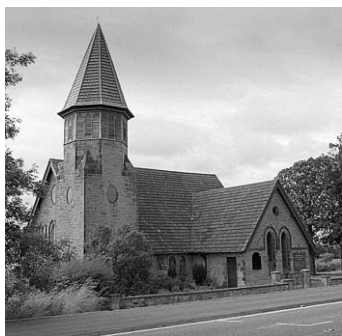


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



The
United
Reformed
Church



June 2020

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.com

A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders

Dear Friends,

As we begin to think about Pentecost, I am being struck time and time again by the opening verse of the second chapter of Acts:

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”

And each time I think of those words, it hurts a little, that we will not be able to meet all together in one place for a good while to come.

The official advice from the churches is that perhaps by the beginning of July, the churches might be able to open to allow people to come into the building for private prayer. There is also talk of a little later being able to meet together in well-spaced small numbers, if not inside then perhaps at least outside in the open. But it seems that the opportunity for us all to meet together in the one place, in our own churches, may still be many months down the line. Of course, this is all speculation. Resurgence of the infection rate may mean a slowing down of this progress. The development of a vaccine, and comprehensive testing, may well mean some things might happen a little quicker. We just don't know. We just have to wait.

The disciples too, on that first Pentecost, were waiting. They had been told to return to Jerusalem, and wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They were to do nothing in their own power, but wait, idly, until a time that God's Spirit and power would come to them. Then, and only then, could they then go out and engage in mission and preach the gospel.

We too, are being told to wait. Waiting in our homes. And this, no doubt, is frustrating and challenging as we consider that we are not in control, we have no power in this situation. If the lockdown has taught us one thing, it is the limits of our own power and ability. I am forced to confront the limits my own abilities and power and to recognise that it is only in God's power that I am able to achieve anything.

As the lockdown eases, I look forward in hope that we will again be able to meet together, but I am aware that for now I just have to wait. People at the moment are able to exercise a few more freedoms. Some already are taking advantage of going out for exercise and enjoying the outdoors. Some are enjoying travelling to places and enjoying the countryside. Some are regularly taking advantage of the many 'take-away' services being offered by restaurants. And it is good that that freedom is possible and can be enjoyed.

However, others I know are continuing to shield themselves. The most elderly, and those with medical conditions, know that they cannot yet enjoy those same freedoms because the cost to them, or their families, is just too great a risk.

As we, as churches, start to resume meeting together we need to consider the safest way to do this not for just some of us, but for all of us. We need to consider ways in which those who are still shielding will be able to join in with what we do as church, even if they are not able to physically be present. We need to explore some new ways of being church that are not just about meeting together, but about supporting and encouraging one another, and sharing the gospel in different ways than we have been used to.

When the time is right, I am sure the Spirit will lead us, and be with us, so that we can be inspired, strengthened and comforted in the work that we have to do. And then one day, when the time is right, we will all be together again in one place.

With every blessing,
Julian



We are pleased that the work on replacing the front doors of St George's URC is planning to go ahead, taking full advantage of the church building not being in use. The work on the doors is now scheduled to start on the 8th June and will be completed by the end of July. During this time, it is likely that the front entrance will be boarded up for security reasons, and all will be done to ensure that the work is carried out on site under COVID-19 safety regulations. This is an exciting development and we will be able to look forward to resuming to meet in the church with the new doors in place for when this happens.

Julian

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week has come and gone this year. We have not had the usual door to door activities, handing out envelopes and going back to collect them. David and I have not spent hours counting notes, coins, foreign currency, buttons, screws etc. We have not struggled with deciphering Gift Aid forms. We have not had the usual plant stall in the Market Square.

This is Christian Aid's biggest fund raising time in the year. The needs Christian Aid seeks to meet have not gone away. Many of the countries they support will have been hit by the Corona Virus so their needs will have increased significantly. If you usually make a donation to Christian Aid during Christian Aid week and have not done so this year and are able please consider doing so now. You can do this either through the Christian Aid website (www.christianaid.org.uk/) or by post to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL.

