

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



February  
2022

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

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

Wed 2nd	12.30pm	WOW midweek service
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 9th	12.30pm	WOW midweek Service
Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert – doors open at noon
Sun 20th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Mon 21st	7.00pm	Elders Meeting
Wed 23rd	12.30pm	WOW midweek Service
Sun 27th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Orchestra

### Steward's Duty Rota

<b>Sun 6th</b>	Joan Cooper and Christine Oakes
<b>Sun 13th</b>	Karen Howe and Katherine Smailes
<b>Sun 20th</b>	Gordon Slack and Christine Hawkins
<b>Sun 27th</b>	Sarah Cleverley and Madeline Cleverley

### Flower Rota

<b>Sun 6th</b>	See Notice Board
<b>Sun 13th</b>	See Notice Board
<b>Sun 20th</b>	Moira Mann
<b>Sun 27th</b>	See Notice Board



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

**The deadline is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

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>Yoga for All:</b> 1.00-2.30pm Karen Bell bluevalleyyoga@talktalk.net	07713629477
	<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 <b>zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</b>	
<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 <b>zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</b>	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Table Tennis:</b> 10.30 – 12.30 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 Sanders

Dear Friends,

I'm not one much for birthstones, or crystals- but I notice that February is indeed a month that has Amethyst as its birthstone. My wife Louise has an Amethyst in her engagement ring, because she tells me she preferred the purple colour than the green of Peridot which is her birthstone. Roman women treasured the Amethyst because they believed it would keep their husbands faithful – perhaps that's the real reason for her choice of engagement ring!

But it's the stones popularity amongst drinkers that gave the stone its name. It was traditionally believed that placing an amethyst in your drink (not recommended on health and safety grounds) would prevent intoxication, so you could drink as much as you like and never get drunk. The name comes from the Greek word *amethystos* which means 'not drunken'. As Louise claims she has *never* been drunk...perhaps that's the real reasons for her choice of stone in her jewellery.

The Amethyst is mentioned on two occasions in the Bible and is also steeped in religious significance. In the Old Testament it is believed to be the stone that the Jewish people called *achlamah*. It is thought to have derived from the root *chalam*, meaning to dream, and thus the Amethyst is sometimes referred to as the "dream-stone". The *achlamah* was one of the twelve precious stones that was used to decorate the breastplate of the priests in the Old Testament. The Amethyst was also the 12<sup>th</sup> precious stone that was used to decorate the foundations of the new heavenly city detailed in Revelation.

Of all the precious stones mentioned, it is the Amethyst that continues to be significant in clerical dress today. It is the stone worn in the rings of Bishops, and the Moderator of General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as a symbol of trust, piety, humility, sincerity and spiritual wisdom. Perhaps originating from the same Roman traditions that believed in its fidelity, and the Greek traditions that believed in its sobriety.

It surely can't be for aesthetic reasons that the Amethyst's colour purple is seen in the other clerical garments of bishops. In the Middle Ages, the purple colour of the Amethyst is traditionally believed to be formed by the red of Christ's blood. And the purple colour of priestly vestments a mixture of red, symbolising Christ's blood, with blue, symbolising the Law. The Amethyst truly can be seen as a symbol of royal priesthood.

Perhaps Louise's wearing of an Amethyst ring is a reminder to us all that we are all part of God's holy priesthood called to live lives of fidelity and sobriety. As it says in the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of Peter:

"...you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9

With every blessing, **Julian**

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers February 2022

It has been agreed by the elders that we are now in a position to resume our regular weekly collections of food, toiletries and cleaning products for the refugees and asylum seekers. A box will be left in the vestibule for donations as previously.

West End Refugee Service

A useful summary of the charitable objective of WERS can be found in the recent Annual Report. It is described as being "to provide help and support to refugees and asylum seekers in Newcastle upon Tyne and the surrounding area. WERS' range of integrated services aims to address the social exclusion, poverty, disadvantage, and poor physical and mental health which affect refugees and asylum seekers. All services ultimately aim to help the people we support to take back control and rebuild their lives here."

