

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



February
2024

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

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

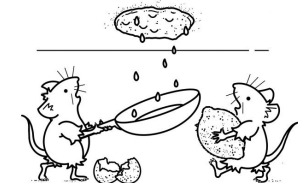
Sat 3rd	10.00am	Monthly Coffee Morning in the church with our Ukrainian friends
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Air Cadet Parade Communion Service
Wed 7th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sat 10th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Mon 12th	2.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed 14th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert by KEVI Students No WOW Service CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 21st	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 25th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship with Orchestra Evening Service
Wed 28th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Thurs 29th	2.00pm	Lent Course Commencement
Wednesday WOW Midweek Service – doors open at Noon for refreshments		

Steward's Duty Rota

4	Madeline & Sarah Cleverley
11	Christine Oakes & Karen Howe
18	Christine Hawkins & Gordon Slack
25	Gillian Irvine & Katherine Smailes

Flower Rota for February

4	See Notice Board
11	See Notice Board
18	Maureen Sutherland
25	Moiria Mann
Rep	Christine Richardson 513913



What's On at St George's

SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH

10.30 am

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



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's
covers events in March 2024

The deadline is Sunday 18th 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**

Notes by the Way February 2024 by Revd Stuart Brock

I have been intrigued of late by the number of TV programmes springing up on several channels inviting viewers to declutter and deep clean what appear to be rather untidy homes. The advice is usually offered by people who seem to have some expertise on the way to do this. They offer techniques to overcome what in some cases appears to be an inability to get started, daunted by the sheer dimensions of the problem.

For various reasons we are beginning a general clear-out and clean up in our house – what, in days gone by would have been classed as a ‘Spring-clean.’ Except it isn’t Spring yet and it is more than a clean up. Another reason for this exercise is the fact that we have just collected so much stuff in this house over the last 20 years we no longer have space to store it. Again, the necessity of making some space is also due to the fact that I am not noted for my tidiness and books and papers have a habit of taking over every available space and surface. Moreover, our four grown up children have only recently bought their own properties after years of renting so that their accumulated belongings, some still in packing boxes, can be transferred from our garage to their respective homes. But much of what needs sorting is the sheer amount of things that we have kept in case they might come in useful on some day in the future. Needless to say not much of this has happened and the hoarding instinct has won out in the battle to clear some retrievable living space. A friend of ours, a bit obsessive about tidiness has a rule that anything in her house that has not been used for two years is either handed on to someone else who can use it, or is thrown out to the skip. She is a very determined lady!

As I think about what there is to do and how much time and commitment it will entail it seems to me that there is a parable here of our living in general. We gain and then keep so much unnecessary junk, surrounding ourselves with material belongings that we think will keep us satisfied and secure for the future. They don’t necessarily do so. We need to find a way of making space for the essentials which include time for developing and renewing our faith and loving others in our families, church and community.

There is also a positive approach to clearing out. In sorting one of the boxes in the garage I came across a number of documents, photos and artefacts left by my late mother who died in 2005. These mementos included some photos from a holiday on which she had joined us. There were also one or two older pictures and letters she had received from friends at the time of my birth.

There were some of her school reports. Perhaps more surprising were that she had kept copies of school reports on myself and my brother – documents which I can remember worrying about in case they said hard things about our progress or lack of it. My mother had clearly kept almost every extant record of family life she possessed. Then there were records of Sunday School scripture exams involving about 300 children at a time, some from churches which had their own considerable numbers of children attending week by week. All of which sheds light on the past offering a glimpse of a very different era from today’s. So clearing out the debris and clutter of our lives can be a real eye opener. Treasure hides among the rubbish. It can be a stimulus to our understanding of the many ways in which God has acted in our times and our experience. It can also be the very boost we need to start the daunting task of discerning what is unimportant and what really is essential.

World Day of Prayer

Service this year to be held at St Roberts R C Church on Friday 1st March
at 1.30pm

The service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine

On the theme “I beg you, bear with one another in love”

Volunteers to participate in the choir led by Harriet Gilfillan and to join the band
are very welcome.

(Please ask Christine Oakes or Morag Stead for more information)

Rehearsals are at St. Robert's Friday 16th and Friday 23rd for choir and band at
11.15 am as well as on Friday morning 1st March.

Refugees February 2024

A New Year has dawned and still the attempts to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda continues. Still desperate people are putting their lives on the line in search of safety.