Thank you, **Margaret Brock**
June 2020

West End Refugee Service

WERS reports that although they have had to close the doors of their building for daily drop-ins and pause face to face contact, they are seeking to provide support over the telephone and have been able to add to the amount of support that is available in this way. Clients who had been receiving regular cash payments now receive them remotely on prepayment cards and this amount has been increased and includes a phone credit payment.

They note that food poverty has increased significantly amongst the people they support since the outbreak of Covid-19, as so many drop-in centres and support services have had to close and children are at home all day. Some of their clients are also in the vulnerable category and are having to self-isolate. They say that from the time lockdown began in March until mid May they have distributed 330 food parcels to 116 households with 121 now receiving regular supplies. This has been possible with the support of other local charities including the Justice and Peace Project.

They are currently seeking to recruit volunteers to act as *remote befrienders*. Information about this service can be found on their website (www.wers.org.uk) on the volunteering page. Remote befrienders help asylum seekers and refugees who are experiencing social isolation through the outbreak to feel more welcome, supported and connected with local people. The role is to be a friend on the end of the telephone.

Justice and Peace Project

In similar fashion the Justice and Peace Project has not been able to operate as normally but is still supporting its clients financially with vouchers. The Management Group has expressed its thanks for the generosity being shown to the Project at the present time. They say *"Your individual contributions - at a time of hardship for many of us - show a kindness and humanity that is truly humbling. Be assured that your donations are making a huge difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. God bless you."*

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.

* * * * *

#FaithAtHome aims to make prayer a household habit

The Church of England has recently launched #FaithAtHome, a new programme which it is hoped will "make prayer a household habit once again."

#FaithAtHome will feature weekly video content to help families to talk about faith and pray together. The videos will be led by children, young people, staff and school leaders from across the country.

The #FaithAtHome programme will run for an initial 11 weeks, until the end of July, and can be accessed at churchofengland.org/faithathome it will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "The aim of these resources is to offer simple ways for families and households to approach complex and difficult topics, such as illness, fear and bereavement. The coronavirus pandemic has forced people to confront difficult and painful questions that none of us can explore on our own.

"My hope and prayer is that #FaithAtHome will not only equip children and young people to engage with difficult questions, but also inspire them."

The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders said: "Home is the new normal, and faith at home is a habit we need to rediscover.

#FaithAtHome will offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect, and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home."

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument.

Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar.

The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required.

I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

CROSSWORD For June

CLUES:

Across: 1 See 23 Across

3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8) **8** Invalid (4)

9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)

11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10) **14** Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6) **17** Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)

20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8) **21** Native of, say, Bangkok (4)

22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3) **23** and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4).

Down: 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)

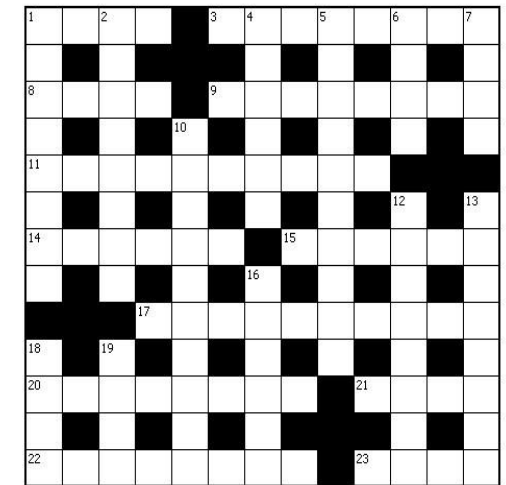
5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)

6 St Columba's burial place (4) **7** Swirling current of water (4)

10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10) **12** 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8) **16** 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4) **19** Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)



Solution on page 19

Yesterday is history

Tomorrow is a mystery

But today is a gift and that's why it's called the present.

