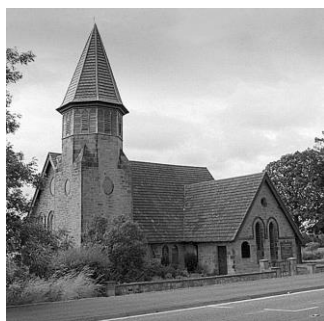


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



June
2023

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

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

Thurs 1st	2.00pm	Tea Time Talk
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Mon 5th	2.00pm	Elders Meeting
Wed 7th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Wed 7th	6.30pm	CT Prayer Meeting
Sat 10th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 11th	10.00am	Morning Worship at Morpeth Methodist Church for Fair Day
Mon 12th	7.00pm	Managers Meeting
Wed 14th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 21st	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Wed 21st	6.30pm	CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 25th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Service
Wed 28th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service

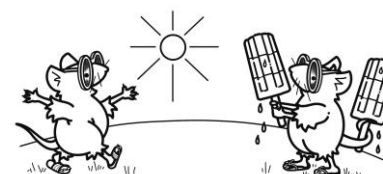
Steward's Duties

4	Katherine Smailes and Gillian Irvine
11	Morpeth Fair Day
18	Christine Oakes and Karen Howe
25	Gordon Slack and Christine Hawkins

Flower Rotas

- 4** See notice board
- 11** Morpeth Fair Day (at MMC)
- 18** See notice board
- 25** Margaret Finnie.

Rep: Vivien Bennett 515263



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 (not August) Christine Oakes	518485 518608

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's
covers events in **July and August** 2023

The deadline is Sunday 18th June

Please do not wait for the deadline if you already have articles ready to be
included. Please contact Stephanie. E-mail: **robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk**

Notes by the Way by Revd Stuart Brock

I guess like most folk reading this you, like us, get a lot of unsolicited communications through the letterbox, on line and on TV. Many of these are adverts for all sorts of trades and companies but we also get plastic bags which invite us to help particular charities by filling them with unwanted used clothes or objects to be resold for some good cause or other. The number of these is so large that we couldn't possibly fill them all, even if we were engaged in a grand clear-out or spring clean.

Then we are reminded of the endless needs of so many people across the world. Regular TV adverts for many different charities are a constant reminder of the suffering which is the 'normal' experience of people in dire poverty. We hear and see heart rending stories of the appalling conditions they are forced to endure. The adverts often convey pictures of children whose lives are blighted through the absence of nourishing food and clean drinking water. It is hard to ignore them. They pull at our heartstrings and touch our compassion. We want to respond to every one of them as we know that what they represent is only a fraction of the poverty and need that is out there. Add to this the unremitting footage on TV news of the effect on humans of natural disasters - hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or volcanos and we might well be totally overwhelmed with feelings of frustration, helplessness and despair. When we get to this point, we are approaching what has been labelled 'compassion fatigue' where the problems are so intractable we cannot see any solutions and believe that nothing we can do will change the situation and in our fatigue we come to the conclusion that there is no point in doing anything anymore.

So what to do? Certainly we are not going to change the world just on our own. What we can offer is so small a contribution compared with the scale of need. But we shouldn't give up. When we add up all the individual responses to these huge problems we discover there is strength in numbers. What we despair to achieve in our own lives, by joining with others, becomes a reality. I am writing this in Christian Aid Week. This annual event is a reminder that through dedicated organisations and the teams that run them, along with the enthusiastic volunteers collecting on the street or running other fundraising events, many individuals pulling together can make a huge difference. We know this because Christian Aid tells us it is so. Their publicity is peppered with stories of people and communities transformed by the giving of those of us fortunate to live in reasonable prosperity and security.

There may have been a reluctance recently for people to give as generously as in the past. This has been put down to the COVID emergency fundamentally changing the way people view their priorities in life. It may also be a reflection of the cost of living crisis which has left many people struggling to pay their heating and food bills.

Whatever the principle reason, charities too are struggling. They aren't immune from the factors that affect all of us. So I would suggest that now is not the time to let fatigue overcome our compassion but to maintain our commitment to the poor, the dispossessed and the vulnerable.

Refugees June 2023

I thought this month people might like to hear from a few of the asylum seekers themselves who are being helped by the two organisations, as well as some more general information.

