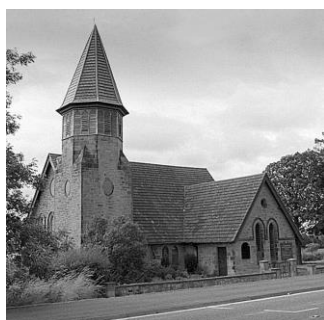


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



July &
August 2023

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

Worship & Events in July/August at St George's United Reformed Church

July		
Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Mon 3rd	2.00pm	Elders Meeting
Wed 5th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting (until 7.30pm)
Sat 8th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 12th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 19th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting (until 7.30pm)
Sat 22nd	2.15pm	Strawberries & Entertainment
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 26th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 23rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Service
August		
Wed 2nd	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting (until 7.30pm)
Sat 5th		Final SENE Service at Blyth Methodist
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Joint with MMC at St George's
7 th to 11th	10.00am	Holiday Club event in Church (until noon)
Wed 9th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 13th	10.00am	Morning Worship Joint at MMC
Wed 16th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting (until 7.30pm)
Sun 20th	10.30am	Morning Worship Joint at St George's
Wed 23rd	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 27th	10.00am	Morning Worship Joint at MMC
Wed 30th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service

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 In the Sanctuary 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 518485 (not August) Christine Oakes 518608	

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's
covers events in **September 2023.**

The deadline is Sunday 20th August

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**

Who's Who at St George's

Minister: Revd. Julian Sanders 01670 225539
sanders.julian@talk21.com

Church Secretary: Morag Stead 07745802475
moragstead@outlook.com

Treasurer: David Calcraft, 515873
david.joyce.calcraft@googlemail.com

Managers' Clerk: Andrew Hamnett, 518485
hamnetts@madasafish.com

Property Manager: Vacancy
Housekeepers: Joan Cooper, 515682
(Sarah Cleverley, Mary Kelly)

Stewarding: Andrew and Sarah Cleverley, 515257
Social Convenor: Gillian Irvine, 515870
gai@irvines.org.uk

Gift Aid Secretary: Linda Glascott, 515582
Junior Church Leader: Barbara Pringle 510068
Janet Johnson 224212

Freewill Secretary: Linda Glascott, 515582
Hall Lettings: Andrew Cleverley 515257
Organists: Ken Irvine, 515870

kdi@irvines.org.uk
Andrew Hamnett, 518485

hamnetts@madasafish.com
Orchestra Co-ordinators: Christine Oakes, oakescm@yahoo.co.uk 518608
Andrew Hamnett, 518485

Magazine Editor: Stephanie Robson, 511507
Transport Officer: Vivien Bennett 515263

Serving as Elders: Margaret Brock, Margaret Finnie, Vivien Bennett, Penny Oxley
Lorna Anderson, Patricia Gatherum, Sue Rutherford, Andy Cleverley
Chris Rowlands, Dorothy Luke, Joyce Calcraft, Morag Stead, Margery Tate

Serving as Managers: David Calcraft (Treasurer), Gillian Irvine (Social Convenor),
Ken Anderson (Health & Safety), Joan Cooper, Sarah Cleverley, Mary Kelly
(Housekeeping), Andrew Hamnett, (Clerk to Managers), Andrew & Sarah Cleverley
(Stewarding) Elders Representative to the Managers Meeting is Rota Based.

Notes by the Way July/August 2023 by Revd Stuart Brock

These are the months of holiday when we dream of time out with family and friends to relax on a foreign beach or to soak up the sun or explore a new location near home; or, maybe take time out to sit in the local park or stretch out in our garden. Most years in the UK if we stay local our dreams are likely to be marred a little by the rapid change in the weather so characteristic of the British climate. In just a couple of hours, it can change from bright sunshine to overcast cloud and rain. Yet more frequently, in recent years, we have been drawn into a pattern that has seen longer spells of the same types of weather with extreme wet or extreme dry periods.

As I write this and after a fortnight of gloomy skies in the North East while the rest of the country was basking in sunshine, we now have our own mini heatwave. Being the North East, of course, it is never quite as hot here as further south but it is too hot to sit in our conservatory. If we go into the garden we have to sit in the shade, cover ourselves with sun cream, wear a light top and take a hat!