"2020 the year when my bin went out more than me"

Quite a few people in our church this year are due to celebrate (or have celebrated) their Golden Wedding. Donald and I are due to renew our wedding vows at St James's URC, Alnwick on 5 July where we were married 50 years ago and to celebrate the event I wrote a hymn that is going to be used in the service which will be attended by members of our extended family and 'wedding party members' – bridesmaids, groomsmen etc, as well as the congregation. This is a blessing for all the Golden Couples in St George's this year. The tune it is set to is Mountain Christians (R&S 553) a hymn which talks of Abraham & Sarah – another couple of oldies!

Golden Wedding Hymn

(Tune Mountain Christians – R&S 553)

1. God blessed this loving couple

On the happiest of days

As they promised one another

To share their lives always,

To honour and to cherish

In sickness and in health,

In happiness and sorrow

In poverty and wealth.

2. Now fifty years have passed, and

Their family has grown,

We pray the love that joined them

May fill their hearts and home,

Through peace and love in Jesus,

Their helper, guide and friend,

And the joy that they began with

Continue to life's end

3 To God the great Creator,

To Christ, his loving son

Whose grace still moulds and shapes them

Together into one.

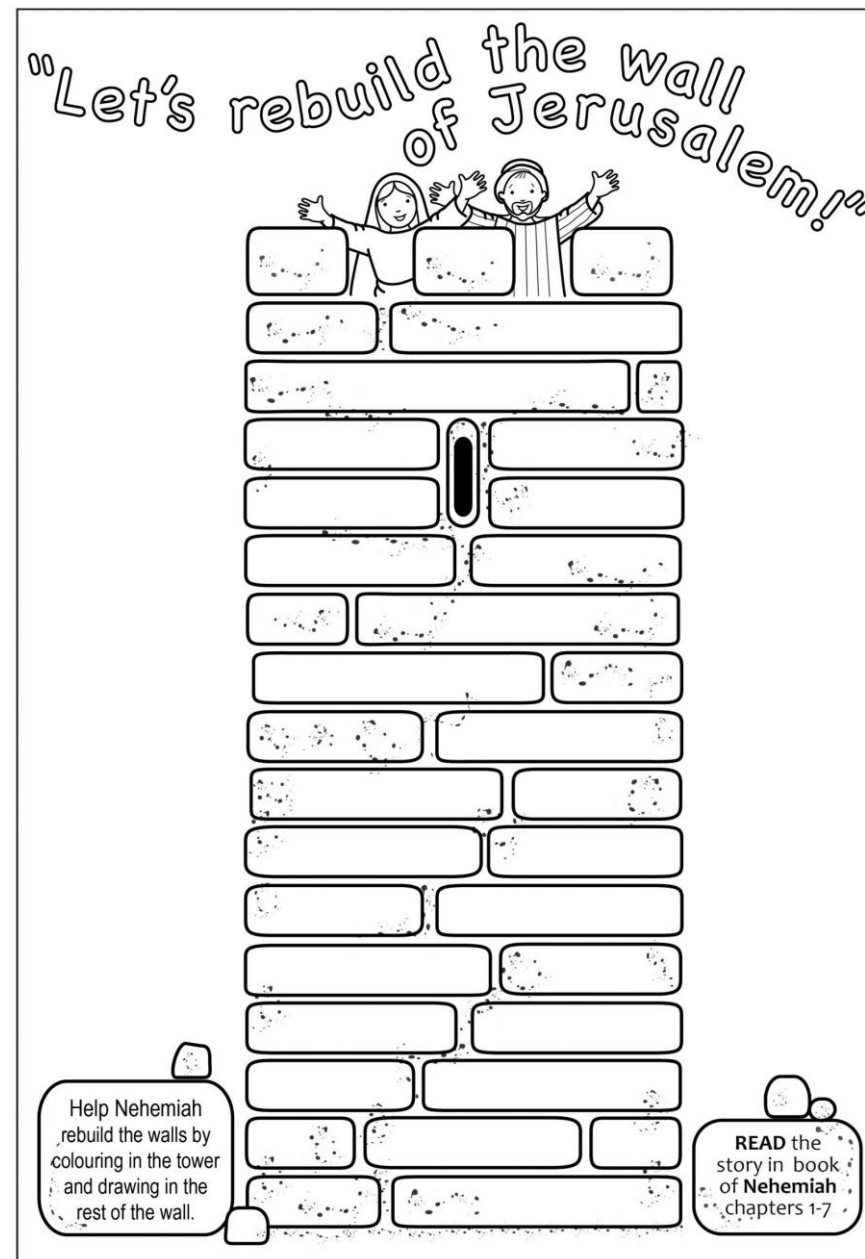
And to the Holy Spirit

Their strength along the way.

Be heartfelt thanks and praises

On this most joyful day.

© Carol Dixon



Jane Brocklehurst on the value of going through our 'sentimental' stuff...and finding some wonderful memories.

Looking for Hope Amongst the Clutter...

In this strange locked down season, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, I've noticed a change in the type of pictures posted on social media. In place of the look-here-at-me selfies are snapshots of buds opening to display the colours of spring.

Such hopeful images counterbalance gloomy statistics in the news media. There are also more memory pictures – this is what I was doing on this day years ago with people I love – I wish we could be together now.