West End Refugee Project

WERS held its AGM in December. Its Annual Report referred to the challenging environment & said *"Current global conflicts & climate emergency are leading to an increased number of people seeking asylum arriving in the UK. Once here, they are met with domestic, social & political tensions. What they need is not just our compassion, but also our unwavering support."*

WERS is currently providing regular garden volunteering opportunities, drop ins, a cooking group, art & craft activities, a weekly welcome session & a women's dance group. They also have a space photography session due shortly.

Their new project, The Seven Bridges project at Dance City (Temple Street, Newcastle) has started. Here in collaboration with the Head Chef, the menu is being thoughtfully crafted and regularly updated to highlight the diverse techniques and traditions of the dedicated volunteers.

The aim is not only to showcase their rich culinary contributions but also provide a platform for them to enhance existing skills, acquire new ones, and gain valuable experience that serves as a stepping stone towards future employment opportunities. Clients who volunteer are offered 6-week placements at the café so that they can:

- gain experience of working in a professional café
- receive one to one support from the Head Chef
- access training for Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety Certificate
- introduce their favourite food to the pub.

Justice and Peace Project

J&P have recently published their latest Annual Report. In this they say they held 99 client sessions in the year to 31 July 2023 and had 3547 client visits to the centre (more than 1000 more than the previous year).

They have given out supermarket vouchers to the value of nearly £24k to destitute clients & a further £4k of vouchers at Christmas & refugee week. They have provided over £90K worth of food bags. To help fund this activity they have received nearly £50k in donations & £41k in grant funding.

David Archbald, Chair of the J&P Project Steering Group reports that *"the Tyneside area remains a major dispersal area for the Home Office and, with the low levels of Government support, plus the cost-of-living crisis, the support we offer is more important than ever."*

Effectively we find there are 3 categories of clients: there are those receiving some Home Office support whilst being accommodated in hotels, those living in flats or houses funded by the Home Office and people who have no recourse to public funds as their claim to asylum has been refused. This latter group are truly destitute and homeless."

He says *"We aim to mitigate the hostile environment often promoted by some politicians and sections of society. As Pope Francis said, we should be "accompanying and managing waves of migration as best we can, constructing bridges and not walls." The generosity of our volunteers and donors demonstrates that many people do indeed wish to build bridges, not walls, between communities."*

He goes on to say *"The project has now been in existence for over 22 years, and it seems it is needed now more than ever. Thank you for the support you have given and continue to offer. It is truly appreciated by all those who use the Project."* As ever your support for these projects is welcomed.

Margaret Brock

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

The next meeting will be on Saturday 3rd February at 10.00am

Transform
Trade

Big
Brew
2024

The Morpeth Justice and Peace Group

will be hosting a
BIG Brew coffee morning
with a
Fair Trade Stall

on
Saturday 16th March 24
from

10am - noon
in the church.

Please come and join us!

Enjoy a lovely cuppa (or two!)

Eat some delicious cake

Make a difference in the fight for justice in trade



Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's global justice programme.

Commitment for Life is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world. Commitment for Life belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support a region in the world through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice. We support the region of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

As the Israel- Hamas war continues I have included an extract from the letter sent to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak from 69 international church leaders including our Moderator, Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

"It is unacceptable that millions of people are in desperate need of clean water, adequate food, fuel for electricity, and urgently needed medical supplies... We weep with broken hearts as we hear of hospitals, mosques, churches, and schools damaged and destroyed by this war. In Gaza, there is no safe place. There is no refuge. There is no escape."

Information about "Commitment for Life" can be found on the website:- urc.org.uk/moving-stories.html

Every month we have a retiring collection for Commitment for Life on the first Sunday of the month.

In 2023 St George's Church gave £373.50 to this charity.
Please continue to give to this very worthwhile cause.

Sarah Cleverley Link Person





St Georges Coffee Club

The next meeting of the Coffee Club will be
Tuesday 20th February.

Our guest speak will be Freda Thompson
With her talk entitled

'Dickens of a Tale'

All our welcome to our meetings.
There is a small charge of £3 which includes tea or coffee
and a biscuit.

For further information contact **Sarah Cleverley – 515257** or come along to the
meeting

St. George's Knitter Natter Group

As announced in Church, our group will be supporting the
'Breast Cancer Now' Coffee Morning with a
Pink theme.

We would be pleased to accept any pink items to add
to our stall.



We are also supporting the Church coffee morning on Easter Saturday with an
Easter theme and are happy to accept items for this event.