It is interesting that the word 'hollday' is, as many folk will know, derived from 'holy day', reflecting the fact that in mediaeval times, time away from the normal work on the farms and estates was allowed on saints days and these only. On the other hand, there was no shortage of saints to commemorate on their special days with feasting and fun and customs and traditions that were unique to the areas of the British Isles that they represented. In his book *Two for Joy*, the well-known TV presenter, farmer and writer, Adam Henson calls for a revival of some of the now forgotten feasts and festivals. He accepts that the decline in religious observance means that people may be unaware of the lives of the saints commemorated but argues that these traditions are important for bringing the community together.

Mind you, there is one saint whose path one doesn't want to cross if you are looking for good holiday weather! That is, of course, good old Saint Swithun, an Anglo Saxon Bishop of Winchester (d. 862) whose body was moved from a humble grave outside the cathedral to a shrine inside the building a hundred years later, expressly against Swithun's wishes. The result: an angry Bishop turning in his grave and forty days and nights of torrential rain, or so the old rhyme has it:

St Swithun's Day, if thou dost rain, for forty days it will remain

St Swithun's Day, if thou be fair, for forty days twill rain no more

Not comfortable reading for those with holiday plans for 15th July onwards! However, the British weather is so fickle; the current heatwave may have disappeared and reappeared even before we reach that date.

So, thinking of 'holy days' brings us back to the starting point. We look forward to a rest and a change of scenery. But we cannot but be aware that the extremes of temperature we are seeing now are the result of climate change caused by human activity. We may enjoy the warm sunny weather and the friends and family time that come with the summer but to make these breaks 'holy days' we need also to use them to reconsider our attitude to this, perhaps the greatest issue our world faces.

* * * * *

Refugees July/August 2023

West End Refugee Service

In their latest newsletter WERS talks about some of their activities. The **buddying** scheme matches volunteers to provide one-to-one social contact and practical support to help that person feel more welcome, connected with the local community, and empowered to regain control of their lives. Buddies often provide the person they support with local information and support them in engaging with services and opportunities. The scheme is flexible and is shaped by the individuals' needs and interests.

Through **Skillsmatch** they match people seeking asylum with fulfilling and interesting volunteering opportunities linked to their existing skills. Recent volunteering opportunities have included trips to Jarrow Hall and St Francis Priory, the Baltic Iftar event and family days, and a visit to Wallington Hall.

There are lots of gardening opportunities and activities such as football are being encouraged..

WERS has developed a new environmental policy & has a green group which discusses sustainability & the environment.

They are continuing with their **Campaigning** and stress that “**before you stop the boats you must introduce safe passage.**”

WERS says “donations allow us to buy things like sim cards, transport tickets, food, or baby supplies for our clients and help us organise amazing events and activities for our clients to enjoy.”

Justice and Peace Project

In April this year, the project supported 468 individuals and families, with 22 new clients registering, largely from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, El Salvador and Albania. The project distributed 925 bags of food, valued at £5,500. 172 home deliveries were made. Also, 44 vouchers were given to clients at a value of £1,760.

They say “The project could not provide all this support without your generous donations.”

They continue “In addition to providing food and toiletries, the Refugee Project always wants to encourage its clients to feel welcome to stay and socialise and we are seeing this happen increasingly as the year progresses. At the centre, clients can relax, enjoy the company of others and there are play areas for the children.

Clients can also access wi-fi and English lessons during their visits. A recent extremely popular addition is a barber who is offering haircuts to clients free of charge. This has resulted in many smiling faces as clients get a smart new cut! “

The Refugee Project has been looking for ways to spread the word about their work. One new venture was when “a volunteer was invited to speak about the Refugee Project at the 2nd Hexham Guides Group. The patrols within the group were each given a budget of £10 and tasked with purchasing as many items for the project as they could that would be most useful to clients. The girls did a fantastic job, filling the boot of the volunteer’s car with items of food and toiletries, and learning a lot about the plight of asylum seekers and the difficulties of living on a limited budget.”