They are currently open for their drop in sessions twice a week and are running their Skillsmatch project with a range of rewarding volunteering opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers. They also have garden days which not only include gardening but also outdoor cookouts and yoga, and in conjunction with the Baltic have made a mural which will be going up in the garden.

WERS regularly expresses its gratitude to its supporters and recently posted the following message:-

"We would like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support during an extremely difficult year for everyone. All your compassion has made the biggest difference in the lives of our service users."

### Justice and Peace Project

This month I think it is appropriate to quote directly from the monthly update received from Sara Harris at Justice and Peace. Sara says

"As we start 2022 it is timely to look back and reflect on what the Justice and Peace Refugee Project has been able to achieve because of your help and support during the past year. While 2021 has been a very difficult one, the Project has still been able to:

- Distribute over 7,300 bags of food and toiletries – with a value of at least £36,500
- Provide over £40,000 of supermarket vouchers to those who are most in need
- Directly support over 300 clients each month and indirectly supporting a large numbers of babies and children in these families.

Although we can put a monetary value on some of the things we offer, it is impossible to quantify the value of a warm welcome, a listening ear and the kindness shown by volunteers at the project to those we serve. Not a session goes by without gratitude and appreciation being demonstrated in abundance by those who visit the project and leave feeling that people really care.

Notwithstanding the latest Covid challenges, we hope to continue to develop the project in the New Year including by:

- Reintroducing English lessons as early as we can in 2022 – we already have over 30 clients signed up for these.
- Increasing involvement with parishes and engaging with more schools.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss how you can be involved."

Sara also asks for donations of:-

- Warm winter clothing (especially men's coats)
- Men's boots and trainers (all sizes)
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Umbrellas
- Rucksacks
- Warm blankets

Currently because of lack of storage space they are unable to accept other items for the clothing store.

**Margaret Brock**

**World Day of Prayer 2022 March 4th  
St James's Church Morpeth 2pm**

Title "I know the plans I have for you"

Prepared by the WDP Committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Organised in Morpeth by an interdenominational WDP committee.

Singers and instrumentalists are invited to join this friendly and lively group.

Rehearsals Friday 18th and 25th February at 11 pm  
Friday March 4th at 10am.

Please contact Christine Oakes if interested (even though you may not be able to come to all the practices)

**Email: oakescm@yahoo.co.uk**

**St George's URC Flower Committee**

The Flower List for 2022 is up in the vestibule and there are several 'blank' weeks so far in the calendar. If you would like to sign up to donate flowers for any reason - perhaps a special anniversary - please put your name on the list. When the date comes round, you will be contacted by the Committee member for that month to make the necessary arrangements. Some people prefer to remain anonymous and have very kindly donated money to be used if there is no-one on the list. My thanks to everyone concerned. During 2021, especially when we were closed, we still tried to distribute flowers as best we could. We were able to give flowers on behalf of the church to celebrate several special Birthdays. I apologise if we missed anyone; but of course, it is difficult if we weren't aware - particularly if someone was ill or about to celebrate a milestone occasion. On that subject, if you do know of anyone in that category, please alert the Committee Member for that month, or me and we will try to sort something out. I would like to thank everyone for their support in 2021 and look forward to yours in 2022. May we all wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

***Dorothy Luke, Convenor, Flower Committee.***

**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 knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

**St George's Ladies Coffee Club**

Our January meeting was cancelled due to concern about the high levels of COVID infections in Northumberland.

Our February meeting will be held in church on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. There will be a speaker at this meeting followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

New members and guests are always welcome to our meetings.

Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator 515257

**Ladies Coffee Club**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Event**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the above which was our first event since February 2020.

We had 2 raffles, a chance to win one of 4 hampers and the other to win a beautiful Christmas cake. The Knitter Natter group were selling Christmas goods, a stall selling beautiful floral table decorations and a chance to buy home made jams and chutneys. Refreshments of mince pies, coffee and tea, were also served. We raised a total of £771 including donations of £100 and thank everyone who helped in any way. It really was wonderful to be able to get together again after so many months of lockdown and restrictions.