Our knitters are also looking for double knitting wool if anyone has any don't
want. Odd balls are perfect.

Joan Cooper 01670 515682



Cartoon Page



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take
on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

*Sometimes women are overly suspicious
of their husbands. ..*

When Adam stayed out very late for a
few nights, Eve became upset. "You're
running around with other women," she
charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam
responded. "You're the only woman on
earth." The quarrel continued until
Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened
by someone poking him in the chest. It
was Eve. "What do you think you're
doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church
prayer group were visiting an
elderly friend who was ill. After a
while, they rose to leave and told
her: "We'll do what we can to
help. We promise to keep you in
our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I
can do my own praying. The thing
I can't do is the dishes in the sink
in the kitchen...."



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

ST. GEORGE'S UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH

**A 'One Off'
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

**Wed. 14th February
12.30 to 1.30pm**

**KEVI Musicians
Featuring
The Chamber Choir**

Easy listening lunchtime music

£4 admission at the door
Tea and Coffee available from Noon



Bible Bite A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day... Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?

Moses had to run away from Egypt.

He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.

One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..

You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.

No! I'd rather not do that!

It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you.

Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh.

Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.

No!

Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!

Smile
By Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile then realised its worth
A single smile just like mine could travel around the Earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

Submitted by Joan Cooper

Wordsearch 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. Romances 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 inside back page.

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

The Managers Coffee Morning which took place on Saturday 20th January raised £828.40 for the church; we all thank everyone involved for making this a great day. A breakdown on the takings can be found in the Vestibule.

Dates for your diaries:

Coffee Morning 2nd March 2024

Breast Cancer Now is a UK charity providing world-class research and life changing care for people affected by breast cancer. We have decided to hold a coffee morning on 2nd March 2024 to support this charity and hope you will support us. Their publicity materials are pink oriented so we have decided to stick with the pink theme. (We have already had a suggestion that we dye our hair pink but we currently have no plans to do so!) We will be serving tea/coffee and scones. We are also planning to have a cake stall, a raffle, tombola, and several other stalls yet to be confirmed. The knit and natter group have agreed to provide a pink stall which I'm sure will have some interesting items for sale. Junior church has agreed to get involved and other willing volunteers have already come forward, for which we are very grateful. If there are any other helpers out there, please give your name to Morag or Penny and help us to raise as much as possible for this worthwhile charity. We can't do it without you!

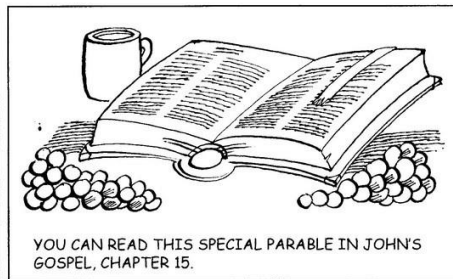
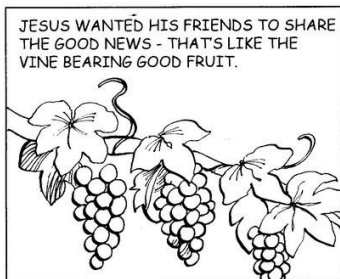
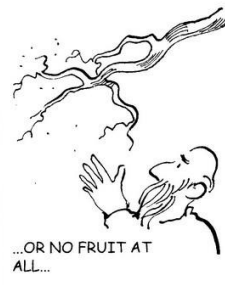
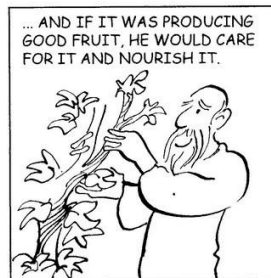
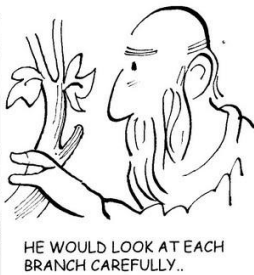
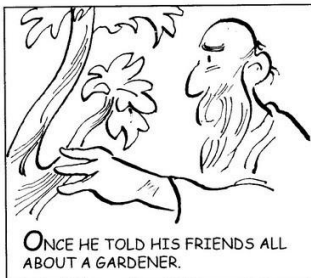
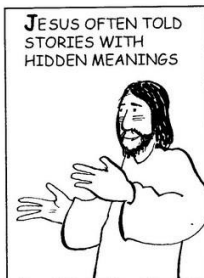
Penny Oxley and Morag Stead

The **Annual Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday 18th May. There will be more information in the March edition of the newsletter.

