

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



December 2019
& January 2020

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

A Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

When I arrived at St Georges the planned alterations to the entrance of the church were well underway, and though it continues to split opinion in the church, we look forward now to the work that is to be done in transforming the entrance to our building. Glass doors which perhaps allow those passing by a glimpse at what goes on within the church, and perhaps give an indication of the openness of this church community in welcoming those from the outside into our church family.

Our doors especially give visible signs to the people around us. Doorways are significant places. They are places of transition, going from one thing to another. Doorways to other worlds feature heavily in science fiction and fantasy writing in which this transition from the ordinary to the extraordinary express something of the human yearning to transcend this world and, perhaps, escape the monotony or suffering that we might experience. When we invite people in through our doors, we invite them to move from where they are, to a new place. For those who find themselves lost, and perhaps in need of healing, we invite people in to a place where hope and restoration may be found.

At this time of year, we think about transition from one year to another. Advent is the beginning of a new year on the Christian calendar, and we begin this year by looking forward to God breaking into our lives in a new way. And as the bells ring out the old and ring in the New Year after our Christmas celebrations, we think especially of the transition we make. Moving from that which is past to that which is future, excited by the promise of opportunity that might come our way in the year to come.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."
Rev 3:20

So next time you go past the church, take a good look at the porch and the doors, and consider what message they might be giving to those who walk past. But also take time to consider those who come through our doors throughout any given week, and how they might be transformed by that transition from "that place" to "this place".

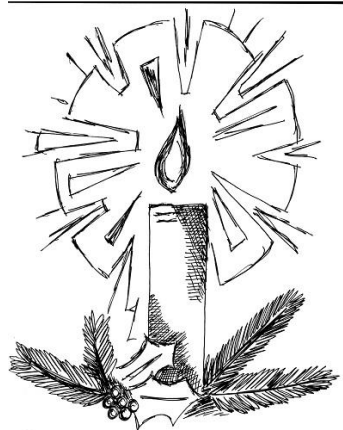
And perhaps the words of the psalmist will come to mind:

***"lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of Glory may come in." Psalm 24 v 7***

I pray that you all may keep safe from harm this winter, and that the doors of your hearts may be opened in welcome for the King of Glory this Christmas,

With every blessing, **Julian**

FOUR IMPOSSIBLE THINGS TO BELIEVE BEFORE CHRISTMAS



**An Advent series based on a book by
Kevin Scully**

**Four multimedia sessions of prayer and
discussion to prepare for Christmas:**

26 November: "The wings of an Angel"

3 December: "Threats to Society"

10 December: "Daring to say 'yes'"

17 December: "The Crack in the Universe"

Starting at 10:30am in the DRYSDALE ROOM

For more details contact Julian on 01670 225539



Morpeth and Mitford Churches Together Asylum Seekers Support Group

West End Refugee Service

At the Annual General Meeting in October WERS' new Vision, Mission and Values were announced. They are:-

"Vision

Safe, healthy and fulfilling lives for people who are asylum seekers and refugees.

Mission

Our passionate and committed team of staff and volunteers will endeavour to make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of asylum seekers and refugees. We will do this by providing supportive and empowering services and opportunities which are responsive to people's needs, showing them dignity and respect. We will raise awareness, educate and positively challenge discrimination and negative perceptions towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Values

- Equality
- Inclusion
- Respect
- Collaboration

Together these provide direction for everything that happens in WERS, keeping everyone focused on what we're trying to achieve. They define the core values of the organisation and how people are expected to behave."

WERS is appealing for people to volunteer in their clothing store on Wednesday afternoons.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to WERS' hardship fund which will be used to provide additional payments to clients over Christmas can donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/wers>

A HUGE thank you to everyone who so generously supported the West End Refugee Service Christmas appeal and donated items to make the Christmas festivities brighter for their destitute clients. **Margaret**

Justice and Peace Refugee Project

In their latest newsletter it says

"It is now 18 years since the project first opened on just one day a week; since then we have grown year-on-year evolving as needs demand. The services we offer are currently under considerable pressure due to increased numbers. Until 2016, we were typically registering 20-25 new people every month. However, over the past two years, that figure is more typically 50-60 and has reached 90 on occasion. Thanks to the continued support of our donor parishes/schools, we continue to be able to support all of our clients but we are now beginning to struggle under the increasing weight of numbers. We urge our regular supporters to keep up their parish food collections and to increase them if this is at all possible. We would also ask that parishes and schools not already involved think about doing so. Please get in touch with us to see if you are able to help us in any way."