West End Refugee Service

One asylum seeker reports that WERS *"saved my life. Without the support work team, I don't know what would have happened. No-one had told me that I should have attended an interview two years before. She contacted the Tribunal for me and found out the situation which made a big difference."*

"I would recommend WERS. They help a lot and have a lot of information. It's a good place to come."

Since being helped by the Support Work team this asylum seeker has participated in trips through skillsmatch, making new friends and improving his English. He has recently signed up to become a WERS drop in volunteer.

Another asylum seeker says *"WERS has allowed me to get to know others who speak the same language as I do and therefore make some friends. Also, because of all the volunteering WERS has helped me get in to, it has helped me see Newcastle as a city that I am new to. It gave me opportunities to get outside rather than be in the house all the time. It makes me feel like I am going out to work and then afterwards, returns to my house. I also feels that the volunteering I do enables me to 'give back' to the city".*

WERS has recently been involved in a visit to Alnmouth Friary, where they explored the gardens & the village and played rounders on the beach. They have also been to Hartlepool Sixth Form College to be involved in their Community Engagement Cultural Festival. They continue with activities to challenge the proposed Migration Bill.

Justice and Peace Project

The English lessons which are being provided to clients by volunteers at the project are resulting in significant improvements in their language skills. A client from Afghanistan who has been attending lessons since they re-started last year recently expressed her gratitude to the project. She reported, *"When I started attending classes, I was clueless. Over time, I have better English skills, where I can now write, read and communicate effectively."*

Due to generous donations and grants received, the project was able to increase the amount of the supermarket voucher they give out from £35 to £40 in April. Azad, the Project Co-ordinator is also working with agencies to further develop their ability to signpost clients to receive legal advice and support. He and a volunteer have also attended a meeting to provide views to the Commission on Integration on the asylum system and what can be done to put integration at the heart of the government policy on refugees and asylum seekers. Views from clients were also contributed at this meeting.

J&P says *"Volunteers are very much the life-blood of the operation. They work across the project, whether packing bags, lugging trollies, undertaking admin work or dealing face-to-face with clients and other visitors."* Currently J&P are specifically looking for volunteers to assist them on Wednesdays. Anyone who is interested should contact Azad Hasan, Project Co-ordinator at azad.hasan@diocesehn.org.uk or 07407 091184._

I have noticed recently that donations to WERS and Justice & Peace have declined significantly. I realise that things are difficult for many people and there are many calls on our income. If you can manage to support these worthy causes do please continue to do so in whatever way you can.

Thank you

Margaret Brock

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to this year's Christian Aid week. Thank you to the deliverers of envelopes, to our special post boxes and to all of you who have donated. Your gifts are especially welcome when there are so many people across the world who are struggling due to famine, illness, climate change and wars. All help is greatly appreciated. Next month, once all the monies have been counted we will let you know how much has been raised.

Thank you, **Laurence, Shirley and Margaret**

GIFT DAY

Gift Day this year will be on 25th June and envelopes will be available in the vestibule. Proceeds this year will go towards upgrades to the church sound system, including new lapel microphones.
Please give as generously as you can and ensure that everyone can hear church worship and other proceedings as well as possible.
Many thanks,

David Calcraft

Names of the Sundays in June, at a glance...

4th June	Trinity Sunday
11th June	First Sunday after Trinity
18th June	Second Sunday after Trinity
25th June	Third Sunday after Trinity
2nd July	Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Summer Solstice 2023 - Wednesday, 21st June

Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark

Don't miss the boat.
Remember that we are all in the same boat.
Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
Stay fit. When you're very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
Build your future on high ground.
For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
When you're stressed, float awhile.
No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown

Sudoku for May *Solution on page 20*

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

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Find and replace?... A minister whom I know of uses a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he enters a 'find and replace' command. The computer then finds the name of the deceased from the previous funeral and replaces it with the name of the deceased for the upcoming one. Not long ago, the minister told the computer to find the name 'Mary' and replace it with 'Edna'. The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the congregation intoned the Apostles' Creed. "Jesus Christ," they read from the pre-printed programme, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

This next one... A local DJ was introducing a record at our annual church fete/parish party. "This next one," he said, "is for Charlotte, a choir member, who is a hundred and eleven! Hey, Charlotte, congratulations on a ripe old age!" There was a short pause and then the DJ said in a somewhat more subdued voice, "I'm sorry, I got it wrong. This next one is for Charlotte, who is ill."