Tea Towels

Do you have any tea towels which are surplus to requirements at home? These would be very gratefully received to use in the church kitchens as our stock of tea towels has gone down. These can be left in the kitchens or given to Joan Cooper or Sarah Cleverley. (Housekeeping team)

The gardener and the Vine



St George's Church Morpeth

Country Dance Club

Saturdays 7.30-9.30

Feb 10th, March 9th, April 13th



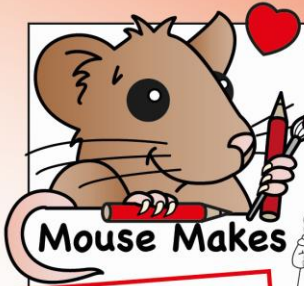
You don't need a partner. You don't need to know how to dance, Dances are explained and there is plenty time for a rest and a chat.

£2.00 for St George's Church Morpeth. Bring your own refreshments

Info from Shirley Forster 07749525269 shirlsgurc@gmail.com

+ see us in action on facebook 'Morpeth Country Dance Club'





Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____
 Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

 Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

 Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

 Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

 Matthew 1:5

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?
 _____ and _____
 Romans 16:3

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.
 NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

ABRAHAM
 ADAM • AQUILA
 BOAZ • ELKANAH
 ELIZABETH
 EVE • HANNAH
 ISAAC • JACOB
 JOSEPH • MARY
 PRISCILLA
 RACHEL
 REBEKAH • RUTH
 SARAH
 ZECHARIAH

Feb24 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff – the way children see it...

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 crisps and dip coming.

- Alan, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

- Camille, 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 eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.

- Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: 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?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out.

- Theodore, age 8
 It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

- Anita, age 9
How would the world be different if people did not get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

- Kelvin, age 8
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 for February

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Bye bye...

I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me.

Unhappy in love...

I think my girlfriend's hallucinating. She keeps telling me she's seeing other people.

Family...

Last night our wifi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

Off to the vet...

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine.

"Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."

P.R.E.S.S

TOTAL ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

- » Part & Full Rewires
- » Extra Sockets & Lights
- » Intruder Alarms
- » Security Lighting
- » Electrical Repairs-
- » Fault finding -Maintenance
- » Testing & Inspection
- » CAT 5E Data Installations
- » CCTV Systems
- » Intruder Alarms

24hr CALL OUT

No Job to Small from Extra Socket to Rewire

MORPETH

All Areas Covered

Tel Office 01670 510240 Fax 01670 513158

www.press-electrical.co.uk E-mail sales@press-electrical.co.uk

Muddy woof...

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? A Land Rover.

New Year choices

On this day between days

I pause...

To reflect, looking ahead to a new year,
looking with hope,

I choose not to make myself or anyone else false promises.

I choose not to set Unrealistic goals.

Instead, I choose to choose life

Having to acknowledge that I am unsure

What I mean by that,

So perhaps I am choosing to give myself to the unfolding of new days,

To the unfolding of this moment by moment existence,

Not striving for what might be, nor for what I might be...

So I choose not to be

Competitive

With either my own demands, nor the demands of the culture that

Constantly shifts in its definition of what is, or what is not acceptable...

I choose love,

Knowing that I have only paddled In the shallows of it

But long to strike out into the deep...

I choose these things

Awake to the inevitability that I will fall and fail in them,

But trusting that I am held in the shelter

Of a greater power,

Who I know so little of,

But who knows me completely...

In this I rest,

All will be well,

All will be well,

All manner of things will be well...

(C) Reverend Sally Coleman, Methodist Presbyterian, UK

(Posted on godspacelight. com, an international ecumenical Christian blog and worship resource)

Submitted by Carol Dixon

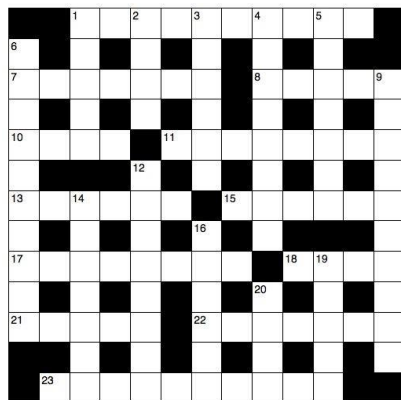
Members from the sgurc orchestra and the sgurc ceilidh band played for Hauxley Methodist chapel (near Amble) community carol service on December 17th



Rehearsals for the Church Social



Crossword for February



Across: 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10) 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7) 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5) 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4) 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8) 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6) 15 Breakwater (6)

17 Give a tan (anag.) (8) 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4) 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5) 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7) 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10).