The newsletter also provides details of their Destitute Asylum Fund. It explains:-

"This is a special account which is dedicated to help our destitute clients. Currently 120 of our clients qualify for a payment of £25 each month.... This year we expect to pay out over £30,000 from the Destitute Asylum Fund. Other costs, such as building rental and purchase of equipment come from the Diocesan Justice & Peace account. This is quite separate from the Destitute Asylum Fund."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Justice and Peace Project Destitute Asylum Fund can send donations to John Dowling, Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre, 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EE.

Alternatively a standing order can be set up using the following link http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/social_concerns/justice_and_peace.php and follow the Donation section towards the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your continued support for both of these projects.

Margaret Brock

Tea Time Talks

There will no TTT in December.

The next TTT is on Thursday 30th January. Jared is the speaker with a talk entitled

"The Lost Hero of Science"

Please let Jared know (preferably at least a few days in advance) if you are hoping to come - this helps greatly with the catering for the subsequent Cream Tea.

Entrance by donation of £2.50 - £3.00 per person.

Contact details are: 01670 514610 or email jared-marg@hotmail.com

St George's Ladies Coffee Club



Saturday 7th December

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING 10am – noon

* * *

Tuesday 7th January

New Years Lunch (Venue tbc)

* * *

Tuesday 21st January

We welcome Rhona Dunn with a talk entitled

'Contact'

We usually meet in the Drysdale Room at 3.00pm and new members will be made most welcome.

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	9				4			
4				8		7		

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Solution on page 19

The manager of a department store put this notice in the window: 'If you need it this Christmas, we have it.' But in the window of a rival, a sign appeared, stating: 'If we don't have it, you don't need it.'

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line was: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with ____." His quick response: "Receipts."

As we were putting out biscuits for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, one fell on the floor. When I picked it up and placed it back on the plate, my four-year-old was horrified. "You can't do that!" "Don't worry," I assured him. "Father Christmas will never know." He shot me a suspicious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the biscuit fell on the floor?"

Charity Christmas card Sale & Coffee Morning

At the Charity Christmas Card Sale held on Saturday 26 October, the people of Morpeth had the opportunity of buying cards in one place without trailing round all the charity shops. The various Charities sold £1,056 worth of cards this includes sales by Gillian Irvine of her hand-made cards on behalf of St George's, which raised £105 for church funds. Sales of teas, coffees and scones raised £133 for St George's. I am very grateful to all who helped, sold refreshments, baked and came to buy cards.

Andrew Cleverley

Once again we are hosting the magical Christmas Tree Festival at St George's and we will require stewards to meet and greet visitors in the vestibule. I shall put a rota sheet up in November and it would be wonderful to have all the one hour slots filled! It's a very rewarding experience to hear folks' reaction after their visit!

Thank you! **Vivien Bennett**

Country Dance Club

The CDC will be held in the Church Hall from 7.30 pm on

Saturday 11th January

No experience necessary – all dances are "called" before doing them! It is suitable for ALL ages! Bring along your own refreshments (and a friend or two?)

Still only £1.50 per adult (Children Free)

Everyone welcome

Contact me by phone or email if you need any further details.

Ring 514610 or email: jared-marg@hotmail.com

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Lunchtime Concerts

Wednesdays from 12.30 – 1.30pm

AUTUMN SERIES

The final concert of the Autumn series on **Wednesday 4th December** will be given by the very popular Violin Duo "Abbey Strings" – Karen Hague & Jessica Graham - joined for some items by accompanist Ken Irvine.

Complimentary Tea, Coffee, Non-Alcoholic Mulled Wine and Mince pies will be available from Noon with donations invited for Children's Cancer Charity "Henry Dancer Days".

WINTER-SPRING SERIES

On **Wednesday 15th January**. By popular request there will be a return visit by 'The Virtuoso Jazz Trio' led by George Macdonald (Clarinet).

Then on **Wednesday 12th February** there will be the Annual Lunchtime Concert by Musicians from KEVI Music Department including the Chamber Choir.