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Better by half... As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

St George's Annual Plant Sale, 20th May 2023

A huge thank you to all who helped in any way to make the recent Plant Sale such a success. People and prizes, sales and socializing, hard work and harmony made it a very special event. To date the amount raised stands at £2,417. 56p which I'm sure you will agree is a wonderful total.

Mary Kelly

Tea Time Talks

This months Tea Time Talk will be on
Thursday 1st June at 2.00pm

Our guest speaker will be Paul Carvin
With his talk entitled

'How I Became a Climate Champion'

Followed by a cream tea
for a suggested donation of £3.00

Paul Carvin is a trustee and the Climate Champion of the Three Rivers Learning Trust which brings together virtually all the schools in Morpeth. Paul will share his personal climate journey and, by doing so, aims to motivate more people to take steps to help address climate change.



As some people know, at the beginning of March George Brown fell and fractured his femur. He and Janet would like to thank all who sent cards, flowers, or visited, or did things. Thanks to Julian for bringing Communion. Thankfully, two months on, things seem to be getting back to normal, - whatever that is!

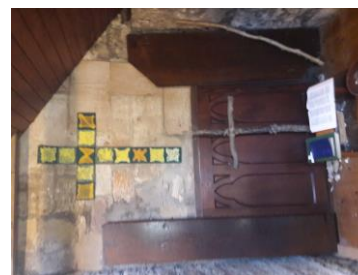
Janet Brown

Donald and I spent an enjoyable day on Holy Island on Saturday 29 April despite the poor weather and I really enjoyed the reflective time of poetry and music in worship at our little church, St Cuthbert's. It was lovely to hear one of my Holy Island hymns played during the worship in the place where it was recorded over 25 years ago and to see the recently renovated St Cuthbert's look so fresh and new.



I also enjoyed meeting up again with some old friends, including Sandy and Kath Ogilvie (Ian Ogilvie's parents) and hear how the family are doing. The theme of the reflective afternoon was Ebb Tide, Full Tide and was led by Roberta Ritson, a student at Scottish College coming to the end of her training for non-stipendiary ministry. Roberta applied her special creative gifts to providing a sequence of readings (following the story of Joseph), thoughts and prayers in which we were invited to relate to our own life experiences. Being enfolded in the peaceful setting of St Cuthbert's added a great deal to the day. Fifteen people had signed up beforehand, and it was a delight to be joined by 8 more guests (including a Chinese family and an Indian couple) who just happened to be visiting the Centre, but who were made welcome and stayed to the end of the afternoon - a great example of what the St Cuthbert's Centre strives to provide to visitors to the Island. One quote from the leaflet for the day stood out for me: 'In a true community we will not choose our companions... instead our companions will be given to us by grace'.

The afternoon was a very enjoyable opportunity for reflection and hospitality in our special place of welcome and sanctuary and the future programme can be found on the St Cuthbert's Centre website: holyisland-stcuthbert.org Events. (A video of my Holy Island hymn produced by Julian can be found on YouTube <https://youtu.be/1f91H3Rtlzl>.)



Here is St ~Cuthbert's boiler house prayer room which is open all the time, even when the Centre is closed. It is a small but lovely prayerful space for one or two people and is a great way of 'recycling' what was an old useless space.

Carol Dixon

**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 tickets
please call 01670 515870**

BUTTER THOSE PEAS St George's *Strip that willow*
Country Dance Club
Saturdays 7.30-9.30
April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8



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. Bring your own refreshments

More information from Shirley Forster 07749525269
shirlsgurc@gmail.com





The Lord said to Moses,
*"Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."*
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



Mouse Makes

1 **Water turns to Blood**
 Which water turned to blood?
Read - Exodus 7:19

2 **A Swarm of Frogs**
 In which places were the frogs found?
Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3 **A Plague of Gnats**
 When Aaron struck his staff on the ground what became Gnats?
Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4 **Swarms of Flies**
 In which land were the flies not be found?
Read - Exodus 8:22

5 **Death of Animals**
 Which animals that belonged to the Egyptians died?
Read - Exodus 9:2

6 **A Break out of Boils**
 What did Moses throw into the air before boils appeared on people and animals?
Read - Exodus 9:10

7 **A Rain of Hail**
 What also rained down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?
Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8 **A Swarm of Locusts**
 Where did the wind come from that brought the locusts to the land?
Read - Exodus 10:13