Many thanks

***Linda Glascott (treasurer) & Sarah Cleverley (Co-ordinator)***





## Christmas Angels

Once more I have been overwhelmed by the number of Angels that were dispatched in the name of St George's Church during Christmas week, 763 in total.

There were lots of findings reported on Facebook and by word of mouth and email. All were very positive. People just love to find them. Some people, who found more than one, gave the others to friends and neighbours.

A big thank you to all who were involved. Knitters, baggers and taggers and distributors without you all it would not happen.

Once again a huge thank you to the staff in Rooke Matthew Sayers who did sterling work by receiving, bagging and tagging over 300 for us. They really enjoyed doing it. Thank you to everyone involved.

**Patricia Gatherum in Angel Central.**

## Word search for February

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine Rose Romance  
Love Present Restaurant  
Hearts Kiss hug girlfriend  
Boyfriend fiancé worship  
Repentance angels baby  
Temple Mary Candlemas  
presentation

*Solution on page 20*

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

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.



## The Patchwork of Worship - musings from a Gathering of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders at Hauxley November 2021

Here is a square of plain cream calico -  
the simple believer, unadorned by liturgy.

Another piece is patterned, rich in colour and texture –  
members who bring their artistry in flowers, in music and in words.

An old, faded square has lost its colours and design,  
it's thin with threads barely holding together  
like some of our faith, fraying with uncertainty  
and in need of new strength,  
new backing to be sewn with care.

Look, here a new shiny, shimmering silk gleams in hope  
as a star, beckoning us to look beyond the 'now'  
towards the future.

And here an earthy tweed in purples, browns and greens  
recalls us to the Earth, our home and charge from God

A sturdy strip of striped utilitarian weave  
resists the pull of squares around it -  
like so many of us, resisting change and weighted down  
with habits, fear and rules.

And all these stitched and restitched  
with that golden thread, the living Gospel,  
passed from generation to generation  
from worship leaders, preachers and ministers  
to others yet to come.

Each will add their stitches,  
some big, some small, some rough, some neat,  
to spread this patchwork quilt of worship.

We sew not only to comfort and to warm  
but to ensure that all who come can feel its touch  
in this, God's Touching Place .....

... where there is no finishing border, no edge, no end.

*Patti Budd*

*Submitted by Margery Tate*

**Lunchtime Concerts  
Winter-Spring Series 2022**

Please note the change of artist for our next concert. KEVI School Chamber Choir & Soloists were to have performed but very much regret that they are unable to do so in the current circumstances. Alistair Anderson has very kindly offered to step in at short notice.

**16<sup>th</sup> February**

A return visit by **Alistair Anderson**

Folk Music for English Concertina & Northumbrian Small Pipes

Please note that admission for this concert is **£4.00**

**16<sup>th</sup> March**

**The Grainger Singers**

Again, a return visit by this local choral group

Please note that admission for this concert is **£4.00**

**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 Charity 'Henry Dancer Days'

Please note that admission for this concert is **£5.00**

If you would like to support Iona with this charity initiative, any further donations will also be very gratefully received.

**Gillian & Ken Irvine**

**Wednesday Morning Badminton Club**

Wednesday Morning Badminton Club will restart on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. We meet at 9.30 in the church hall and play until about 11am.

If interested in joining the group please contact Sarah Cleverley telephone 515257

***Sarah Cleverley***

**BOWLING AT ST GEORGE'S**

I am glad to report that Carpet Bowls is still taking place at St George's every Wednesday afternoon in the Hall but I am disappointed that I can no longer tell you about the triumphs of St George's in matches against our old opponents and friends from Alnwick and Warkworth, Forest Hall and R.S.M.

Sadly we had to abandon the Evening Bowls because of lack of numbers. Several of the former Evening Bowlers were unable to play in the afternoons due to other commitments.

We currently have 27 members with an average attendance of 17 people per week who come for gentle bowling and good fellowship.