All concerts run from 12.30 to 1.30 pm and tickets cost £3 at the door. Doors are open at Noon. Tea & Coffee is available in the South Transept of the Church. Further details of the Winter – Spring Series will be posted on the Vestibule & Hall Noticeboards early in the New Year.

Buy or Borrow Book & Jigsaw Library

Again, our grateful thanks to all those who continue to bring **paperback** books (only paperbacks please) and jigsaws enabling us to refresh the shelves and update the library. Please keep them coming as the Library is ever in need of both up-to-date books and jigsaws. More importantly keep borrowing or buying !!! This continues to be a steady regular income for the Church so many thanks to those who do borrow or buy.

Other Diary Dates

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December – Third Annual Christmas Tree Festival at St George's in aid of The Multiple Sclerosis Research and Relief Fund. Church open during the day on Friday 6th for schools and groups and on Saturday 7th for the general public.

There will also be a special opening event with free entry, attended by The Mayor, on the Friday evening at 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. with music by The Mid-Northumberland Chorus, Emma Straughan (Oboe) and Ken Irvine (Piano) and a second choir from Heaton, Newcastle, with wine, mince pies and an opportunity to donate to MSRRF. All are welcome to support this event.

Many Thanks to those who have volunteered to steward during these two days or to help with setting up the Church and stripping the trees.

As per last year, some trees will be retained, together with our own Church decorations, to grace our Joint Nativity Service with Morpeth Methodist Church at 10.30 am on Sunday Dec 15th and at our Community Carol Service on the following evening Monday Dec 16th

Saturday 7th December at 10.00 am - Noon in the Hall upstairs, St George's Ladies Coffee Club Coffee Morning and Sale of Christmas Decorative items.

Monday 9th December at 6.30 pm The Annual Life Remembered Service is being held in St George's.

Saturday 14th December at 7.30 pm The Mid-Northumberland Chorus presents "Christmas Joy", its Annual Christmas Concert with Carols and other seasonal music. Admission £7.00 at door or Tickets from Choir Members including Jared & Margaret Johnson, Andrew and Suzanne Hamnett.

Monday 16th December at 6.30 pm Annual Community Carol Service for all attended by the Mayor.

2020

Saturday 11th January at 10.00 am until Noon. Coffee Morning with sale of 'overbought' Christmas items. Tea, Coffee and home-made scones. Free entry. Lift available.

Saturday January 25th Proposed Musical Evening presented by David Hedley (Oboe) and Friends. Details to follow early in the New Year.

Wordsearch for December

Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah Broken
Heart Freedom

Darkness Favour
Prisoners Comfort

Mourn Bestow
Crown Beauty Ashes

Son God Jesus
Seen Father Whoever

Longing thousand

Solution on page 19



Help someone who is lonely this Christmas...

Take time out to talk
Call on them
Give a neighbour a card
Having a party? Invite someone who you think may be lonely
Pray for people who may be lonely.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



Ethical Christmas presents

How much damage to the earth will we manage to do this Christmas? Those hundreds of millions of presents we are going to buy come from somewhere – usually raw resources. Are the presents worth the strain on our already struggling planet? Here are some alternative presents, that are eco-friendly, useful, and fairly traded.

Christian Aid (christianaid.org.uk/christmaspresents) invites supporters to send them a donation, and in return, they will send a 'lively' personalised card to your friend or relations, describing the gift you have chosen to give on their behalf.

Send a Cow (sendacow.org/gifts) also invites supporters to send a donation for a range of practical gifts, for use in helping people from Ethiopia to Zambia. Traidcraft (traidcraftshop.co.uk) offers everything from bamboo tights to clocks to food and cosmetics.

WaterAid (shop.wateraid.org) provides sanitation equipment (such as taps to promote hand washing) to villages in Africa, Asia or Central America. The person you nominate will receive a card to let them know this has been done in their name.

World Vision (musthavegifts.org) offers you the choice of sending various specific items from mosquito nets to garden tools, all of which they say are specifically asked for and needed.

With WWF (wwf.org.uk) you can adopt a wild animal, from a dolphin to an orang-utan. WWF will send your nominated person an adoption certificate and even cuddly toy.



We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!

Biscuit

As we were putting out biscuits for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, one fell on the floor. When I picked it up and placed it back on the plate, my four-year-old was horrified. "You can't do that!" "Don't worry," I assured him. "Father Christmas will never know." He shot me a suspicious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the biscuit fell on the floor?"

