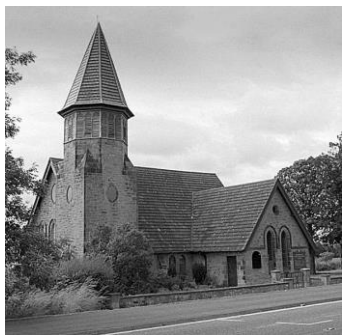


# St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



July and August  
2020

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

## ***A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders***

Dear Friends,

We come into the summer months, and are perhaps starting to see signs of life returning to our town centres, and eating establishments. With this will come tourists and sightseers for whom a journey to this area of the world will be both possible and worthwhile, and where the hope of an afternoon tea or more alcoholic refreshments might be enjoyed. We hope that with this influx of people into our community spaces, caution will be exercised, peoples fears respected, and safety for everyone at the forefront of all we do.

It is good to see some of the shops and cafes, that have been closed down for the past few months, start to reopen and people begin to rebuild their businesses and livelihoods as they welcome back regular and valued customers. As I have walked around the streets during this time of lockdown, and seen all the places closed, it has felt like the whole town has been affected by this illness and in need of healing. It is this healing that I hope we will start to see over the next few months, as our communities start to be filled again with life and health. With this return to our community spaces, and hopefully to our churches in one way or other in the coming months, I imagine something of what it might have felt like for the people of Jerusalem as they returned to their beloved city after the exile. As the lands of Judah and Israel were overtaken by successive enemies, their places of worship were desecrated and their communities destroyed. The people were taken away, to live in a foreign land during a time of exile, many would stay and never return, but the majority we believe looked forward to a time when this return to their beloved homeland would be possible. Jeremiah reassures these people in exile and offers God's word:

"For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the houses in the city and the royal palaces of Judah that have been torn down.....I will bring health and healing to it....you say about this place 'It's a desolate waste, without men or animals'. Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither men nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank-offerings to the house of the Lord, saying: Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good, his love endures forever."

From Jeremiah 33:4-11

Our towns, and communities, have not been devastated on the scale that faced those returning from exile, but I feel the words of the Lord speak as much to us today as was then.

We look forward to a time when there will be heard in our streets the sounds of joy and gladness, and when our churches will be able to be filled with the sounds of our thanks and praise as we declare that the Lord indeed is good and his love endures forever.

I pray for this continued healing of both our people and our communities, where people may start to rebuild their lives again. As we do this we pray for God's continuing guidance and protection.....

Go safe and keep well,

**Julian**

#### *Getting online during this time.*

We are trying to do a number of things differently during this time of isolation, and our services, after service coffee, bible studies, meetings all have a slightly different feel. Each of these things are no substitute for our life together, and I am all too well aware that for some engaging in this way is not possible. I want to say thank you to those who have tried to engage with the technology, who have put up with the frustrations and persevered to allow us to meet together in this way. I also want to say sorry to those who have not been able to engage in this way, and hope that they have found some ways in keeping in touch with our church community in some way. We look forward to a time when our normal activities can resume, but in the meantime if anyone has suggestions as to how we can keep in contact better, and more widely do let me know.

Messy Church is becoming more a joint collaboration between the Methodist Church and St George's URC, and during this time we have been exploring ways in which we can reach out to the Messy Church families who we have contact with. In June we produced a Messy Church online with a bible story and some activities that families could do together. The video was great fun and a good start to this online experience. In the coming months we hope to continue to hold Messy Church on line, with more activities for all age groups, with walking routes, cycle routes, treasure hunts, as well as stories and craft activities. I would encourage you to check this out over the summer and see what activities you might be able to get involved in – no matter how old you may be!"

Thanks **Julian**

## **West End Refugee Service**

July/August 2020

Although their premises are closed for drop in sessions and face to face contact there is still much work going on. Volunteers have been busy supporting clients. Their tasks have included making masks and delivering food and family activity packs as well as their usual roles of befriending and Skillsmatch buddying! Their support work staff and volunteers are busy on the phones five days a week and there is lots of remote befriending taking place too. You may be interested to know that WERS has a very active Facebook page and recently they have added stories of some of their clients as they have been celebrating Refugee Week.