As you can see both charities rely on support to keep providing their services to some of the most vulnerable people around.

Margaret Brock



COST OF LIVING APPEAL

In response to the rising cost of living, we are looking for more donations of toiletries and food essentials!

We collect these items year round for people in receipt of the hardship fund, however, money is tight for everyone now and people are struggling to buy these essential items week on week.

We would like to build up our stocks to be able to give out items to everyone we work with.

SHAMPOO CONDITIONER

SHOWER GEL TOOTHPASTE

TOOTH BRUSHES DEODORANT

SHAVING GEL HAND AND BAR

SOAP SANITARY TOWELS

NAPPIES (ESPECIALLY LARGER

SIZES 3+) SLEEPING BAGS

VEGETABLE OILS SALT LONG-

LIFE MILK

Donations drop off: Monday - Thursday, 10am - 4pm at WERS



A Message from Louise Sanders

Most of you will know that in January I 'preached with a view' at St Andrews URC, Monkseaton and received a call to become their next minister. My Ordination and Induction Service has now been agreed and will take place at St Andrew's, on Saturday 29th July at 2pm. The service will be followed by refreshments in the church hall. It would be lovely to be able to share the day with friends from St George's and so I would ask that if you are planning to attend, could you please contact me by Saturday 15th July as it would be good to have an idea of numbers for catering purposes. It is hoped that the service will be live-streamed also, so if you would like to receive the link to the service to watch at home just let me know.

My contact details are:

louise.sanders208@gmail.com Mobile: 07721 907862 Home: 01670 225539



Morpeth Cobweb Orchestra News

The Morpeth branch of Cobweb Orchestra meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in St George's sanctuary during term times. This term has seen a change with Robin Forbes taking over the role of our Morpeth group conductor after Laura Reavley our previous conductor was unable to carry on due to family commitments.

We are very fortunate that Robin was willing and able to take over this role. Robin was head of music at KEVI school in Morpeth until his recent retirement. Cobwebs is an open access Community Orchestra with groups over the north of England from York to Cumbria and Northumberland.

Many of St. George's Church Orchestra players have met and become friends because of playing with the Cobweb Orchestra. They also have supported us in our socials and the ceilidh band.

For more information about The Cobweb Orchestra groups and events see the website or speak to Christine Oakes, Shirley Forster or Penny Oxley.

cobweborchestra.org.uk

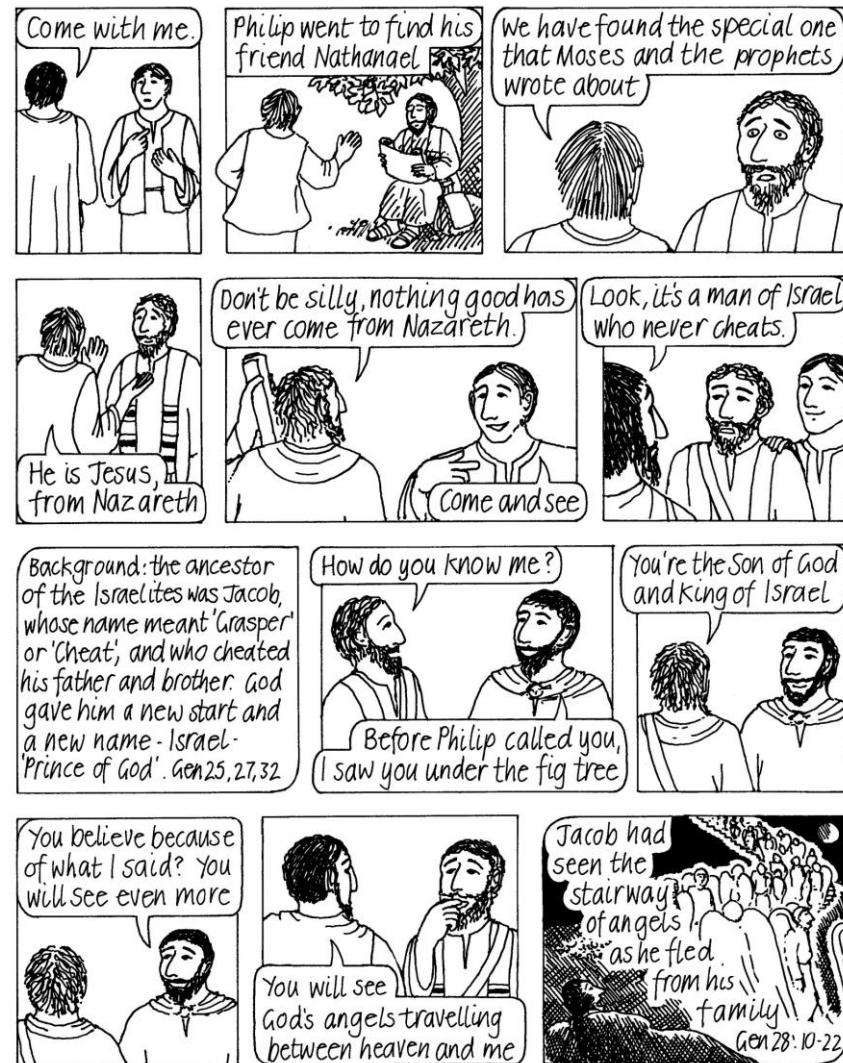
More players always welcome! Christine Oakes