The Club has been able to donate £500 to St George's from membership fees etc., together with £125 which was the residue of funds remaining in the former Afternoon Bowls Club.

We are sad to report the death of Chris Hills during the year. Chris was a stalwart of the Evening bowls, a former treasurer and enthusiastic writer of match reports. Our thoughts go out to Pat and the family.

***Andy Cleverley***

**More church bulletin bloopers**

The youth group has raised almost \$500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is invited to join in this lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'



## With Valentine's Day in mind...

### The Rules of Marriage

Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

*How do you decide who to marry?*

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

- Kirsten, age 10

*What is the right age to get married?*

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then.

- Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married.

- Freddie, age 6

*How can a stranger tell if two people are married?*

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

*What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?*

Both don't want any more kids.

- Lori, age 8

*What do most people do on a date?*

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other.

Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them

interested enough to go for a second date.

- Martin, age 10

*What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?*

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and

make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.

- Craig, age 9

*When is it okay to kiss someone?*

The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.

- Curt, age 7

If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's

the right thing to do.

- Howard, age 8

*Is it better to be single or married?*

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up

after them.

- Anita, age 9

And the #1 Favourite is.....

*How would you make a marriage work?*

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry.

- Ricky, age 10

## Sudoku Solution on page 20

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

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### Those who want to get married...

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

### Say it with flowers...

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused.

"How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

### Called...

An ineffective vicar was asked by his exasperated bishop what had first prompted him to even enter the ministry.

"I was called," the vicar replied simply. "Are you sure," pondered the bishop, "that it was not some other voice you heard?"

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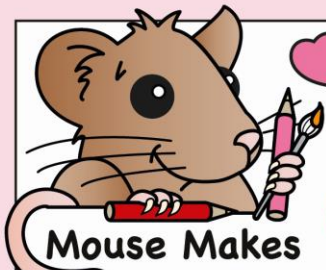
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## Mouse Makes

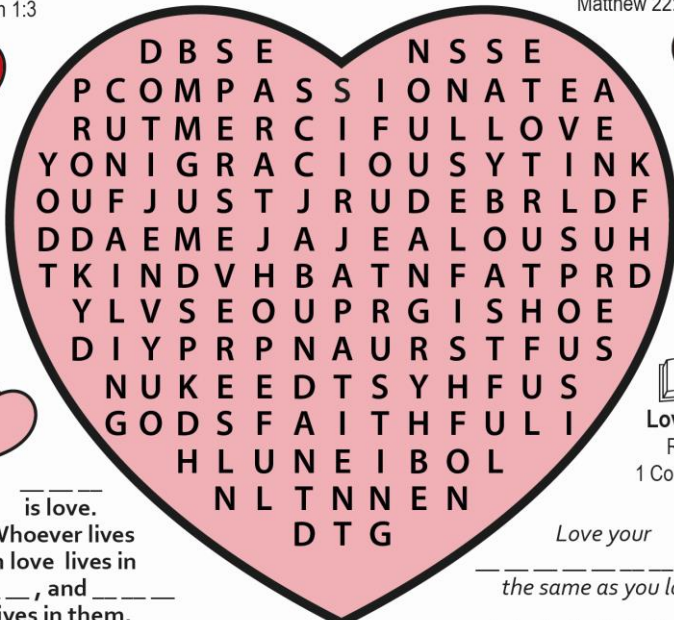
Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
 ...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Psalm 86:1

How did God show He **loved** us?  
 Read 1 John 4:9

1 John 1:3

Love the Lord your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 and with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 Matthew 22:37

Love is ..  
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7



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

\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
 Whoever lives in love lives in \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.  
 1 John 4:16

**Love is:**  
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

**Love is not:**  
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

**God's love is:**  
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

Love your \_\_\_\_\_  
 the same as you love  
 Matthew 22:39

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## Report on the search for a new minister

*From a church council:* We are still looking for a suitable candidate, and sadly the Bible doesn't provide any role models whom we would really want in our church. For example:

- Adam:** Good man but had problems with his wife. Also, we hear that he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods.
- Noah:** Former pastorate of 120 years, yet with no converts. Also, prone to unrealistic building projects.
- Abraham:** Twice offered to share his own wife with another man.
- Joseph:** Obsessed with the meaning of dreams, plus he had a prison record.
- Moses:** Modest, but a poor communicator, and even stuttered at times. Moreover, he had a temper, and there were rumours he left an earlier church over a murder charge.
- David:** Very promising leader, except that he wrote poetry, and then had an affair with his neighbour's wife.
- Solomon:** We suspect he was a bit of a wise guy, and anyway our parsonage would never hold all those wives.
- Elijah:** Prone to depression, and he set things on fire.
- Deborah:** Played the tambourine, so not at all suitable for us.
- Jeremiah:** An alarmist, always lamenting things. Plus, he buried his underwear outside.
- Isaiah:** Claimed to have seen angels flying in the church.
- Jonah:** Says God had him swallowed up by a great fish, and that later it spit him out on the shore near here because he was called to ministry. We hung up.
- John:** Said he was a Baptist, but he doesn't dress like any Baptists we know. Has slept outside, eats a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.
- Peter:** Too blue collar, and too impetuous. Had also been known to curse.
- Paul:** Powerful message, and people responded to him, but he had been known to preach all night. That would never do for us.
- Judas:** Seems to have been a steady plodder, with excellent connections. Knew how to handle money. We're inviting someone like him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

## February Crossword

**Across: 1** 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6) **4** 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)

**7** The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4) **8** He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)

**9** Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8) **13** Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3) **16** What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

**17** Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1) **19** 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3) **24** Simon had (anag.) (8) **25** Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4) **26** Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6) **27** The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

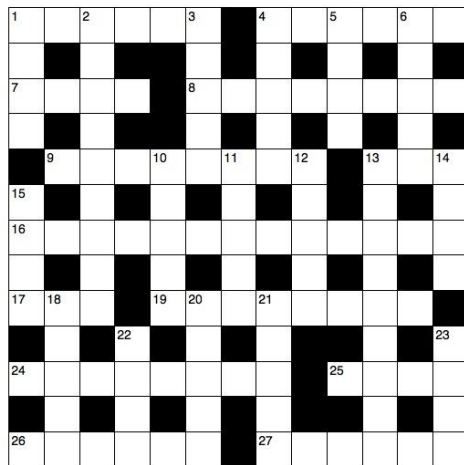
**Down: 1** 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4) **2** Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

**3** 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5) **4** Belief (5) **5** 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant —' (Exodus 30:23) (4) **6** 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5) **10** A seer (anag.) (5) **11** 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5) **12** The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)

**13** A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9) **14** Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of **16** Across, — and Dolls (4) **15** The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4) **18** 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)

**20** 'Today, if you hear his —, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5) **21** The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5) **22** 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

**23** 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4). *Solution on page 20*



*Nigel Beeton writes: 70 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1952, the first TV detector vans rolled onto our streets, in an effort to increase the ratio of those paying their licence fee to those who forgot, or didn't bother. I haven't seen one for years, but I remember them when I was a boy, ordinary looking vans with an array of aerials on the roof, and Mum always kept the licence to hand, in case they knocked at the door (which, of course, they never did!):*

## The TV Detector Van

Deep in the suburbs something stirs  
Within a van, a motor purrs  
And rattles, clunks, beeps and whirrs  
As it performs a scan.

