August) Christine Oakes 518608	



## A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Saunders

Dear Friends,

**“Too long a sacrifice,  
can make a stone of a heart.  
O when may it suffice?”**

*-W.B. Yeats from “Easter 1916”*

Despite its title, the sacrifice Yeats speaks of in this poem is not a religious one, but a political one, as he remembers the lives of those who were killed in the Easter Rising of 1916. The Easter Rising was a week in Ireland’s history where ordinary people stepped out of their everyday lives and took up arms to fight for an independent Ireland. Over a period of six days from 24 April 1916, more than 450 people died and 2600 injured in the battles that ensued on the streets of Dublin.

Yeats in his poem questions whether the sacrifice of those who lost their lives was worth it in the end. He asks the question “was it needless death after all?” And that for us is surely a question as we continue to hear of the devastation being inflicted on the ongoing situation in Ukraine, and as in church we hear again of the Easter story and its sacrifice.

Certainly some of the followers of Jesus were hoping that he would be a Messiah who would rise up and gain independence for Israel from Roman rule. But when questioned by Pilate, Jesus insists that his Kingdom is not of this world, and the Kingdom that is established by his death will have no political or geographical borders. His will be a kingdom of peace where the citizens will no longer be ruled by the power of sin and death.

When we, like those first disciples, look for signs of this Kingdom, but see only more bloodshed and greater division we surely have to ask ourselves “was it needless death after all?”

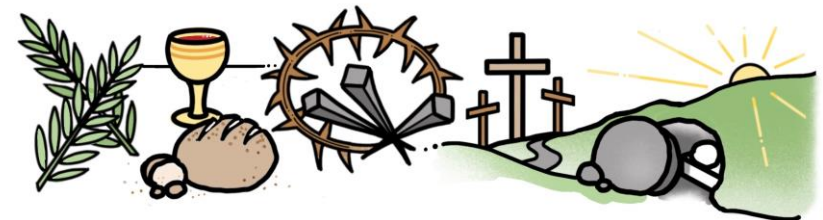
In the poem Yeats takes us from the streets of Dublin, to an idyllic country scene that is supposed to remind us of the peacefulness of the natural world – a stream, a horse and rider and “birds that range from cloud to tumbling cloud”. But instead of the changeless peace of the countryside, Yeats throws up a landscape in which nature is full of movement and transformation.

And in the midst of the stream, in the midst of all this movement stands a stone, whose presence does little to make an impact on this landscape. Ange Mlinko, commenting on this poem says “There is no definitive end to sacrifices that may be made because change is constant, peace cannot ever be a steady state, and more sacrifice is always a possibility.”

We are reminded that there is more to the Easter story. We are disciples and followers of Jesus, and his instruction to his disciples is “take up your cross *daily* and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Jesus invites us not to be crucified, but each day to pick up our cross and carry it. We cannot accept Jesus’ sacrifice and think that that’s enough. We are each called to continue to take up our cross again and again every day – we might get fed up, or bored, or despondent – but it doesn’t happen any other way. Peace cannot ever be a steady state there is always more to be done.

As we celebrate this Easter the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross, and the Kingdom he established, let us also consider the daily sacrifices that we are called to make again and again in order to bring ever closer that Kingdom of Peace.

With every blessing, **Julian**





Can I remind people that we have now resumed our weekly collections of food, toiletries and cleaning products for the refugees and asylum seekers. There is a box in the vestibule for your donations. Anyone willing to help transport the goods within Morpeth to the garage storage please let me know.

**WERS**

Refugees have been much in the news over the past few weeks with the invasion of Ukraine. Anyone wanting to learn more about what life is like for refugees can read about it on the WERS website at [www.wers.org.uk/facts-about-refugees](http://www.wers.org.uk/facts-about-refugees). WERS recently sent out to supporters and on Facebook a statement on the Government's response to the Ukrainian refugees. They stress the importance of "upholding a refugee protection system in the UK that is compassionate and humane and is open to ALL who come and seek sanctuary here, that is not about paperwork and process but is first and foremost about protection."

WERS also highlights the fact that there are 500 people currently housed in temporary accommodation in Newcastle waiting whilst their immigration cases are processed. There's a huge backlog of cases and whilst they are waiting for months they are forced to live on £8 25p a week and are often some miles from the city centre, making it difficult for them to access health services, legal advice and language lessons. Currently the Newcastle City of Sanctuary has set up a fundraiser #JustTheTicket.