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 1 verses 35 - 51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip...



Crossword for July

Across: **1** Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10) **7** Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7) **8** 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)

10 Girl's name (4) **11** Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8) **13** The fifth of the 'seven churches'

(Revelation 3:1–6) (6) **15** 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)

17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)

18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)

21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5) **22** Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)

23 Last book of the Bible (10).

Down: **1** The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)

2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)

3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6) **4** Milled it (anag.) (3-5)

5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)

6 Comes between Philipians and 1 Thessalonians (10)

9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)

12 Abusive outburst (8) **14** Are loud (anag.) (7) **16** Printing errors (6)

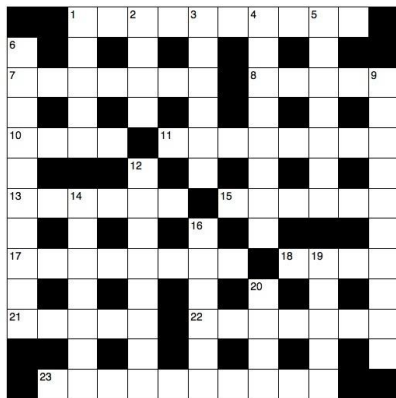
19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)

20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4). *Solution on page 20*

Couch... Friends sympathized as our curate complained that her back was really sore from moving furniture. "Why don't you wait till your teenage son gets home?" someone asked.

"Well, I could," our curate replied, "but the couch is easier to move if he's not on it."

Not like it used to be... I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over while pulling on my socks.



Coronation Chaos in the Church Hall By Joann Evans

Church Social: December 3rd at 7pm

Venue: Church Hall

Supper: Mince pies and Mulled wine

Tickets available from Christine Oakes £8



If there is anyone interested in being on stage, contact me by email or mobile 07518916939, thanks, **Joann**

Rota for After-Service Refreshments

We are at present, having difficulty in getting volunteers to serve after-service refreshments. There is a rota in the vestibule so if you could sign up to this very sociable activity it would be very much appreciated. If you haven't volunteered before and feel a bit concerned as to what this entails, please feel free to ask anyone on the list, Elders or Managers and they will be more than happy to provide you with all the information you will need. It is a very rewarding service which enables church members to socialise after Morning Worship

Steward's Duty Rota July and August 2023

Sun 2nd July	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
Sun 9th July	Katherine Smailes and Christine Hawkins
Sun 16th July	Karen Howe and Christine Oakes
Sun 23rd July	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
Sun 30th July	Gordon Slack and Gillian Irvine
Sun 6th August	Gillian Irvine and Christine Oakes
Sun 13th August	Morpeth Methodist Church
Sun 20th August	Christine Hawkins and Madeline Cleverley
Sun 27th August	Morpeth Methodist Church

Flower Rotas

July 2	Auld Family
9	See Notice Board
16	Mary Kelly
23	Dorothy Luk
30	Sue Rutherford. Rep: Mary Kelly 829656
August 6	See Notice Board
13	Morpeth Methodist Church
20	See Notice Board
27	Morpeth Methodist Church.
Reps:	Mary Kelly 829656. Joan Cooper 515682

St. George's Knitter Natter Group

After many enjoyable meetings we are having our summer break, our last meeting will be July 5th, we restart on September 6th.