### **Justice and Peace Project**

The Project reports that its premises remain closed and, at present, it is expected to remain so until at least September. They are currently sending digital supermarket vouchers to the mobile phones of 74 destitute clients so they can purchase goods to the value of £30. Helen Woodland, the project worker, is receiving a lot of grateful feedback from them. She is also starting to contact clients proactively to provide emotional support and signposting to relevant agencies.

They report that stronger joint working between the agencies supporting refugees and asylum seekers has been one positive outcome of the pandemic. This has been a valuable forum for sharing information and practical ideas. They have been very appreciative of the very positive response to the recent appeal for financial support with parishes and individuals showing huge generosity at a time when many people are 'feeling the pinch' themselves. They encourage people to continue giving in this way whilst they are unable to donate food.

Both of these organisations need our support at a time when we are unable to send clothing and food donations. Please remember them and support them as you are able.

**Margaret Brock**

Matt Knowles, Synod Safeguarding adviser, has been in touch to say there is a new on-line basic safeguarding package which he is going to deliver through Zoom. He says:

*"This training session is at the basic level. Therefore, it is aimed at **all** members of the URC who attend church in any shape or form. It is as equally important a course for those who hold positions within our church to someone who attends services or groups on an infrequent basis. It is suitable for those new to the URC as well as for those who have been members for some time. It's also aimed at those who need refresher training as well as those of you who have had no training at all. Basically, I would like everyone who can to take part in the training to do so and to update themselves on everything safeguarding alongside the newly released safeguarding manual – Good Practice 5."*

Each session will be for a maximum of two hours, with a break, and will be for 10 people. It will be informal. You will need a computer/tablet/phone with camera and internet connection.

If you are interested or have any queries please contact me on 511897 or margaretdbrock@aol.com

Thank you, **Margaret Brock**

## Use your old clothes to help others in poverty

Lockdown drove many of us to do a Spring clear-out of our wardrobes. But what do you do now do with the old clothes you no longer want? Charity shops may be closed for the time being, but there's still a way to donate your old items and support your favourite charities. Just go online and visit **Thrift+** . It is an online store where you can buy and donate great quality second-hand clothes. And you get to choose which cause to support when you make a donation.

While lockdown measures are in place, they've introduced a doorstep collection service, so you don't need to leave your home to support life-transforming charities.

## Christian Aid's concern for women during Covid-19

The ACT Alliance, a network of 135 faith-based actors and churches operating in 120 countries, has called attention to the gendered dimension of Covid-19.

It is urging that the international community, including churches and religious organisations, should take this into account.

Women are afforded fewer rights than men worldwide, and although the disease itself might cause higher mortality amongst men, it is clear that the social impacts of Covid-19 will impact women the most.

Women living in poverty do not have the ability to take time off work, do not have adequate access to housing to self-isolate, and cannot stockpile provisions.

Poor women, girls and vulnerable groups are least likely to be able to access healthcare and treatment. The situation will be critical for women migrant workers, women on the move and those living in refugee camps or slums.

Daniela Varano, Communications Officer at ACT Alliance said: "Domestic violence cases have risen dramatically as women and girls across most countries have been quarantined, often with their abusers. It is crucial that all governments put in place affirmative actions and inclusive policies that level the playing field."

ACT Alliance, together with its members, has launched a Global Appeal to support the most marginalised communities during this crisis.

## Junior Church

During lockdown, Junior Church have been meeting regularly every Sunday morning with our Methodist friends online.

We take turns reading prayers and a Bible story before doing crafts together. So far we have made cards to our church friends, created under the sea pictures with prayers and messages that have been put up in the Methodist Church window for everyone to see as they walk past. We have made crazy party hats to celebrate some of the children's birthdays. We have also been learning how to sign The Lord's Prayer. We made a poster about what Love means to us and VE day bunting; we even got creative in the kitchen making delicious banana milkshakes. We all really miss Church but having this connection with one and other is really helping the children alongside watching Julian and Noah's fabulous YouTube plays. Julie Vermaas



### ***Here are some of the answers seven-year-olds gave to the following questions...***

*Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?*

God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

*What kind of little girl was your mum?*

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

*What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?*

His last name.