9 **Darkness over the Land**
 How many days did it remain dark?
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10 **Death of the Firstborn**
 At what time would the firstborn in the land die?
Read - Exodus 11:4-6

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

Crossword for June

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)

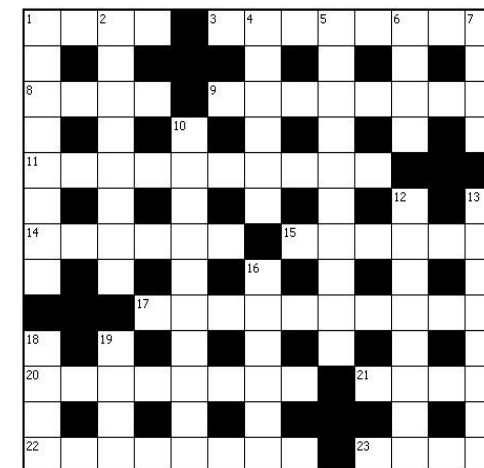
6 St Columba's burial place (4) **7** Swirling current of water (4)

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 20*

DIY...Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that she once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found her in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," she complained. The vicar thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"





The Coronation Lunch at St George's Sunday 7th May 2023

On Sunday 7th May 2023 to the sound of "Zadok the Priest", over 60 members and friends of St George's Church got together for a Coronation Picnic.

The hall was dressed for the occasion with bunting, balloons and flags, thanks to Adele and Sue.

The flowers on the tables which had been expertly arranged by Dorothy, were also in red, white and blue.

The Junior Church members greeted everyone with strawberries and meringues which looked like miniature crowns. These were washed down with glasses of fizz which had been provided by an anonymous donor.

Julian proposed the Loyal toast to our new King and Queen and then the eating began.

The atmosphere in the hall was electric with everyone sharing memories and enjoying good old St George's friendship.

It truly was a memorable day for us all. A huge thank you to Julian for all the planning and to his little band of helpers



*There are more images to be seen on the online version and church website,
courtesy of Gillian Irvine.*



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

I will be with you

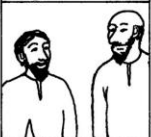


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah

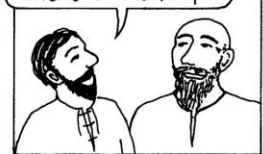


So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home..



They waited until Laban was away..



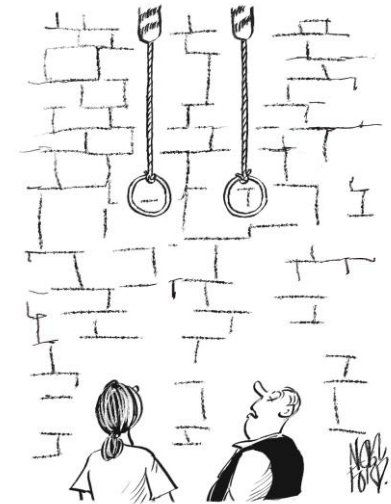
but he was told ...



Cartoon Page

Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...

~ The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.
~ The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
~ A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.
~ The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
~ The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
~ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