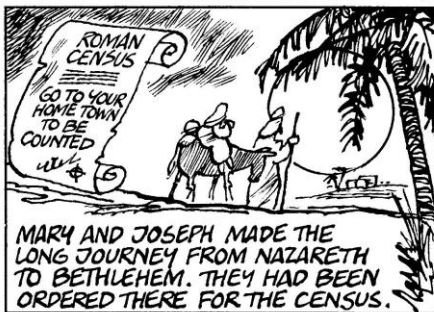
A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

Will you get a 'thanks' for your Christmas presents?

After Christmas, what? Just blank silence? Or a 'thank-you' note for that gift? A survey by the insurers Ecclesiastical has found that 60 per cent of 25-to-34-year-olds said they would NOT write a thank-you note because they found writing uncomfortable, or were embarrassed by their handwriting, spelling or grammar, or just did not know what to say. It seems that saying 'thank you' can be the hardest word for many in this age-group. Yet people who receive written thank you notes for their gifts say that the letters make them so much happier for having gone to the trouble of choosing and sending a gift. And even a personal 'thank-you' via social media is much welcomed.

'Thank You' letters

The following letters have been received.

Thank you for your recent donation of money and food from your Harvest festival Collection from everyone involved – it is very much appreciated.

It is very encouraging to know that the work we do is supported by so many local individuals and organisation.

During the last year the Food Bank provided in excess of 19,000 person days of food to referred clients and demand has continued to increase significantly since then.

Your support ensures that we can continue to meet the needs of people who find themselves facing hardship.

Linda Fugill, Project Manager, **Wansbeck Valley Food Bank**

I write on behalf of Sanctuary Network Morpeth to thank the members of St George's Church for your donation of £500 to support our work with local asylum-seeking refugees.

There are now over 200 people in this situation, mainly living in Ashington and Blyth. We work in partnership with The County of Sanctuary Movement and the British Red Cross to meet the needs of these people by providing simple things that we all take for granted but they can't afford on an income of £37.75 per week.

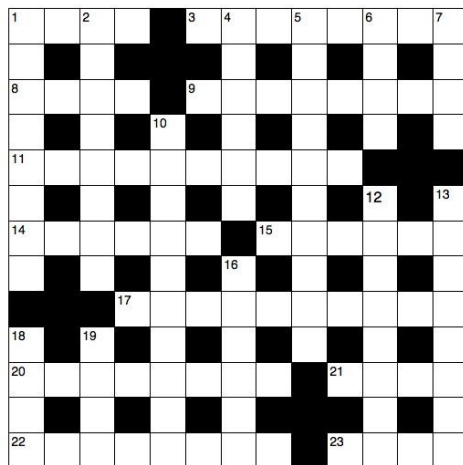
Thank you.

Lilian Nelson, Treasurer, **Sanctuary Network Morpeth**

Crossword for December

Across: 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4) 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8) 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4) 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8) 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10) 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6) 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6) 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10) 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8) 21 Rite (anag.) (4) 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8) 23 'The eye cannot say to the —, "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4).