**Justice and Peace**

Callers to the Centre are provided with a warm welcome. The Centre tries to ensure that they respond to requests from clients on an individual basis – whether this is for a large suitcase, a pushchair, information or perhaps signposting them to other organisations who can assist. Increasingly, they provide comfort and reassurance to those who arrive feeling very fragile, overwhelmed and struggling with their mental health.

**Refugee, Biriyani & Banana**

This month I have received a newsletter from Ruhi Aktar, via Maura Illingworth. Ruhi is working in Athens and the Chios Islands. She says they are now seeking to assess the situation for people fleeing from Ukraine and are looking for support to provide food security with dignity.

Ruhi states that currently they are raising funds to provide food security to around 3000 people on the island of Chios. She says "Food is always one of the first and most urgently requested aid items in the areas we are supporting and we often receive distress calls from people about the poor provisions or no distributions of food.

Malnutrition is common in persons seeking asylum, usually attributed to a chronic lack or interruption of essential nutrients. Not only are the people we are supporting constantly hungry, they are lacking in physical strength, reduced immunity making them more susceptible to infections, exacerbation of medical conditions, and suffering from depression."

Further information on this work can be found at

[www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org](http://www.refugeebiriyanibananas.org)

**Margaret Brock**

**Christian Aid*****A note for your diaries***

The **Morpeth Christian Aid** group is planning a **coffee morning**, with a cake stall and second hand toy stall. The intention is that it will be held at St James Church on Saturday 16th April. Weather permitting it is hoped this will take place in the church grounds. More details next month.

This year's Christian Aid week is **15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May**. Plans are currently being made for this. The intention is that it will be undertaken in the same way as it was last year. 'Collectors' will be responsible for delivering envelopes to set streets with the intention that the recipients will be given an address (house/church) nearby where they can take their filled envelopes. Alternatively they can post them back to Christian Aid, if simpler for them. I'm hoping that usual collectors will be available to deliver envelopes. Any new volunteers will be welcome as there are many new streets on the estates that are currently not covered. If anyone is willing to use their homes as a collection point please let me know. Thank you.

**Margaret Brock**

**Memory Café**

The Memory Café, which is run by Morpeth Methodist Church, has of necessity been shut down throughout large periods of time during the pandemic, but it has opened as and when it has seemed appropriate to do so. It is currently open on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 10.30 till noon. Unfortunately the numbers attending have declined significantly. St George's help in running it has, therefore, not been required much over the past few months but it is hoped that the numbers will build up again soon.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from attending please let them know about the Memory Café. As soon as our help is required again I will ensure people are made aware.

Thank you to those who have supported it.

**Margaret Brock**

## Future Lunchtime Concerts Winter – Spring Series 2022.

**6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Iona Brown (Violin) & David Murray (Piano)**

Iona & David were due to perform in 2020 when the first Lockdown came into force so we are very pleased to welcome them back again. This Concert is being given by Iona as part of her year-long concerts in aid of the Children's Cancer Charity "Henry Dancer Days".

**Please note that Admission for this concert is £5**

*Iona & David are donating their performance fees to the Charity so if you would like to support Iona with this charity initiative, any further donations will also be most gratefully received.*

*The Lunchtime Concerts will match all donations given on the day,*

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**Rachel Jeffers (Flute), Jessica Graham (Violin)  
and David Murray (Piano)**

A programme of entertaining trio's.

Please note that Admission for this concert is £4

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.00 pm

**Special Diamond Jubilee Evening Concert** given by Former

Leader of Royal Northern Sinfonia –

Bradley Creswick (Violin) and David Murray (Piano) in a programme of Violin Showstoppers.

Tickets £10 (Adult) £5 (Schoolchildren) to include interval tea,  
coffee & biscuits are now available from Gillian Irvine Tel. 01670 515870  
or

**Email [kdirvine@sky.com](mailto:kdirvine@sky.com)**



*BUTTER THOSE PEAS*

*Strip that willow*

## St George's Country Dance Club

**7.30-9.30**

**Saturday March 12th**  
**Saturday April 16th**  
**(Easter Saturday)**  
**Saturday May 14th**  
**Saturday June 11th**

**With our very own live band SGURC**

*Waltz that circle*

*Reel that Virginian*

*Phew!*

*Have that*

*chat!*

*Fly that Scotsman*

*Party that Boston*

**'Distanced Dancing'**

variations on familiar dances to create covid safe dances for those who wish.

Bring a small contribution to St George's Funds eg £2 and your own refreshments. You don't need a partner.

You don't need to know how to dance, or be super fit. The dances are explained and there is plenty time for a rest and a chat.