*What's the difference between mums & dads?*

Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

## **A Letter to the Editor (We don't often have those!)**

As a complete IT-illiterate, I have few means of enjoying the fellowship we shared on Sundays.

The support of my Elders' contacts, Julian's printed services and their regular delivery has been constant.

I would like, though, (through your column, as they say in the papers!) to tell all those friends, old and new, who we can no longer meet-and-chat-over coffee with, how often they pop, one by one, two by two, in numbers, into my thoughts and prayers.

Faithfully yours,  
***Lis Elders***

*Una Shankland kindly subscribes to our monthly newsletter and has sent a few snippets from the newsletter of the Hetton Independent Methodist Church, where, under normal circumstances, she is a member. Una and her husband Walter send their warmest wishes and hopes that everyone at St George's is staying safe and well.*

### ***Hold on to your dreams...***

No matter what life brings, on to your dreams keep hold.

Always try to cherish them and treasure them like gold.

For if you keep them in your heart, and nurture them each day,

They will sprinkle you with magic as you walk along life's way.

So if you keep them in your mind, in everything you do,

You very soon will find, those dreams will all come true.

***Submitted by Ann Boyle.***

### ***Dream Come True....***

A group of clergy had gone on retreat, and the subject of dreams, prophecy and fulfilment came up. 'I firmly believe in it,' said one. 'Why last week I was sound asleep, dreaming I was in an important diocesan committee meeting. The bishop had singled me out of all the room, to ask my advice about something. Then when I woke up, sure enough, there I was.'

### Snippets....

You never really appreciate how many expensive parts your car has - until it hits a tree.

You know when you are having a senior moment when you enter a revolving door, and then you can't remember whether you were going out or coming in.

Wouldn't it be great to live in that town on television, where the hero always finds a parking place right in front of the bank, the supermarket, and the Post Office?

A clean conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.  
God must work in you before God can work on you.

### Because of JusUs

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck **U** in the name of his son. And each time **U** pray, you'll see that it's true - you can't spell out JesUs and not include **U**.

You're a pretty big part of his wonderful name, for **U** He was born; that's why He came.

And his great love for **U** is the reason He died. It even takes **U** to spell crUcified. Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand? He rose from the dead, with **U** in his plan. The stone split away, the gold trumpet blew, and his word resUrrrection is spelled with a **U**.

When JesUs left earth at his upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

'Go into the world and tell them it's true  
That I love them all – just like I love **U**'


**In a veterinarian's waiting room:** "Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

**At the electric company:** "We would be de-lighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

**In a restaurant window:** "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."








### Mouse Makes

**FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS**

Match the wife to their husband

MARY	BOAZ
SARAH	JACOB
RUTH	ZECHARIAH
REBEKAH	JOSEPH
RACHEL	ABRAHAM
ELIZABETH	ISAAC



### WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

P			L	
				E
I				
			R	

- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel

- Mother of John (Luke 1:3)
- Sarah's servant (Genesis 16:21)

				I
S				
			N	


- Joseph's mother (Genesis 29:35)
- His wife turned to salt (Genesis 11:31)
- Paul's friend (2 Corinthians 8:27)
- A brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)
- Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 3:1)

### IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt...  
**What were they?**


Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.


**AKNNC**  
**EONFR**  
**FMZSR**  
**EKHDR**  
**CHRDZRD**  
**OKZFTD**  
**GZHK**  
**KNBTRSR**  
**CZQJMDRR**

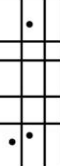


### FIND THE FISH


The Disciples have been fishing and have caught TWO fish the same, can you find them?







Colour in all the shapes with a DOT to find out what Jesus want us to do



People (thank goodness) are different! Some revel in the manipulation of numbers; others have a penchant for words and language. I fall into the latter category – language has always fascinated me and I’ve been an avid reader from early childhood. Arranged appropriately, words can create some sublime literature, whether it be the poetry of Christina Rossetti, the iambic pentameter of Shakespeare, or the imaginative fantasy of the Harry Potter or Chronicles of Narnia books.