Thankyou to all the out workers (knitters) who have helped with our projects, we really appreciate the extra help as do the causes we are knitting for.

We are very short of wool and would be pleased to accept any odd unwanted balls from the back of your cupboards.

Enjoy your summer

Joan Cooper



God's Garden...

Plant three rows of peas: Peas of mind, Peas of heart, Peas of soul.

Plant three rows of squash: Squash gossip, Squash grumbling, quash selfishness.

Plant three rows of lettuce: lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce love one another.

Plant three rows of turnips: Turnip for services, Turnip for meetings
Turnip to help one another.

Plant three rows of thyme: Thyme for God, Thyme for Bible study
Thyme for prayer.

Finally: Water freely with patience, Cultivate with love,
And remember – you will only reap what you sow.

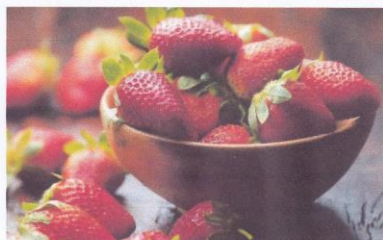
How Children perceive their grandparents...

~After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

~Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

~My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

**ST. GEORGE'S
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH
MORPETH**



Saturday 22nd July 2023

"Strawberry Event"

**With a variety of music
presented by**

THE GRAINGER SINGERS

**Strawberries or Fruit Salad and
Cream with Tea or Coffee
Served from 2.15 pm.**

**Followed by Entertainment
At 3.00 pm**

**Admission £7 includes refreshments
Or £5 Entertainment only**

**For further details and to reserve or buy tickets please
see your Elder or contact Gillian 01670 515870
or Email kdirvine@sky.com**

Sudoku for July/August

Solution on page 20

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

Water...

My friend was working at an amusement park when a couple stopped him. "Excuse me," said the woman, pointing to a pond. "What is that water made out of?" Bemused, my friend replied, "Two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen." "See?" she said to her boyfriend. "I told you it wasn't real."

Forgiveness...

Late for a meeting and unable to find parking, I pulled into a spot behind a church. It was only after I'd gotten out of the car that I spotted this sign: "No parking. Forgiveness is our business, but don't make it harder than it already is."

Bathroom tidy...

Constant nagging didn't seem to provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: 'Please leave the bathroom as you found it'. Then I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called sharply: "Brian, how did you find the bathroom?" After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right."

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Saturday 3rd June 2023

URC Northern Synod Big Day Out was held in the very beautiful Alnwick Gardens, Alnwick, Northumberland with the retiring synod moderator Revd Dave Herbert and the Moderator elect, Revd Kim Plumptre.

The Alnwick Garden, opened in 2001, is one of the world’s most ambitious new gardens. Designed by Jacques and Peter Wirtz, The Garden is a wonderful combination of spaces, themes, quirkiness and play. From the tranquility of the Cherry Orchard, the excitement of the Grand Cascade and the mysteries of the Bamboo Labyrinth, to the Serpent Garden’s spell-binding water sculptures, the intrigue of the Poison Garden and one of the world’s largest tree houses – there was plenty to surprise and delight members and friends of the Northern Synod.

The day included time to wander around the many spectacular gardens, a delicious buffet lunch and a very enjoyable informal act of worship, led by the moderators and synod team. Thank you Team Synod for organising such a memorable and delightful synod get-together; thanks also to the Alnwick Garden staff for making us feel so welcome.

Donald and I enjoyed taking part (along with Ron & Shirley Forster & Stuart & Margaret Brock) and met up with a number of people we knew across the Synod. Alnwick Garden also provided me with a mobility scooter which meant I managed to see most of the Garden.



Carol Dixon

Photo of the incoming and outgoing Moderator's at Synod Day.
Photo and article by Ray Angelsea



Mouse Makes

Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.
"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"

The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:
"The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So David went out to face Goliath on his own...