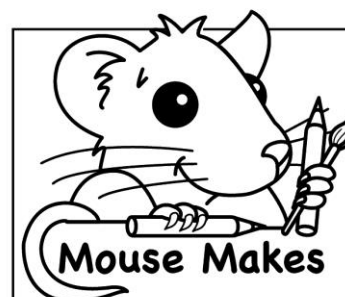
While we're not allowed to make the kind of memories depicted in those pictures, we find comfort in memories we already have.

One thing I've done with this unexpected free time is to organize printed photographs into albums. The photos and the albums have been there for a while, waiting for me to get a round tuit. You remember the old joke? Imagine people finding their round tuits in cupboards and drawers all over the country. How would you use yours? To sow seeds that had not been planted? To read the book gathering dust on a shelf?

What else needs tackling? Now may be an ideal time to face the daunting corner where clutter lurks. Daunting because of what you may disturb among age-old piles of unsorted belongings. Looking squarely at the past may be an unwelcome prospect. It makes us face uncomfortable questions. Projects we may never finish, equipment we cannot use any more, objects of attachment from people we've lost. Isn't that like what we're doing as a nation in these unprecedented times? Issues we have been avoiding are suddenly highlighted through unfamiliar circumstances.

There is much talk about how we're looking forward to getting back to normal on the other side of this international crisis. Some people say they hope things will have changed, that normal will not look the same as it used to, because we have learned valuable lessons about what really matters in life. It's up to us whether or not we rise to the challenge, to reorganize society more fairly, to care more for the environment.

By myself I cannot change the world, but I'm determined to look after the little space that is in my care, not to let it be overwhelmed with needless clutter. Be brave. Use this negative time to make a positive change in your small corner. If you choose to sort it out, I guarantee that amidst all the mess you will find at least one thing, however small, to bring you joy – even if it's just a clean and tidy corner.



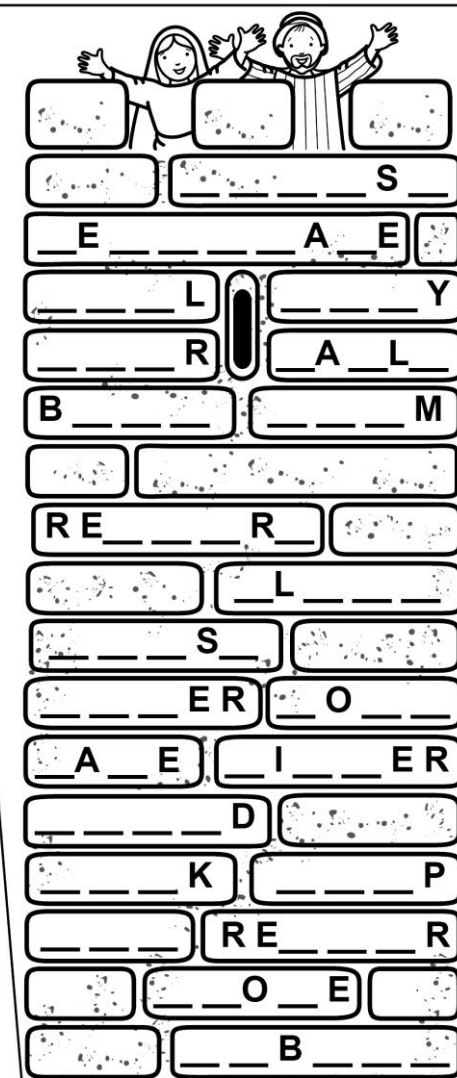
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

