

St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington

United Reformed Churches

Newsletter



The
United
Reformed
Church



February
2026

Website: Urc-morpeth.org.uk

St George's Diary Dates for February

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 4th	12.30pm 6.30pm	Worship on Wednesdays Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Sat 7th	10.00am 11.00am	Coffee Morning for Ukrainian Friends Talk on visit to Ukraine to deliver aid.
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Air Cadet Parade
Wed 11th	12.30pm 7.00pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About
Sat 14th	10.00am 7.30pm	Valentines Day Event Country Dance Club
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 18 th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Thurs 19th	2.00pm	Lent Course Commences 2.00pm-3.00pm
Sun 22nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship with Orchestra Evening Service
Wed 25 th	12.30pm 7.00pm	Wow Midweek Service Conversations About
Thurs 26th	2.00pm	Lent Course
Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion

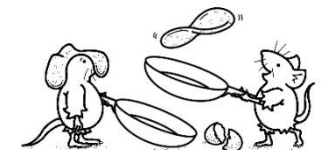
Worship on Wednesdays – doors open at noon for coffee
Lent courses – 2.00pm -3.00pm.

Stewards Duties for February

1	Madeline & Sarah Cleverley
8	Christine Oakes & Karen Howe
15	Christine Hawkins & Gordon Slack
22	Ken & Sally Davidson

Flower Rota for February

1	
8	Christine Richardson
15	Sarah Cleverley
22	Moira Mann
Rep	Christine Richardson 01670 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	
	Cobweb Orchestra 7.30 – 9.30pm At St Georges Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612	
WED	Morning Badminton: 9.30am Sarah Cleverley	515257
	Knitter, Natter Group 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 (not August) Christine Oakes	518608

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

'From the Vicar' Sourced from Parish Pump

'I can resist everything but temptation' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when 'He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.' (1). Temptation is a test of whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most venerable moments, especially when we are stressed.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about putting His own needs first. 'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we need to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this was not God's way! 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: The devil took Jesus up a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was to be marked by suffering and honouring God. 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only' (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is to be our experience of living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, like Him, we will find strength in the Spirit's power and the victory of the cross.

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

**St. George's United
Reformed Church**

**EVENING
SERVICES**

There will be a relaxed,
Welcoming, friendly
Evening Service at 6.30 pm on
The last Sunday of each month

Services will take place on
22 Feb, 29 Mar, 26 Apr
31 May, 28 June, 26 Jul
27 Sep, 25 Oct, 29 Nov

MORPETH CHURCHES

PRAYER MEETINGS

**Come and join us to pray for ourselves, our
community and our world.**

**FORTNIGHTLY on Wednesdays at 7:00pm at
St George's United Reformed Church**

Doors open at 6:30 for Refreshments

February 4th and 18th

March 4th and 18th

April 1st, 15th and 29th

May 13th and 27th

June 10th and 24th

All are welcome

image by jcomp on Freepik

ST GEORGES URC MORPETH

“CONVERSATIONS ABOUT...”

**Come and join us for informal and friendly
discussions about life, faith and the Bible.**

**Wednesdays at 7:00pm at
St George's United Reformed Church**

February 11th and 25th

March 11th and 25th

April 8th and 22nd

May 6th and 20th

June 3rd and 17th



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.

PARC, now called Palestine Agricultural Development Association, is involved in many irrigation and agricultural projects across the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Their work sends out a positive message of hope to Palestinians living and working under Israeli occupation.

Israel has recently been reported as suspending permits of more than 3 dozen organisations that work in Gaza – fortunately Commitment for Life does not appear on that list.

Information about “Commitment for Life” can be found on the website:- <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-Global/commitment-for-life/>

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

In 2025 St George's Church gave £681.20 to this charity.

Please continue to give to this very worthwhile cause.

Sarah Cleverley Link Person

Managers' Coffee Morning

The Managers' Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th January was a great success.

The various stalls raised £753.50. In addition, £408 was raised by the sale of subscriptions to the 100 Club.

Many thanks for all the hard work that you did in organising the event, setting up tables, serving on the stalls and selling the teas, baking scones, and selling the teas, coffees and scones.

I am very grateful to you all, and also to the people who attended, for the money which you have raised for our church funds.

Andy Cleverley



I will give you rest,
come!

WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER
SERVICE 2026

Nigeria

March 6th 1.30

St James
Morpeth
service

refreshments

info text 07749525269
shirlsgurc@gmail.com



Word Search for February

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

Candlemas, 2nd February, comes exactly 40 days after Christmas. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'.

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

Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-40). So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day.

Candlemas Forty Days After Christmas New Testament Important Age Baby Boy First Public Appearance Mary Jewish Temple festival Presentation described light world candles lighting early. Solution on page.15

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.

We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.'

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

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku for February.