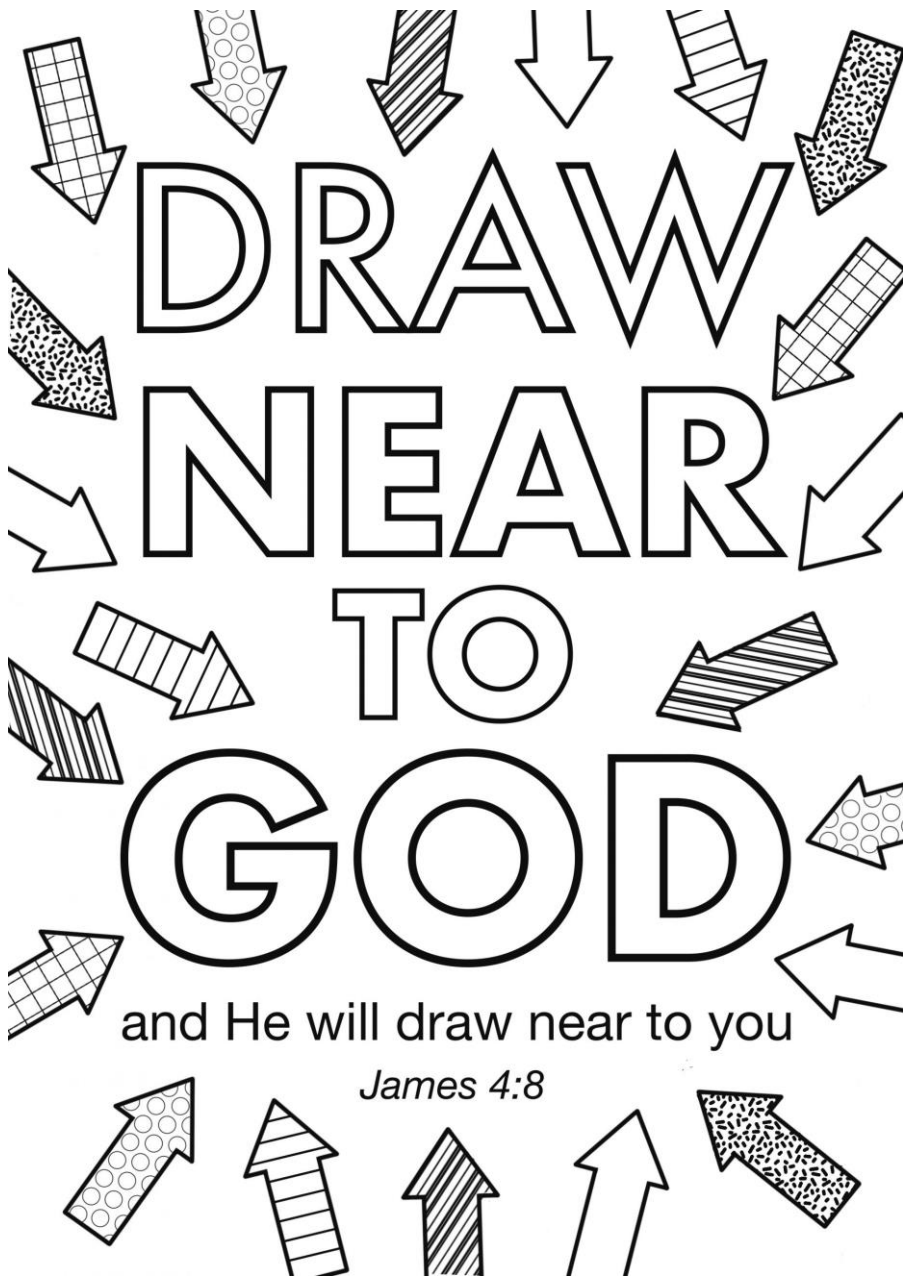
A worker sits alone, unseen  
Peering at a flick'ring screen  
He will know what it may mean –  
The TV detector man!

Within a house, without a care  
A couple sit and gaze and stare  
At their TV – but what's out there?  
A TV detector van!  
For, in their hall, unopened, laid  
Their licence bill, unseen, unpaid  
No licence payment have they made!  
Though that was not their plan.

They just forgot, so easy done!  
The TV shows, they are such fun!  
The doorbell rings, and their stands one  
TV detector man!  
No place to run, no place to hide!  
The TV still is on inside!  
They'd left themselves so open wide  
To the TV detector van.