Where did Goliath come from?

1 Samuel 17:4

How tall was Goliath?
_____ cubits.
1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's armour made of?

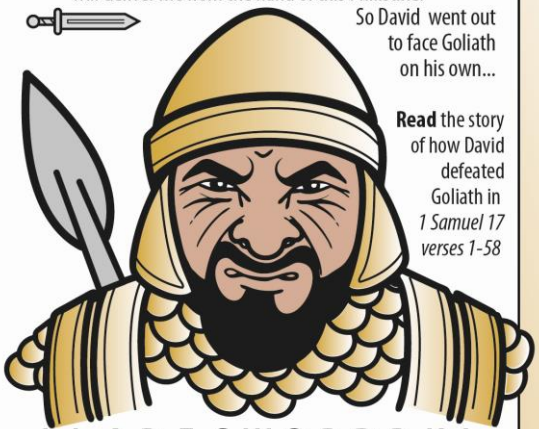
1 Samuel 17:5,6

What weapons did Goliath carry?
a JAVELIN,
a _____
and a _____
1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones did David take from the stream?

1 Samuel 17:40

Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his _____
1 Samuel 17:49



Read the story of how David defeated Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 verses 1-58

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

ISRAEL • SAUL • DAVID • LORD • GOD • PHILISTINES • BATTLE • CAMP
CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR
LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

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Wordsearch

On 3rd July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his response immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

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

*July Thomas Resurrection Doubt Doubting Love Jesus Follow Lazarus
Bethany Danger Jews Die Life Confused Going Father Wounds Crucifixion
Response Immediate Lord God Honest Faith reassurance Solution on page 20*

Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. 'It means carrying a child.'

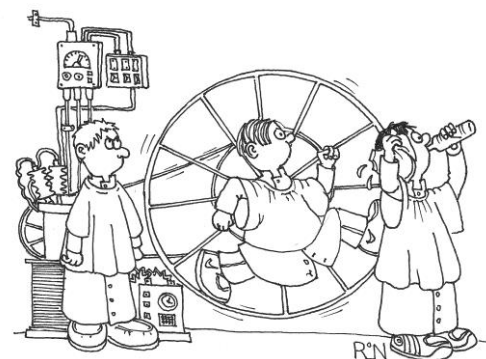
A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38'!)

Church bulletin notices that didn't turn out quite right....



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



"When the solar panels weren't working, there was Plan B"

~ Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 pm. Please use the back door.

~ Ushers will eat latecomers.
~ The third verse of 'Blessed Assurance' will be sung without musical accomplishment.

~ Next Sunday Mrs Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The minister will then speak on 'Terrible Experiences'.

~ Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

~ The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

~ Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by our Christian Martian Arts group.

~ At our recent church council, the agenda was adopted, the minutes were approved, and our secretary gave a final grief report.

St George's Church Morpeth
Country Dance Club
 Saturdays 7.30-9.30
June 10, July 8, Sept 9

BUTTER THOSE PEAS
Strip that willow



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'

Party that Boston
Wake That Trill
 With our very own
 live band SGURC
 New players welcome to join the fun
 get in touch

The tale of the Tower Builder

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.

JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.

IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....

...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!

THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

TOWER TO BE CANCELLED BUILT HERE

WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

SOLUTIONS:

Crossword: ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

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

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

Which staff? Several years ago the then Bishop of London reported to the General Synod that before attending a church function he had said he would bring his pastoral staff. "And how many seats will you want?" came the reply.

For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results...

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington:

Services

Sunday 2 July, 6.30pm, with communion

Sunday 16 July, 6.30pm

There won't be a service here on Sunday 6 August, and there will be a service on Sunday 20 August (6.30pm).

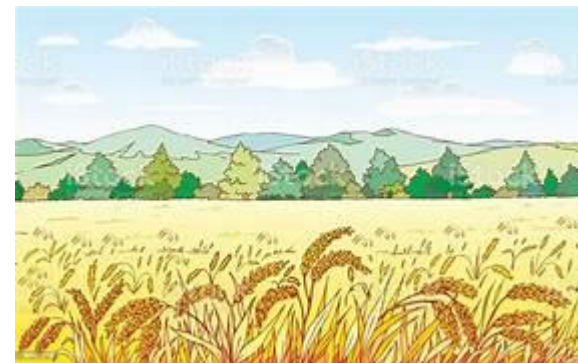
History Night

Tuesday 25 July, 7.00pm, in the church meeting room.