Solution on page 15

Post-Valentine...A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?" asked the friend, amazed.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

Portrait...A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God." The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



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 Installtions
- » CCTV Systems
- » Intruder Alarms


24hr CALL OUT

No Job to Small from Extra Socket to Rewire


MORPETH
All Areas Coverd

Tel Office 01670 510240 Fax 01670 513158

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



NICEIC
APPROVED
CONTRACTOR



**TRUST
MARK**
Registered through:
NICEIC

Valentines Coffee Morning with Pancakes!

Celebrate Love with Pancakes

Join us for a delicious morning of
pancakes and fun.
All welcome!

Plus:
"Couples Quiz"

Test how well you know your
partner (or your friends!)
and win sweet prizes.



**No need to book –
just come along!**

Date: Saturday, February 14th

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue: St George's URC, Morpeth

January, the time to look forward and change the world for good. New Year Revolutions!

February, Valentine's Day and thoughts of love.

March and April, a time of fasting followed by pancakes, Easter eggs.

May, a time to welcome spring, dancing round the maypole.

June, bank holiday. Longest day of the year.

July, end of school year. School holidays.

August. Summer. Bank holiday weekend.

September. Back to school.

October. Change the clocks. Animals and plants preparing to rest for winter.

November. Bonfires and fireworks.

December. Christmas.

Well, that's how it used to be.

The year of 2015 seems to have been an Artificial Christmas all year round. I don't mind shops carrying goods if that is what they sell. But the blatant decoration of shops, the display of Christmas goods all year round, the selling of Easter eggs at the wrong time all ring the wrong bells for me. As a child, I was taught to take each month as it came, whether it was inspired by the teachings of the church or otherwise. Now it is all confusing, and, to my mind, damaging to a young child who must think Father Christmas comes all year round. We weren't taught to tell porkies. Advertising has gone beyond a joke.

Submitted by Janet Brown

It hurts...A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

St Georges Church hall (liff) NE61 1PD

Morpeth Country Dance Club

FEB 14th 
Saturday
& March 14th & April 18th

Band 6.30 **Dancers 7.30**



**No experience needed – dances are explained ,
no need to bring a partners – we all mix up.
Bring own drinks, and some nibbles to share.
More info shirlsgurc@gmail.com or text 07749525269**

Christmas Coffee Morning 13th December 2025

In previous years this coffee morning was organised by St George's Church Coffee Club and the Flower Committee. As the Coffee Club has now closed the event was organised by the Flower Committee and the Social Committee.

As there had been problems with the lift in the previous couple of weeks it was decided to hold the Coffee Morning in the church just in case there were problems again. This proved an ideal venue though obviously the chairs had to be moved and tables brought down from the hall. Fortunately, there were plenty of helpers to do this and to put everything back after the morning was finished.

Stalls included floral decorations, cakes, jams and chutneys, jewellery, a hamper raffle and a Christmas cake raffle. It was a very enjoyable morning and the magnificent total of £1103.50 was raised for church funds.

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in making the morning such a success – stall holders, floral decoration makers, cake, jam and chutney makers, kitchen servers to name just a few of the many helpers

Sarah Cleverley

Angels

A huge thank you to everyone who knitted, bagged and tagged and distributed the Angels this year. This was our 10th year and we sent over 600 out. We received more compliments on Facebook this year than we have ever had. Here is just one of them.

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the gorgeous knitted angel my daughter found today. We visit my Dad's grave regularly up at Fairmoor cemetery and today we found a gorgeous angel tied to the tap. My daughter was so excited and it really felt that we had received a sign from her Grandad' Thank you so much and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas'.

Once more we were helped by the people in Rickards who collected lots of them for us. Their help makes the collecting of the Angels much easier. Thank you to everyone who helped spread a bit of Christmas joy around our town and in some cases further afield.

Patricia

Crossword for February

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

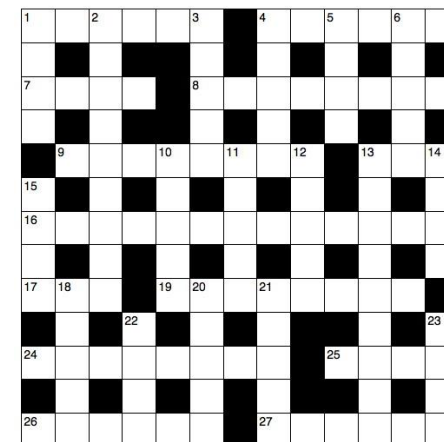
fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4) **6** 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5) **10** A seer (anag.) (5) **11** 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10)

(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 15



MORPETH FOR UKRAINE PRESENTATION

2026
SATURDAY **7th** FEBRUARY
12.00-14.00

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY TO DELIVER AID & MEET THE TEAM.