More information from Shirley Forster

07749525269 shirlsgurc@gmail.com





## Crossword for April

**Across:** **1** 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) **3** A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8) **9** In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)

**10** Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)

**11** Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)

**12** Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)

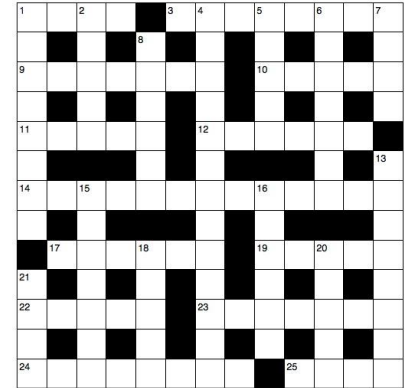
**14** 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)

**17** Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6) **19** What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5) **22** The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5) **23** For nine (anag.) (7) **24** Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8) **25** Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4).

**Down:** **1** 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4) **2** Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5) **4** 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6) **5** An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5) **6** Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)

**7** 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4) **8** One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)

**13** Old Testament hymn-singing (8) **15** 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7) **16** Of felt (anag.) (3,3) **18** 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3) **20** Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5) **21** 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4). *Solution on page 20*



**Jesus' Grannie....** The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that the Sunday School teacher was Jesus' grannie. 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. Who but a grannie would do that?"



## St James the Least of All...

### On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory, St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

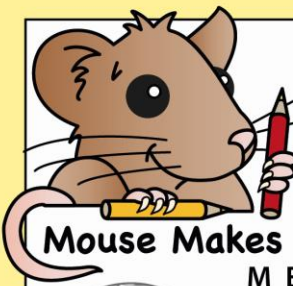
Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish. By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance. Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table. Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe. The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.


**Your loving uncle, Eustace**



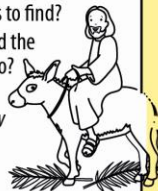


### HAPPY EASTER!


Jesus has risen!  
Jesus is with us!  
Jesus will come again!




What did Jesus send the disciples to find?  
What did the crowd do?  
**Read Matthew 21:1-11**



What did Jesus do at Passover?  
**Read Matthew 26:17-30**




On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?  
What had happened to Jesus?  
**Read Matthew 28**




### GOOD FRIDAY

Who betrayed Jesus?  
Who denied Jesus?  
**Read Matthew 26:17-75**



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?  
What time did Jesus die?  
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?  
**Read Matthew 27**



### Mouse Makes

M E S S I A H W I N E  
E T R E E D O N K E Y  
A Q C H R I S T I T P  
L R G O D H A O S H A  
R O B E A E N V T R S  
A O O B R A N C H E S  
N M J O K V A P O E O  
G O O D N E W S R D V  
E R Y Y E N V A N A E  
L N J E S U S V S Y R  
P I B D S Q U I P S C  
E N L I N E N O I C U  
A G O T E L L U R R P  
C R O W N N D R I O Q  
E A D E A T H A T S U  
B O D Y E N A I L S A  
S P A L M S T S K T K  
C R U C I F Y E I O E  
D A E B R E A D S M B  
K I N G O L O T S B U  
I S T O N E M A R Y R  
S E A S T E R O A D Y

Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:  
DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA  
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD  
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS  
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS  
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING  
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL  
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

St George's United Reformed Church  
Bridge Street,  
Morpeth

# Annual Plant Sale

& Coffee Morning

**Saturday 21st May**  
**10 am to 12 noon**

A large selection of perennials & bedding plants.  
Garden Related Stall & Tombola  
Also books, hand crafted greetings cards, raffle and more.  
Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and Home made-scones



Free Admission – In aid of church funds.  
Lift Access

## Pre Easter Coffee Morning Saturday April 2nd 10am until Noon



Enjoy a relaxed morning with church family and friends as we move forward and hold further church fundraising activities.

There will be tea, coffee, homemade scones, stalls and a raffle. Please come and support and spread the word to your friends and neighbours.

We would also like to have a home bake stall so why not dig out your favourite, family, easy recipes and bake something for others to buy and enjoy.



This isn't the 'British Bake Off' just a homely way of fundraising.