Down: 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5) 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4) 3 So rapt (anag.) (6) 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8) 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7) 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10) 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10) 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8) 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7) 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6) 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5) 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4).

Solution on inside back page

God's army...

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!" Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington:

February Services:

Please note that services from November to March are at 2.30pm

Sunday 4 February, 2.30 pm, Rev Julian Sanders

Sunday 18 February, 2.30pm, Rev Julian Sanders

Film Night

Monday 12 February, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start.

We were going to show Fisherman's Friends (12) in December, but due to the storm and a power cut, we had to cancel so we will show Fisherman's Friends on 12 February. The film is based on the true story of the Cornish singers (read about them here: <https://thefishermansfriends.com/>) and how they got their recording contract - and the culture shock experienced by the London music exec who signed them up. Refreshments are provided. Donations please towards expenses.

History Night

We have had to postpone the January History Night, and instead it will be on Tuesday 27 February at 7.00pm. Do come along for a chat about all things of local historical interest - it's very informal.

The church is open for visitors and walkers

Great Bavington URC is usually open for visitors every day.

For younger visitors, there is a bag of activities to do and a box of books to read.

Other events and updates

Please see the church's Facebook

page www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for updates, or ring 01830 540350. Please check prior to coming to a service or event, just in case there have been any last-minute changes.

Nicola Bell

WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER

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

During February, please pray for:

All war zones

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering still from Covid19 throughout the world

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

Medical researchers

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

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

"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 second last Sunday of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

Flowers: Flowers February by Kathleen and March by Fiona. Donations to the appropriate person would be appreciated.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance.

This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at easyfundraising.org.uk and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. This can range from a penny for a Kindle 99p short to several pounds for a major purchase. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me, as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £400 so far with just nine members. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. We had a payout in November of just over £24. Hopefully, Christmas shopping will give us a boost for the next quarter.

Fund raising:

Worship:

Please feel free to wear a mask - or not - as you wish. Hand sanitisers continue to be available. You are invited to join us for coffee/tea after the service.

Preachers for December and January, along with duty rotas are in the table below.

Social:

This year we have decided not to try to do something every month. We will still have:

*Coffee Club (see below)

* Bank Holiday Coffee Mornings as usual.

* Christmas meal and possibly a Seaside Supper

* Treasure Hunt

* Some additional Saturday coffee mornings

However, if you have a good idea for a social event which you think people will enjoy, please suggest it to the Elders (or organise it yourself!)

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at various coffee shops around the area. However, the February meeting will be in the hall, with Kathleen 's world famous scones and bacon butties.

It has been suggested to us that we should have the church meeting as part of a Coffee Club in the hall, so we are going to give this a try as our April meeting, which will be a week later than normal, on April 9th. This will be the AGM so please have your reports ready (note to self)

1st Wednesday: Prayer Group: We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park at 7.00pm. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer.

Open Church: Open Church will continue, weather permitting on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am

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 186 likes, with another 8 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there.

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 24 (+2 following!) page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!

The website is at: www.widdringtonurc.org.uk. '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.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham:

Upcoming events: World Day of Prayer is on March 1st and will be hosted by the Methodists at the Community Centre at 2pm.

There will be a Lent Course organised by Rev'd Julia. This will be on Fridays from 16th February. There will be in - person meetings at 2pm in our hall (except on Friday 1st March); each session will be repeated online at 7.30pm. The course title is 'Songs for the soul' Details of Easter Services will be in next month's magazine.

FEM

We are still collecting things!

- *Medicine blister packs for Cancer Research
- *Green plastic milk bottle tops to make wheelchairs: these seem to be no longer available. We are not sure if the clear ones are still wanted.
- *Basic toiletries for the Ukraine appeal
- *And don't forget the hamper for the food bank!
- *Crisp packets no longer required.

February Rotas

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
4th	Worship Team	Fiona Middlemist	Diana Hogg. Elizabeth Barber
11th	Carol Dixon	Kathleen Bailey	Ruth Gordon. Fiona Middlemist
18th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Diana Hogg	Kathleen Bailey. Audrey Grieves
25th	Margery Tate	Fiona Middlemist	Diana Hogg. Elizabeth Barber

Solutions:

Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.



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