ENTRY £5 INC. REFRESHMENTS

ST GEORGES CHURCH BRIDGE STREET MORPETH

Mouse Makes

Read the story in Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS
After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1
How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2
What did Jesus eat? v2
What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? v3-4
What did Jesus say? v3-4

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."
JESUS REPLIED:
"Man shall not live on bread alone."
Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.

SECOND TEMPTATION
THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."
JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."
Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God first
Worship only Him.

①

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him?
What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do?
What did Jesus say? v9

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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION
THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."
JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:
God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.

Jan26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



It happened again.



The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



God called Samuel again,



I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.

The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



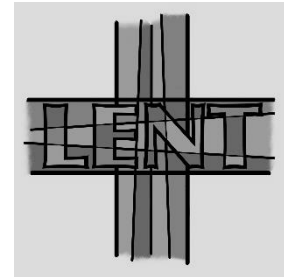
God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



SOLUTIONS:

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

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



Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV

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

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington

February

Services

Sunday 8 February, 2.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Sunday 22 February, 2.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Services are usually streamed on the Morpeth and Area URC YouTube channel. You can watch them live, or watch them later. <https://www.youtube.com/@morpethandareaurc8357>

Film Night

Monday 9 February, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start.

Nonnas (12): The film is based on the life of Joe Scaravella, the owner of Staten Island (New York City) restaurant Enoteca Maria, who risks everything to honour his recently deceased, beloved mother by opening an Italian restaurant with actual grandmothers as chefs.

Refreshments provided. Donations welcome towards expenses.

The church is open

The church is open during the daytime for visitors and walkers.

Keep in touch

Please see www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for updates on services, events, etc, or email bavingtonchurch@gmail.com, or phone 01830 540350.

Rev Julian Sanders may be contacted at sanders.julian@talk21.com, or 01670 552239.

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 continue to pray for:

All war zones - especially those that have dropped out of the news yet still continue.

Peace negotiations, and that any peace agreements will hold.

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of genocide

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

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

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

"Prayer, the Church's 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 for February by Kathleen and for March by Fiona. Donations, either of cash or flowers/greenery always welcome.

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 £800. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. Latest payment in November was £35.15. Hopefully this month we will get the benefit of your Christmas shopping. Thank you for spending!

Fund raising: Cash donations for the Salvation Army: £230 (along with gifts of goods)

Christmas Eve: The collection totalled £352. This was split between Shelter and Crisis.

January Coffee Club: £115

Thank you for your generosity.

Big Sing: raised £310 on the day, the Methodist church added £100, so we sent £410 to Christian Aid. Thank you for your support.

Do you have an idea for fund raising? Whether a social event, or something else, please speak to the Elders about it.

Worship: Preachers for February, along with duty rotas are in the table below. You are invited to join us for coffee/tea and biscuits (sometimes cake!) after the service.

Please Note: The service on 1st February will be Communion, to replace the one cancelled on January 12th.

Social: Remember, if you have a good idea for a social event which you

think people will enjoy, please suggest it to the Elders (or organise it yourself!)

Very advanced notice: The Seaside Supper this year is planned for the Cottage Inn at Dunstan (near Craster).

Regular events:

1st Wednesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the Sunday School Room. February's meeting is planned for CIRCA.

(Do you know a good local coffee shop which could cope with a sudden Influx of 12+ people and has easy access for our less mobile members? Please tell Ena Whinham about it.)

Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.30am. We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer. (If you are interested in joining us, please speak to one of the Elders, as we occasionally alter the date without notice)

Open Church: Open Church will continue, on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am, weather permitting. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments, and the opportunity for quiet reflection in the church. Enquiries to the above email address. (Please let me know if you intend to come if you don't usually, as it may otherwise be cancelled at short notice, at least during January and February, if my regular can't make it! Cancellations will be advertised on WhatsApp.)

Please note that there will be **NO** Open Church on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Apologies to anyone affected.

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Search for Widdrington United Reformed Church. Please like us and tell me if you think I've missed anything that should be on. The page now has 186 likes, with another 8 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there. Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 24 (+2 following!) page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!

The **website** is at: www.widdringtonurc.org

I'd appreciate some help to improve it, as it's very wordy at the moment, partly because I'm happiest with words. I'm still looking for volunteers to be additional site editors. Someone with hardware that can post pictures would be good.

WhatsApp: A WhatsApp group has been set up. To join please give Kathleen your mobile number, and accept your invitation. Please note: as I have now joined the group, information from me will increasingly appear there!

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

A Lent Course will run for 4 weeks from Tuesday 24th February at 2pm at our church. The theme will be the Passion Narrative from each of the four Gospels.

The Community Choir continues to meet. From January 15th we have started meeting twice a month in our church.

World Day of Prayer service is on Friday, 6th March at 2.00pm at the URC

FEM

February Rota

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
1st	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
8th	Steve Jakeman	Diana Hogg	Elizabeth Barber Susan Hampton
15th	Worship Team	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves
22nd	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Diane Cooke