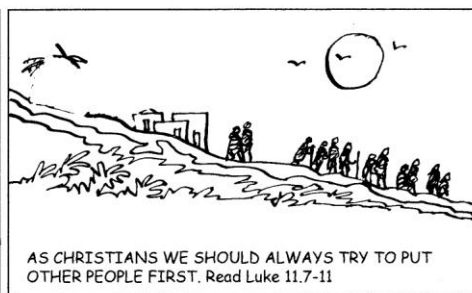
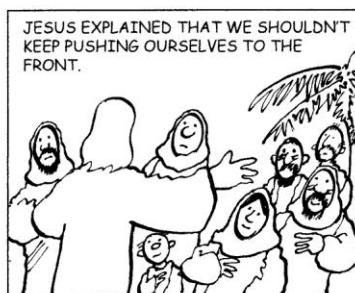
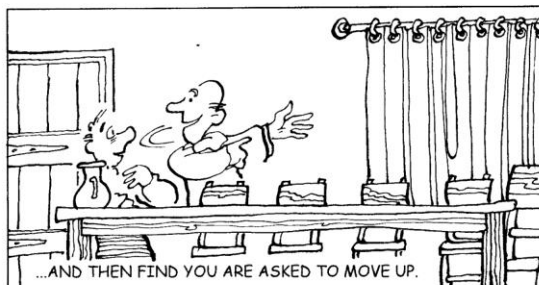
Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORE | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILD | <input type="checkbox"/> STEP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STONE | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TIMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOR | <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE | |



How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



Word Search for June

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (vs 1-6) reminds us...

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

Dwells shelter most
High shadow almighty
Refuge fortress trust

Save snare deadly
Pestilence cover feathers
Wings faithfulness shield

Rampart fear terror
Night arrow plague
destroys

Solution on page 19

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

VE Day Anniversary Teddy Bear's Picnic – hosted by Patricia Gatherum



Memories of VE Day:

Jean Elliott has memories of VE Day; ‘It was a happy and joyous Berwick day’ she recalls, ‘There was a street party with a big table and many chairs, and she remembers her mother sending her and a friend down to the ice cream shop, to bring back ice-cream in a milk container, which was a very special treat.’

WORDSWORTH 2020

I wandered lonely as a cloud, Two metres from the madding crowd
When all at once my name was called, To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.
This was the pensioners’ special hour, My wife said: “Buy a bag of flour”.
But I forgot, when through the door, What I had gone to Waitrose for.
The Waitrose staff are very kind. I told them it had slipped my mind.

They asked what else I had forgot, They clearly thought I’d lost the plot.
I phoned my wife again to ask. She reminded me of this special task:
“I need some flour to bake a cake, With all that cream you made me take.”
“Ah yes, of course” I had to lie. I dared not ask what flower to buy.

But then I saw them next the tills, A bunch of golden daffodils!

Submitted by Gillian Irvine

Sudoku Solution on page 19

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

What it says on the sign...

At a towing company: “We don’t charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows instead.”

On a maternity room door: “Push. Push. Push.”

At an optometrist’s office: “If you don’t see what you’re looking for, you’ve come to the right place.”