Used with rather LESS thought they can result in..... Well.... just unintended humour! I offer this (final!) small selection of examples of the latter from journalists who really ought to have known better!

*"The lady, having spent Christmas with her family, strongly recommends this small homely Hotel"*      Sussex Newspaper

*"At a recent demonstration of colour television, the audience were shown a man eating a piece of watermelon, a pot of geraniums, and a young woman in a coloured frock"* Essex Newspaper

*"CORRECTION – An imposter with a morbid sense of humour was responsible for the note announcing the death of Mrs Gloria Lagman. Mrs Lagman is alive. We regret the necessity for this correction"* New Orleans Times

*"For Sale – Jacobean table, almost new"*      London local paper

*"A house owner in Golders Green was forced to leave his house through dangerous cracks in the wall"* Hendon Newspaper

*"Flat, furnished, offered in new house in Artane, with young wife, husband away, no others kept"*      Dublin Newspaper

*"The member admitted he was wrong in calling the man the biggest scoundrel in the village. He had forgotten himself for a moment" Surrey Newspaper  
"Position as daily help wanted by respectable woman (Sundays excepted)"*

London provin

London provincial

*"If they could prevent children from dying before the age of one, there would be a better chance of them reaching adolescence" South London*

*"This article will be very useful to amateur poultry keepers. It gives the secret of hatching chickens in a nutshell"* Norfolk Newspaper

*"A kitten with 2 complete heads and 3 eyes has been born in Long Sutton.  
Mr G ...., the well-known local vet, has relinquished his practice to join the Church  
of England Ministry"* Lincs Newspaper

*Submitted by Jared Johnson*

Lockdown has resulted in a (half-hearted) attempt to de-clutter some of my accumulated “stuff”! One consequence is that I have had time to read some 20 or so assorted back-copies of “*The Northumbrian*” magazine dating from around 2009 – 2018. They contain some interesting and varied articles about Northumberland (and some excellent photographs), with regular contributors including Ian Kerr, Bill Grundy and the retired local vet, John Prescott. It seems a pity to simply dump them in the recycling bin, so if anyone would like them, just give me a ring on 01670 514610 and I’ll get them to you – and perhaps you can then pass them on to anyone else who might be interested.

***Jared Johnson***

A bored young man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?" This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"



## St George's Social Distancing Plant Sale

Whilst we were unable to hold our annual plant sale, Gillian, Ken and Mary have been bringing on and selling plants and vegetables both online and by word of mouth. Mary has operated a collection policy and Gillian a delivery service.

This raised £485.

We would like to thank everyone who bought plants for their generous donations. We all look forward to being back to 'normal' next year.



## ***The American Medical Association debated whether the country should be re-opened. Here are the results by medical specialty:***

The Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve. Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!", while the Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow. The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Anaesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no. The haematologists just thought it was all a bloody mess! But finally the Podiatrists thought it was certainly a step forward.

***Submitted by Gillian Irvine.***

## St James the Least of All

### Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

#### The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing "away in a manger", mangers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while stewards scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them 'Do not take home' as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction 'Take this sheet home for reference' would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, 'Common Sense', who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

'Common Sense' lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

'Common Sense' lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

'Common Sense' lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

'Common Sense' took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

'Common Sense' finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

'Common Sense' was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

*Submitted by Gillian Irvine*



## Coronavirus Spring

Spring has returned, in all its fragile newness.  
Here the magnolia, and there the prunus—

Like any other spring,  
Yet more entrancing

Now that so many sense their need for air,  
And find that all their fellow-beings share  
The same desire to cling  
To life, not chancing

Contact with that spiky floating mine.  
Now is the time to walk in the sunshine,  
Hearing the blackbird sing  
Above, and glancing

Upwards at the now untravelled sky,  
Newly reclaimed by bird and butterfly.  
But, on encountering  
Someone advancing

Towards me, I step aside into the road—  
Unless they do so first—give them a nod,  
A smile, or some such thing,  
Thereby enhancing,

Not severing, the bond uniting stranger,  
Neighbour and friend against the hidden danger:  
Not social distancing  
But social dancing.