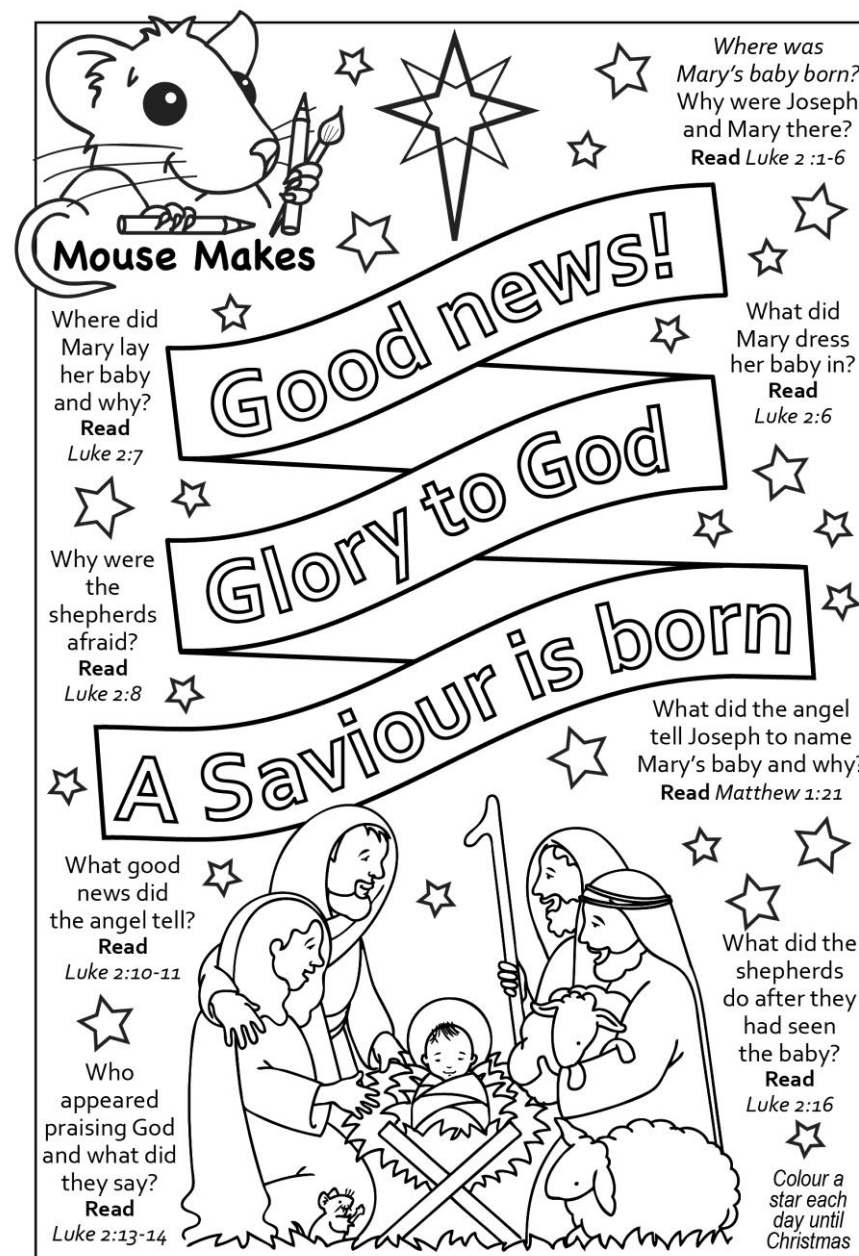
Down: 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — —, and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4) 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4) 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6) 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10) 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4) 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4) 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10) 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8) 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8) 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —' (Acts 7:22) (6) 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4) 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4). *Solution on page 19*



Knitter, Natter, Crafts & Chatter Coffee Group

The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12noon in the Drysdale room (entry by the **front** door). We aim to enjoy each others company whilst drinking tea/coffee, sharing projects for church or charity, or doing our own projects. Anyone is welcome to drop in just for a cup of coffee.

Contact: Joan Cooper, Tel: 515682



Stamps

At the beginning of November I took 1.3kg of stamps to St Oswald's Hospice shop. As usual, they were very grateful. Please keep on collecting stamps, particularly over the Christmas period when they are much more numerous.

Thank you, **David Calcraft**



GREAT BAVINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services

During the winter (November to March), services will continue to be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, at 6.30pm

Sunday 1 December, 6.30pm

Sunday 15 December, 6.30pm, Carol Service

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December: mince pies etc at 6.00pm followed by carols and Christmas readings at 6.30pm. Cash collection for the People's Kitchen.

History Night

Wednesday 18 December, 7.30pm

Christmas Film Night

"It's a Wonderful Life"

Tuesday 10 December, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

SOLUTIONS:

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4	5	3	6	8	1	7	2	9

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E	R	E	H	T	A	F	S	R	E	N	W

ACROSS: 1, Lane. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

Winter Solstice: 21st December

January:

Services

Sunday 5 January, 6.30pm, Communion

Sunday 19 January, 6.30pm

History Night

Wednesday 15 January, 7.30pm

Film Night

Film t.b.a

Tuesday 9 January, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Further information on all of the

above: bavingtonchurch@gmail.com , 01830 540350



WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER

During December and January please pray for:

People in war zones, especially the Kurds in northern Syria

Victims of natural disasters

Our country

The refugee families being settled in the county, and those who help them

The work of relief agencies

Those who are lonely at Christmas

Those who provide Christmas meals for the lonely and homeless

People in care homes

Anyone who is recently bereaved

Your neighbours

Your family

27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day, and marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz -Birkenau. Pray for the remaining survivors of the concentration camps and for victims and survivors of subsequent genocides. Pray for an end to anti-Semitism and ethnic cleansing

"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 20th of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue. December/January and June/July are usually double issues.