In a podiatrist’s office: “Time wounds all heels.”

On a house’s fence: “Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive.”

At a car dealership: “The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment.”

Outside a muffler shop: “No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.”

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.”

P.R.E.S.S

TOTAL ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

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

24hr CALL OUT


No Job to Small from Extra Socket to Rewire

MORPETH


All Areas Covered

Tel Office 01670 510240 Fax 01670 513158

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



NICEIC
APPROVED
CONTRACTOR



TRUST MARK
Government Endorsed
Registered through:
NICEIC

Titwillow (With apologies to WS Gilbert)

On a tree by a river sat little Tom Tit
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.
His mate fluttered in and beside him did sit,
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.

"Oh, where are the people?" bewildered, he cried,
"Tis many a day since a soul I have spied"
"I think," said his wife, "they're all staying inside!"
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow".

"I do like the quiet, I do like the peace!
"But find myself wondering why did they cease

"The people in hundreds of cars they all came
"Especially when there was no sign of much rain,
"The weather's so nice, it seems such a shame!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

"I think I can tell you!" – she'd a smile on her beak,
"For I saw some people last Saturday week,
"Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,

"They stood in a group, they were flying a kite,
"Along came a police car with lights flashing bright,
"It seems the Old Bill gave those people a fright!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

A buzzard, above them, then uttered his 'mew'
Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow.
As quick as they could off to safety they flew,
Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow!

Arrived at their nest then our avian pair
Correctly concluded what caused human scare:
"They're frightened of critters that fly in the air!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

By Nigel Beeton

Elsie Lang would like to thank the Church Community for the support in recent months during Bill's illness and on his death.

The whole family are grateful for the cards, messages of sympathy and prayers during this present 'lock down'. Our thanks also go to Julian for the service he conducted at the Crematorium to the seven family members attending. Stay safe! And hope to we will all be back in church together in the coming months.

Elsie

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now, Since Covid came to stay
We don't dress up or do our hair, But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap, A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week, And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty, With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round, To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing, Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building, But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

How to make your wife more efficient

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said. When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused. "Did that save time?" one of the executives asked. "Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

Remember the days before we had computers with spell- and grammar-checks? Just occasionally, newspapers carried some amusing adverts and headlines which had clearly slipped through the editing process – the following selection seemed apposite to include in a Church Newsletter at a time when Covid-19 offers few opportunities for much humour!

"Humidity is perhaps the distinctively Christian virtue"

Indian newspaper

"There was a very good congregation considering that the Bishop preached at the church on the previous Sunday"

Local newspaper

"Mrs Jennings raised the question of providing kneelers in the pews: after discussion it was resolved to leave the matter in the hands of the Standing Committee"

Kent Parish Magazine

"Evening Subject: 'What is Hell like?' Come and hear our new organ.

Cumberland Church Notice Board

"Celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday in Mathews Memorial Methodist Church. The Revd C.D.F., who has taken over, will unfortunately be in the Borough for a year"

Walthamstow Post

"The Vicar reported an increased number of communicants during the year and also stated that the death watch beetle had been confirmed in the church."

Banbury Guardian

"Our picture shows the Archbishop of York tapping the foundation stone with the Bishop of Barking"

Local newspaper

"At the Sunday Evening Service the anthem 'To Thee Oh Lord our Hearts we Raise' was rendered by the choir. The work of re-roofing the church began on Monday"

Manx newspaper

"On Saturday night at 8 pm the Annual Potato-Pie Supper will be held. The subject of the sermon on Sunday morning will be 'A night of horror'

Church Newsletter

Submitted by Jared Johnson

Solutions

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

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

Crossword: Across: 1 Care, 3 Paradise, 8 Null, 9 Profaned, 11 Legalistic, 14 Closed, 15 Stores, 17 Missionary, 20 Covenant, 21 Thai, 22 Trade-off, 23 Eden. **Down:** 1 Conflict, 2 Religion, 4 Arrest, 5 Affliction, 6 Iona, 7 Eddy, 10 Allegiance, 12 Preached, 13 Assyrian, 16 A son of, 18 Scot, 19 DVLA

20th June – Summer Solstice, The longest day of the year

21st June – Fathers Day.