**Dermot Killingley, 27th April 2020**

*Dermot Killingley is a very long standing member of the Church orchestra and has taken part in socials. He and his late wife wrote and were responsible for the Northumbrian Passion play which was produced and performed by St. George's. Dermot lives in Jesmond and is a member of Trinity Church in Gosforth. He sends greetings to all the orchestra, and hopes that they can be together again soon.*

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## Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.

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

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*Sudoku solution on page 20*

## Wordsearch for July

### St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life. Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. Mary has also sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon.

She became His follower to the bitter end. She followed Him to Jerusalem and was present during the

crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint His body on the Sunday morning. Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid; it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought He was the gardener at first.

Jesus told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief.

*Mary, patron, repentant sinners contemplative life seven demons Tiberius galilee anoint feet follower end Jerusalem Crucifixion foot cross tomb body morning faithful humble devotion privilege mankind risen appeared easter gardener disciples return obedient resurrection witness courage. Solution on page 20*

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

## Crossword for July/August

**Across:** 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)

4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6) 7 'Praise the Lord, O my —' (Psalm 103:1) (4) 8 See 5

Down. 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)

13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3) 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)

17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)

19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8) 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

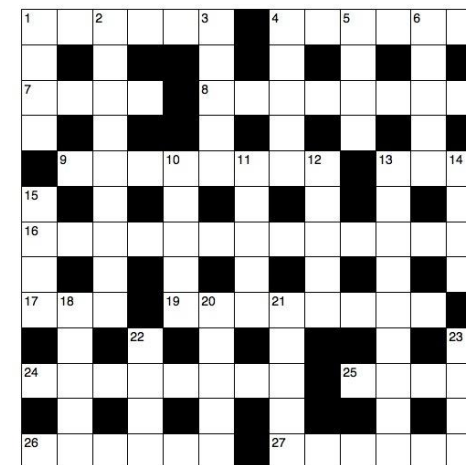
25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4) 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6) 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

**Down:** 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4) 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9) 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5) 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)

5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards —' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8) 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5) 10 Trout (anag.) (5) 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)

12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5) 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9) 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)

15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4) 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5) 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5) 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5) 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4) 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4). *Solution on page 20*



**Crazy?** Our minister wanted the title of his next sermon to be posted ahead of time on the church website. He rang our church warden and said that the title was to be: 'Are Ministers Crazy?'

Not hearing this as a question, the church warden dutifully posted: 'Our Minister's Crazy.'

**I finally did it!** I bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



Saul became jealous and angry

David had to go on the run and hide.



When he wasn't fighting the Philistines, Saul tried to catch David.

One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



God has given you a chance to kill him!

David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



Saul didn't notice.

Then David felt bad.

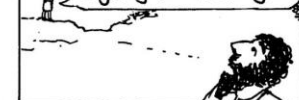


He is God's chosen king. Having the chance to do something doesn't make it right.

David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



## Puzzle Solutions:

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

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

## Well Bread

If you cast your bread on the waters,  
It returns a thousand fold,  
So it says in the Bible.  
That's what I've been told.

(So) I cast my bread on the waters,  
It was spotted by a froggy,  
And the bits of bread he didn't eat  
Just floated back all soggy.

**Spike Milligan**

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

**The queue....**While waiting in a socially distanced queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away. A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away. But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition. The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

*Here is the news from Bavington:*

### Services and Bible studies

Until churches can re-open for services, we continue to be blessed by Julian's services, available on YouTube on the Morpeth and Area URC channel, and the Bible studies which take place by Zoom at 2.00pm on Tuesdays. Please contact Julian for the joining details – you can take part by computer or phone.

### History Night – at home

History Night started in July 2012, to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Ejectment, and ever since then we have met most months to find out about all sorts of aspects of the history of the church, village and surrounding area. This has been a fascinating combination of first-hand knowledge from those who have lived here for a long time, and internet research which has brought to light some very informative, but little known, publications such as the English Presbyterian Messenger and the Topographical Dictionary of England of 1848. To mark the centenary of the end of World War I, Ian Rawles wrote a book about the soldiers who died or were killed during the War, who are named on the Roll of Heroes in the church. A book about the history of the schools at Bavington (which date back to around 1780) is in production at the moment. The facsimile copy of the Bavington Presbyterian Recipe Book was an outstanding success and we have held two Heritage Baking Nights when people brought along things which they had made from the recipe book – which we ate, and very good they were too.