*Gillian Irvine and Joan Cooper*

## The East Coast Swing Band

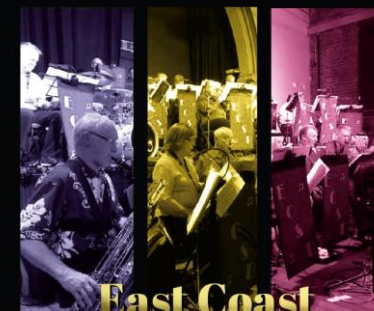
The East Coast Swing Band, of whom I am a member, is playing at Morpeth Methodist Church on Saturday April 2nd at 7.30pm

Strike up the Band is an evening of Big Band music playing Swing band numbers from 30s, 40s and 50s

Tickets £6 from The Chantry or from  
**Christine Oakes**

## STRIKE UP THE BAND for an evening of Big Band music Saturday 2nd of April 2022, 7:30pm

Morpeth Methodist Church, Howard Terrace, Morpeth, NE61 1HU  
A 20 piece big band playing classic swing numbers from the 30s, 40s and 50s and more



**East Coast  
Swing Band**

**£6**

Tickets available  
• from The Chantry, Bridge Street, Morpeth  
• by phone on 07748 25554  
• from band members  
• via message on facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EastCoastSwingband](https://www.facebook.com/EastCoastSwingband)



## St George's Ladies Coffee Club

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April the Ladies Coffee Club will meet at  
2pm upstairs in the church hall

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Our speaker this month will be  
Brian Hannaford who will be talking about  
Tommy Armstrong

This will be followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

New members and guests are always welcome to our meetings.

**Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator 515257**



## Knitter Natter Coffee group

We meet every Wednesday in the Drysdale Room from  
2.00pm – 4.00pm. Please enter by the front door.

**Joan Cooper**



## The best position in which to pray...

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew. The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"



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

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### Sudoku Solution on page 20

**What a hoot...**One evening a bird-loving vicar strolled over to his huge country churchyard, and just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back. The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following year, no matter what the weather, the vicar would go to the churchyard and hoot back and

forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the vicar kept a careful log of the 'conversation'. Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, to "hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."

### The Italian pasta diet that really works...

You walka pasta da bakery  
You walka pasta da sweet shop  
You walka pasta da ice cream shop  
You walks pasta da table and fridge  
You gonna lose da weight

### Wordsearch for April

#### The last Passover

On the night before He died, Jesus ate His last Passover meal with His disciples. He then transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying of the bread and wine that, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood'. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was preparing to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died *at the same time* that the Passover lambs were killed.

Jesus then astonished the disciples by washing their feet. He said: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

*Passover ate last disciples transformed Lord Supper bread wine  
Body blood Lamb God die sins world John gospel killed feet washing  
Love command service maundy*

*Solution on page 20*

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

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**No sunbeams...** A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained: "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

**Get going this Spring!** One thing you need to put at the top of your list this Spring is to simply MOVE. Whether you like gardening, cycling, jogging, walking or any other activity, make certain that you do some of it every day. As Prof James Goodwin, of the Brain Health Network in London explains, "Only 25 per cent of our ageing – both physical and mental – is determined by our DNA. The other 75 per cent is lifestyle and our environment, over which we have a lot of choice." He goes to explain that aerobic exercise indirectly stimulates the brain, and thus rejuvenates it. "Prolonged daily sitting down is the enemy of brain health." Prof Goodwin also advises people to develop a healthy routine and stick to it. "Constantly varying bedtimes, drinking and eating excesses, and irregular habits are bad for you."

### Directions...

The Revd Billy Graham told of an encounter early in his ministry, when he had arrived for a preaching mission in a small town. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was. After the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him, and added: "Son, if you come along to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy looked doubtful. "The way to Heaven? But you can't even find the post office."

### AGMs at church in mind...

Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

### Grandparents...

Grandmothers are mums with lots of frosting. – Anon

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric. – Pam Brown

Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because grandfathers have only so many horsy rides in them. – Gene Perret.

You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother. – Proverb



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

## Bible Bite

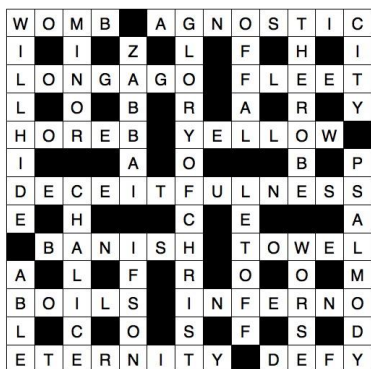
### A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone.  
Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.







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



A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

Advice to gardeners: The easiest way to tell the difference between young plants and weeds is to pull up everything. If they come up again, they're weeds. – Anon

### 5th April is end of the tax year....

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A few more deductions and your take - home pay isn't going to be enough to get you there.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.