The main function of the little toe is to make sure that all the furniture in the house is in place.



One way to find out if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you're still young. If they panic and start running to you, you're old.

You drop something when you were younger, you just pick it up. When you're older and you drop something you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it.

News from Great Bavington

Julian's Sunday services, and Julian and Noah's Bible stories and craft activities, continue on the Morpeth and Area URC's YouTube channel, both of which provide plenty of spiritual and creative inspiration. Bible studies by Zoom (computer or by landline phone for those who don't use computers) start on Tuesday 26 May.



75th anniversary of VE Day
The photo shows the sundial on the church at 3.00pm on 8 May, when we commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day in a socially distanced way in the village. With a recording of the Last Post, we remembered the sacrifices which people made during the war and were thankful for the peace and freedom we enjoy despite the present restrictions.

Rogation Day

On 17 May this year, and we would have been walking with the folks from St Aidan Thockrington to Bavington in the afternoon, finishing off with tea, cake and worship. Traditionally this was when people walked the boundary of the parish to pray that the crops will produce an abundant harvest. We will have to wait until another time to do our walk! Meanwhile, we can still pray for farmers and growers who provide our food supplies, and for everyone who delivers produce and sells it in the shops.

The grass is always greener... in the church garden, instead of in the field. There were some visitors.



Widdrington United Reformed Church

PRAYING TOGETHER

During June please pray for:
People in war zones
Victims of natural disasters
Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)
The refugee families being settled in the county, and those who help them
The work of relief agencies
Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced
Health workers, farmers and farm workers, shop workers, delivery drivers, postmen and anyone else doing essential work at this time
Researchers working on covid19 vaccine
The elderly and those who may be particularly vulnerable to the virus
The homeless
Anyone who is recently bereaved
Your neighbours
(If this looks remarkably like last month's list that's because it is!)

"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). 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 20th 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 but to allow for private prayer) 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 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 £260 so far with just eight members. As they say, every little helps.

Social: Sadly our social programme remains suspended. This means we will have lost at least two coffee mornings, 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'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.

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 (note to self). 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.

Regular events:

1st 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.

Wednesdays: Prayer Group: We have been meeting weekly via Zoom at 7.15pm throughout May 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 (111 actually) likes, with another 5 people 'following'! Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 17 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 the Good Shepherd service in church.

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 activities together are also suspended.

FEM

Peggy Virtue

Peggy was a much loved member of our church for many years.

When I first got to know her I thought her surname was 'Fortune'. On telling her of my mistake she replied with her typical sense of humour, 'I only wish it was!' She was a gracious lady with a strong faith. One of her 'mantras' was 'what's for you won't go by you.' Another; 'If you don't get it in this life you'll get it in the next.'

Leslie, her son, paid tribute to her at her Service of Thanksgiving – my memories relate to my regular visits to her while she was in St. Oswald's Court in Amble. Her flat was comfortable with all her personal mementos around her. She was one of the few people I've met who actually enjoyed housework, especially dusting her ornaments!

Fiercely independent, she lived there until 6 months before she died. Her carers enjoyed her company as she was so positive.

Crosswords, reading, and T.V. occupied her time. She had a phenomenal memory – watched the news keenly, and had clear political views.

A doctor, on enquiring if she ever experienced depression, was given short shrift – to his delight – 'what have I got to be depressed about?'

As she became older life was more difficult, health wise, but her stoicism was remarkable, and she seldom complained.

Family were very important to her, and she enjoyed special 'get-togethers' such as for her birthdays.

She was always interested in news of the church, and read the magazine regularly. She never let me leave without giving me something to put in the collection.

The church was important to her and because a service was not possible at the time we are remembering her now.

Submitted by Diana Hogg