The next area of research will be industrial heritage, and particularly the site of the former lead workings between Plashetts and North Heugh.

Now that we cannot meet in person for History Night, we have decided to go digital and share our research online using Google Drive. If you would like to join History Night from home, please email [bavingtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bavingtonchurch@gmail.com).

## Widdrington United Reformed Church

### PRAYING TOGETHER

During July and August, please pray for:

People in war zones

Victims of natural disasters

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced

Health workers, shop workers, delivery drivers, postmen and anyone else doing essential work at this time

Farmers and farm workers at hay and harvest, including fruit and vegetable growers and pickers

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine and treatments

The elderly and those who may be particularly vulnerable to the virus

The homeless

Anyone who is recently bereaved

Your neighbours

"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](mailto:elliemist@gmail.com) and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). Perhaps you have some reflections on our situation which you'd like to share? The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the Sunday prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

The Newsletter is being delivered by email to those whose email address we have. If you have received a paper copy, and you have an email address, please contact me as above. As well as saving printing and posting costs, it will enable us to send you other relevant information, and links to worship resources.

**Flowers:** The earliest date we are likely to be able to reopen the Church (not to resume worship (or at least meeting in groups in church premises) is July. Kathleen may start to put flowers in if that happens.

**Easy Fund Raising (Easy?)** Do you shop online? Perhaps you are considering doing this during the current emergency? Now's your chance to get busy with Easy Fund Raising! The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. Also most of the big supermarkets who do home delivery offer a donation, at least for first time shoppers. I've identified Morrisons, Asda, Sainsburys, Tesco and Iceland - something for everybody. (Some of our EF members only shop with retailers who are in the scheme!) This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me, as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £265 so far with just eight members (although we didn't *quite reach* £15.00 for the last quarter's payout. There shouldn't be any problem next quarter!). As they say, every little helps.

**Social:** Sadly our social programme remains suspended. This means we will have lost at least three coffee mornings, four if we can't hold the August one, at a time when our funds are somewhat squeezed. As soon as we can operate again we will plan for some Saturday coffee mornings. We will also try to find a way to run the Car Treasure Hunt as soon as possible. We'll let you know. Please make sure that you put aside your usual weekly collection, by filling up your envelopes, or, if you use online banking, by direct transfer. Or you could set up a standing order. Contact Kathleen for bank details. We will work out which planned events we can hold as soon as it is possible. The church meeting scheduled for Thursday 30th April remains postponed. We'll let you know about a future date.

Meanwhile, anyone who presents a report to this meeting (which is the AGM) might as well get it written (I've done mine now!)

Sunday worship remains suspended until further notice. A huge thank you to Julian for his reflections and services, and to Noah for his help with the children's stories and activities. The Services from URC Daily Devotions are also available, along with many other services from many denominations, via Facebook and on YouTube. Let me know if you don't get the link to the Sunday services. Let Diana know if you would like a printed copy instead.

Kathleen has undertaken a risk assessment in anticipation of opening the church. However, we are not rushing in! We'll contact everybody either by email or phone when anything is decided, and our Facebook page will also be updated.

**Regular events:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club usually meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

However, I'm afraid this will need to remain suspended until coffee shops are allowed to open again. Again, we'll let you know if we are able to meet before the next magazine.

**Wednesdays: Prayer Group:** We continue weekly via Zoom at 7.15pm and will continue to do so until the situation normalises. If there is anything you would like us to pray about, please let any member of the group know. If you have Zoom and would like to join us, please contact Julian for an invitation.

**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 over 100 (117 actually) likes, with another 5 people 'following'!

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 18 page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him! He's still feeling lonely, but he enjoyed it when Julian recorded last week's service in church.

The website is at: [www.widdringtonurc.org.uk](http://www.widdringtonurc.org.uk)

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

**Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham**

Our activities together are also suspended.