Rogationtide Walk

Many thanks to Shirley Forster and the rest of the Band members for providing the music for the tea and the Rogationtide service.

Julian's service reminded us without God's blessing and provision of sun and rain, seeds and soil, and farmers' and growers' skills and labour, there will be no harvest in the autumn.



There was a good turn-out of walkers who walked from Kirkwhelpington, and the plan is to do the same again next year.

The church is open for visitors and walkers

The church is open for visitors and walkers. Come in and seek shelter from the sun or the rain, and find some physical and spiritual refreshment. You can refill your water bottle from the kitchen tap. There is a tuck box outside if you need a snack. And (a most important facility!) there is a loo too.

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 July and August please pray for:

All war zones;

Refugees

The people of Afghanistan, especially women.

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering still from Covid19 throughout the world.

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

Medical researchers, especially those working on COVID 19 vaccines

Vaccine delivery in third world countries.

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

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

Students awaiting results

Hay and corn harvests

"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 for July and August by Kathleen. Donations of cash or garden flowers would be 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 £400 so far with just nine members. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. In April payout was £41.55. Every little helps!

Fund raising: Spring Bank Holiday Coffee Morning: £250. Very good for a rather quiet though very enjoyable morning.

Coffee Club: £35 Only seven of us, several of 'the usual suspects' being diverted by 'circumstances beyond their control' but it was a lovely morning.

Games night: 12 of us: eleven 'contestants' and a 'question master' (Julian) enjoyed an evening of games based on well known Game Shows. We raised £20 for hall expenses.

Worship:

We feel we are 'back to normal'! 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 July and August, along with duty rotas are in the table below.

Social:

July's event: Car Treasure Hunt: Friday July 21st: cars leave church car park from 6.00pm. No car? Come and we will find and ride for you. On your own? Come and we will find you a partner, or fit you in to another car. (all cars need at least two people). Where are we going? That would be telling, but it might be a good idea to bring some money with you.

August: Seaside Supper: 18th at 7.00pm at the Fishing Boat, Boulmer. Menu details available nearer the time.

August Bank Holiday Coffee Morning: 28th. PLEASE NOTE: We do NOT want bric-a-brac. Gifts for the tombola stall: we would like: toiletries/scented candles; confectionery / biscuits; stationery/small craft items; soft drinks/wine. If you would like to bake, please make square cakes/ loaf cakes that can be cut up and sold as individual pieces, tray bakes and individual buns: we find people are less interested in big cakes these days. Scones, drop scones, girdle scones, or biscuits also welcome.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at various coffee shops around the area. In July we return to Warkworth House. From **11.00am** (Please note)

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.

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

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.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham:

Our friends at Holy Trinity (now linked with Cresswell and Lynemouth) have a new vicar at last. Rev'd Julia Lacey will be installed on July 24th at 7.30pm. The service is at Holy Trinity.

FEM

We are still collecting things!

- *Medicine blister packs for Cancer Research
- *Green plastic milk bottle tops to make wheelchairs
- *Basic toiletries for the Ukraine appeal
- *And don't forget the hamper for the food bank!
- *Crisp packets no longer required for the time being.

Widdrington Rotas July and August

Date	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
July			
2nd		Kathleen Bailey	A Grieves D Hogg
9th		Fiona Middlemist	K Bailey E Barber
16th	Rev Julian Sanders	Diana Hogg	R Gordon F Middlemist
23rd		Kathleen Bailey	D Hogg M Scott
30th		Fiona Middlemist	A Grieves K Bailey
August		Diana Hogg	K Bailey E Barber
6th		Kathleen Bailey	R Gordon F Middlemist
13th		Fiona Middlemist	D Hogg M Scott
20th		Diana Hogg	A Grieves F Middlemist
27th		Kathleen Bailey	K Bailey E Barber