Flowers: Arranged in December by Fiona and in January and February by Kathleen.. The Christmas tree will go up on Saturday 14th December, and we will complete the decorations on Saturday 21st. Times on both days still to be decided.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. (Some of our EF members only shop with retailers who are in the scheme!) 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. Please talk to Fiona about it soon. We have raised over £235 so far with just eight members, and we've just received payment of £20.19 covering July to September. As they say, every little helps!

Recent fund raising: No new fund raising to report this month

Don't forget that **Advent Sunday** (December 1st) is the time we bring our gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute. Gifts (for children or adults) should not be wrapped, but additional donations of wrapping paper would be appreciated. You may prefer to give a cash donation.

The Church Christmas Meal is at Warkworth House on Wednesday December 4th (6.30 for 7.00). You should already have booked your meal by the time you read this.

Liv and Darin Walden are hosting a Christmas At Home on Saturday 14th December from 7.00pm

In January we have the Ceilidh on Saturday 25th. Meal (including the traditional haggis, tatties and neeps) at 7.00pm, followed by dancing to St George's Ceilidh Band, called in his inimitable style by Jared Johnson. Tickets £8.00 for adults, £4.00 for children.

Also in January we will be planning out social events for the year. This is on Tuesday 14th st 7.00 pm at Cook's Hemmel. We will ene with a pooled supper. Everyone is welcome, but if you have a good idea for a new event or are particularly keen that we keep one of our regulars, and you can't come, please speak to one of the elders.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets at a variety of coffee shops in the area. 10.30am.
In December we will be back at Warkworth House, and in January we are planning on going to the Coquet Tea Room in Amble.

1st Wednesday: The Prayer Group meets at 7.00pm, usually at Cook's Hemmel.
All are welcome. Please note. January Prayer Group in on January 1st, and we are going to Liv's

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. If you take pictures at any event please post them as a guest (but remember to get permission of any people on your photos and particularly from the parents of any children before you post) The page now has over 100 (102, actually) likes, with another 5 people 'following' !

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 17 page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!

The website is at: **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 the can post pictures would be good!

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The Advent Course continues at Widdy Welcomes for three more Tuesdays. The subject is Angels, and there will be two sessions each week: 1.30 pm and 7.00pm
The Big Sing for Christian Aid will be on Saturday December 7th from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Hopefully you will have received the Christmas Leaflet detailing all the services and other events. There will be a craft session at Widdy Welcomes on December 14th from 10am to 12noon.

In January we have the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The main service will be in our church on January 19th, and will combine our Communion service with the Methodist Covenant Service. Rev'd Joanna Dobson will be preaching.

Also in January we have our Churches Together planning meeting on Tuesday 7th, 7.30 at Widdy Welcomes. Anybody who is interested in ecumenical relations is welcome to attend.

FEM

St George's Diary Dates for December

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship, Toy Service and Church Parade. First in Advent, with Orchestra
Wed 4th	12.30pm 2.00pm	Lunchtime Concert (doors open at noon) Tree Festival setting up
Thurs 5th		Receiving & Setting up of trees
Fri 6th	All Day 7.00pm	Tree Festival in aid of MS Research & Relief Fund – children & residential homes visiting Free Evening Official Opening Event.
Sat 7th	10.00am	Tree Festival open to the public.
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Mon 9th	6.30pm	Life Remembered Service
Wed 11th	12.30pm 6.30pm	Midweek Service Mid Northumberland Chorus Rehearsal
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Mid Northumberland Chorus Christmas Concert
Sun 15th	10.30am 3.30pm 6.00pm	Joint Nativity Service with MMC at SGURC Cradle Roll Service Joint Carol Service with MMC at MMC
Mon 16th	6.30pm	Community Carol Service
Wed 18th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tues 24th	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Wed 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Worship
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship
The Table Tennis Club meet every Saturday from 10am – 12noon		