*By Nigel Beeton*



#### SOLUTIONS:

**CROSSWORD. ACROSS:** 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

**DOWN:** 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

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

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

It was 65 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 1957 that the Toddlers' Truce was abolished in Britain. During the Truce, television admissions closed down for an hour so that young children could be put to bed. Children's programming ended at 6pm and adult programming began at 7pm.

**Why you should do housework....**Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties. Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced. The study, published in *BMJ Open*, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, "was associated with higher cognitive function" among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.



## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

*Here is the news from Great Bavington*

### Services in February

Sunday 6 February, **4.00pm**

Sunday 20 December, **4.00pm**

Rev Julian Sanders will be leading the services. He can be contacted at **sanders.julian@talk21.com** or 01670 225539.

Hopefully there will be no further Covid restrictions to alter these plans, but please check for any changes at **www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC**, or email **bavingtonchurch@gmail.com** or ring 01830 540350.

### The church is open for visitors

The church remains open for visitors during the daytime. We expect that as the days are getting longer, there will be more walkers passing by on St Oswald's Way.

### Bavington Parish Council meeting

The Parish Council will meet in the meeting room on Thursday 3 February at 7.00pm.

### Fish and Chips

Frosty's Fish and Chips comes to Great Bavington once a month - it's very good! Check for dates and times here: **https://www.facebook.com/FrostysFishAndChips/**

### Miscellaneous observations on modern life....

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.  
Humans are about 60% water. Basically, we are ice cream with anxiety.  
A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.  
Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.  
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

## Widdrington United Reformed Church

### PRAYING TOGETHER

*During February please pray for:*

Victims of genocide

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

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

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 over the past year.

The homeless

Your neighbours

As snowdrop appear pray for environment

"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 February by Kathleen, March by Fiona.

**Easy Fund Raising (Easy?)** Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund



Raising yet? If not, now would be a good time to get busy! 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. 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 £350 so far with just nine members. We got a payout of over £20.00 for the last quarter.

### **Worship:**

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

We now take up the offering within the service.

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.

For those who don't feel able to return to church, St George's services will continue to be in YouTube later in the day.

Preachers for February, along with duty rotas are on the table below.

### **Social**

On January 10th we met at Cook's Hemmel to plan this year's social programme. The year's programme was issued last month, though some events have yet to be finalised. The following events are coming soon:

**February 11th:** Domino Night in Hall. 7.00pm. Pooled supper

**March 14th:** Bowling: please let Liv know if you are going as soon as possible.

**April 3rd:** Afternoon at the Zoo: at Northumberland Zoo (Eshott Heugh) time to be confirmed. All members of the Pastorate are invited - especially if you have children. We'll need numbers for this too. Please let Diana know.

### **Regular events:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. February's venue will be the Amble Inn. 10.30am. March's venue as yet to be confirmed.

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

We have suspended Open Church on Thursdays until the alterations in the vestry are completed. We will use church notices and Facebook to let you know when we are starting again.

**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.**

The Churches Together group met on Tuesday 11th January. We reviewed Christmas in our churches and finalised arrangements for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Future events: World Day of Prayer: 4th March will be held at the URC at **2.00pm**. (We are trying an afternoon service this year. We would be interested to know if you would comedy an evening service, but couldn't come in the afternoon. Please tell Fiona.)

Lent Course on Fridays from 11th March at 2.00 pm in URC hall: 4 meetings  
The Group will meet again on 19th April at 7.30pm in URC hall.

### **FEM**

Note: Alternative Christmas Card: Diana and I contributed to Self Help Africa's Big Give Project: by doing this our donation was doubled by the Government.  
Another note: Liv is saving crisp packets to make blankets! She asks that you join her; she will let us know when she will be sending some off. (She's not making them herself!)

# Widdrington's February Rota

Preachers	Vestry	Door & Offering
<b>6th</b> Margaret Field	D Hogg	F Middlemist R Gordon
<b>13th</b> Carol Dixon	L Walden	K Bailey J Hart
<b>20th</b> Rev'd J Sanders	K Bailey	D Hogg M Scott
<b>27th</b> Margery Tate	F Middlemist	E Whinham A Grieves



February  
2022