*If you can't find your dog, open the fridge door, he will be right behind you.*

## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington:

### Services

From April the services start at 6.30pm again:

Sunday 3 April, 6.30pm

On the first Sunday of each month, starting on 3 April, we will have refreshments after the service as an opportunity for some socialising.

Easter Sunday 17 April, 6.30pm with communion

### History Night

By the time you read this, History Night will have resumed in March. Please check the church's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC) for future dates and topics.

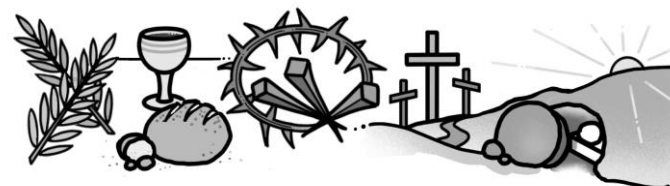
### The church is open for visitors

The church is open for walkers and other visitors during the daytimes.

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

There will be Tea on the Lawn on the afternoon of Sunday 5 June (starting time t.b.a.) with some family activities, followed by a special service to mark the Jubilee at 6.30pm. We look forward to welcoming the congregations of St George's and Widdrington URC too. More details nearer the time.

For further information, please see the church's Facebook page, email [bavingtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bavingtonchurch@gmail.com), or phone 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

During April, please pray for:

Ukraine

Other people in war zones and refugees. The people of Afghanistan, especially women.

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced. That vaccines may be fairly distributed.

Health workers

Workers in essential industries and services

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine and treatments and teams working to deliver the vaccines

Vaccine delivery in third world countries.

Those whose mental health has suffered during the pandemic

The homeless

Lambing

Your neighbours

"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

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 Sunday prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 by Kathleen. Easter Flowers: Saturday April 16th at 2.00pm. As it may be late in the season for daffodils, gifts of any suitable flowers and greening branches would be useful.

**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 £380 so far with just nine members. We get payouts in arrears every time we reach £15.00 in any quarter. Every little helps!

### Worship:

Please join us when you feel able. Mask wearing is voluntary. You will still be asked to sanitize your hands.

We will be serving coffee/tea after the service for those who feel able to partake.

Don't worry if you don't feel able to stay yet.

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

**Church Meeting:** The church AGM will be on April 28th at 7.30pm. It would be good if reports could be circulated in advance.

### Social

We had 21 people at the beetle drive which replaced the bowling.. It was a fun evening.

Sorry to announce another social cancellation. We find that the prices for Northumberland Zoo are too expensive, and there is not enough time as the Zoo closes at 4pm.

However, Bank Holiday Coffee Mornings are back! Starting on April 18th, Easter Monday. This will include our Easter Egg hunt so bring your children.

### Regular events:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. 10.30am. April's venue is the Outlook Cafe at Hauxley Wildlife Centre. Don't forget the parking charge! April 6th.

**1st Wednesday: Prayer Group:** Prayer Group will continue to meet on first Wednesdays at Cook's Hemmel. We gather at 7.00pm.

**Open Church is changing to Wedesday mornings:** this is because of the coffee mornings at Widdy Welcomes, which are on Thursdays. We restart on April 7th.

**Facebook:** If you are on Facebook, have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Search for Widdrington United Reformed Church. Please like us and let me know if you think I've missed anything that should be on. The page now has 168 likes, with another 6 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.uk](http://www.widdringtonurc.org.uk)

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.

We are now considering a relaunch - watch this space.

**Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham.**

World Day of Prayer: was held at the URC at **2.00pm**. There was a very good turn out and the service was much appreciated.

Lent Course continues on Fridays at 2.00 pm in URC hall. Alternative meetings (same session) Wednesday evenings in Morpeth and Thursday evenings via Zoom - details elsewhere in this magazine.

The Churches Together Group will meet again on 19th April at 7.30pm in URC hall.

***FEM***

**We are collecting things!**

\*Empty crisp packets to make blankets for the homeless

\*Medicine blister packs for Cancer Research

\*Green plastic milk bottle tops to make wheelchairs

\*Basic toiletries for the Ukraine appeal

\*And don't forget the hamper for the food bank!

**Widdrington Rotas: April**

Date	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
3	Revd Ted Marley	Diana Hogg	F. Middlemist. R. Gordon
10	Margaret Field	Liv Waldon	K. Bailey. J. Hart
17	Revd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	D. Hogg. M. Scott
24	Revd Trevor Jameson	Fiona Middlemist	L. Waldon. A. Grieves