Stewards Duties for Dec

Dec 1	G. Irvine, Ted LeGrice, J. Calcraft, B. Gunn, Lis Elders
8	H. Muckle, J. Muckle, C. Oakes, J. Evans, L. Nelson
15	S. Cleverley, A.Cleverley, J. Calcraft, I. Mills Laurence B-H
22	S. Cleverley, G. Slack, Howe, G. Irvine, A.Cleverley
29	H. Muckle, J. Muckle, C. Oakes, B. Gunn, P. Hills

Flower Rota for December January

1	Joan Landels	5	Anne Crombie
8	Church	12	Barbara Gunn
15	Decorations	17	Vivien Bennett
22	For	26	Patricia Gatherum
29	Christmas	Rep	Margaret Finnie 514186



St George's Provisional Diary for January 2020

Wed 1 st	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 8 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Thu 9 th	7.00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat 11 th	10am - noon	Managers Coffee Morning
Sat 11 th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 12 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 15 th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert - Virtuoso Jazz Trio
Sat 18 th		Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun 19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tues 21 st	3.00pm	Ladies Coffee Club, Drysdale Room Rhona Dunn - Contact
Wed 22 nd	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 26 th	10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship with Orchestra Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
Wed 29 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Thu 30 th	2.00pm	Tea-Time Talk

St George's Steward Duties for January

Jan 5	K. Howe, G. Irvine. B. Gunn, J. Evans, G. Slack
12	S. Cleverley, L. Nelson, J. Calcraft, Lis Elders, A. Cleverley
19	H. Muckle, J. Muckle, I. Mills, K. Howe, C. Oakes
26	Ted LeGrice, S.Cleverley ,P. Hills, A. Cleverley, Laurence B-H

Widdrington Calendar

December		
Sun 1st	10.45am	M. Rogers
Tues 3rd	10.30am	Coffee Club: Warkworth House
Wed 4th	6.30pm for 7.00pm	Church Christmas Meal: Warkworth House
Sat 7th	10am - noon	Big Sing for Christian Aid: Community Centre
Sun 8th	10.45am	Worship Group
Wed 11th	7.00pm	Prayer Group: Cook's Hemmel
Sat 14th	10am – noon TBA 7.00pm	Christmas Crafts: Angels at Widdy Welcomes. Christmas Tree up in church Open House at the Walden's
Sun 15th	10.45am	Revd Julian Sanders
Sat 21st	TBA 6.00pm	Christmas Decorations in church Nativity video at Cook's Hemmel: pooled supper
Sun 22nd	10.45am	E. Brown
Tues 24th	6.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Wed 25th	10.45am	Christmas Day Service
Sun 29th	10.45am	Carol Service: Worship Group
January		
Wed 1st	7.00pm	Prayer Group at Liv's
Sun 5th	10.45am	Golightly
Tues 7th	10.30am 7.30pm	Coffee Club: Coquet Tea Room, Amble (tbc) Churches Together; Widdy Welcomes
Sun 12th	10.45am	Clive Kemp
Tues 14th	7.00pm	Social programme planning: Cook's Hemmel: Pooled supper
Sun 19th	10.45am	Week of Prayer United Service at WURC. Revd Julian Sanders
Wed 22nd	12.00 noon	Week of Prayer Midday Worship, Revd Lynda Coulter. Followed by soup & bread
Fri 24th	7.00pm	Week of Prayer, Evening Prayer. Revd Julian Sanders
Sun 26th	10.45am	E. Brown
February		
Sunday 2nd	10.45am	Worship Group
Tuesday 4th	10.30am	Coffee Club :TBA
Wed 6th	7.00pm	Prayer Group: Cook's Hemmel

Widdrington Rota

Date	Vestry	Door and Offertory
1-12-19	Tom Whinham	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
8-12-19	Fiona Middlemist	Liv and Hannah Walden
15-12-19	Diana Hogg	Kathleen Bailey Judith Hart
22-12-19	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Margaret Scott
29-12-19	Tom Whinham	Ena Whinham Audrey Grieves
05-01-20	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
12-01-20	Fiona Middlemist	Liv and Hannah Walden
19-01-20	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Margaret Scott
26-01-20	Tom Whinham	Kathleen Bailey Judith Hart
02-02-20	Diana Hogg	Ena Whinham Audrey Grieves