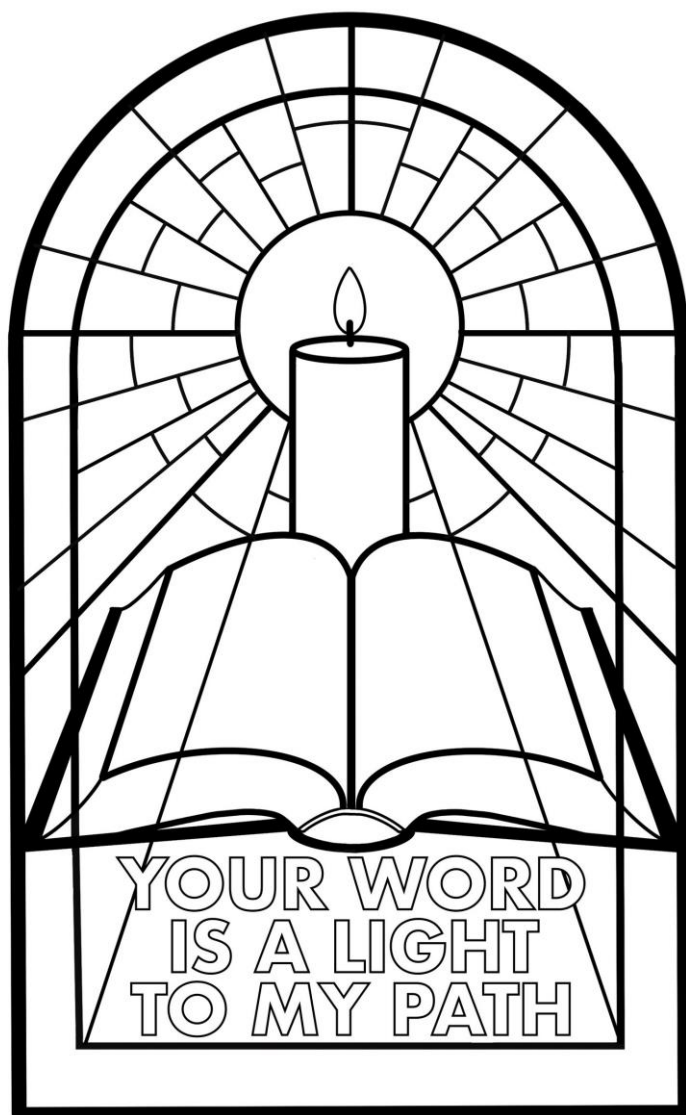


Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

Gardening...Overheard at my gardening club meeting: "I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

Grandmothers...Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

Plant...During our minister's very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!"



I would like to thank everyone for the kind wishes, cards and flowers I received following my surgery.
This was very much appreciated. **Stephanie Robson**

Wordsearch for June

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

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

*Simon Peter Fisherman Bethsaida Galilee Andrew Jesus Rock
Transfiguration Raising Daughter Garden Gethsemane Betrayed
Cock Crowed Feed My Lambs Sheep Keys Kingdom Gates
Hell Binding Loosing Solution on page 20*

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.



Solutions

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

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

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

A missionary was making his way through the jungle when he was suddenly confronted by a very hungry-looking lion. Terrified, he knelt down and prayed. When he looked up again, he was startled to see the lion lying on the floor with its head on its paws.

He said to the lion "Are you afraid, too, and asking for help?" To which the lion said "No, I am giving thanks!"

Submitted by Janet Brown

Miscellaneous observations on life...

I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.

It's weird, being the same age as old people.

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news for June:

Services

Sunday 4 June, 6.30pm (see also below about the Rogationtide Walk that day)

Sunday 18 June, 6.30pm

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.

World Refill Day 16 June

Great Bavington Church is a Refill Station - it's on the Refill map which shows where you can fill up your water bottle for free. Download the Refill app <https://www.refill.org.uk/> to find places across the country where you can fill up your water bottle for free; get discount for using a reusable coffee cup; take your own containers to buy food to save on packaging. Save some cash and help save the planet's resources. If you have a business or community building which can offer any of these, you can add it to the Refill map.

URC Daily Devotions

Every day, the URC publishes a daily devotion (a passage from the Bible, a reflection and a prayer), which you can get by email, on the website or on the URC's Facebook page, or as podcasts. The devotions follow books of the Bible or themes, such as the recent series about saints. You can subscribe here: <https://devotions.unc.org.uk/>.

Rev. Julian Sanders, the minister, can be contacted at sanders.julian@talk21.com or 01670 225539.

Please see the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for news updates.

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 June please pray for:

Ukraine, Sudan and other 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 as exams approach, especially those doing GCSE, A level and Finals

"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 June by Fiona and July 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. This quarter's payout was £41.55. Every little helps!

Fund raising: May Day Coffee Morning: £174. Coronation Coffee Morning: £60. A small select band, we enjoyed ourselves and were able to offer hospitality to a passing cyclists. Christian Aid Quiz: see below in Churches Together.

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 June along with duty rotas are in the table below.

Social

On Friday 16th June there will be a games night in the Hall from 7.00pm with pooled supper (provided by Widdrington URC members: we do not expect our guests to provide supper - could members please give some indication to Kathleen and Diana of what they intend to bring). Donations (voluntary) for hall expenses would be appreciated.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at various coffee shops. However, in June we meet in the Church Hall where Kathleen will provide the bacon sandwiches and scones.

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! I must apologise to Sean as I haven't been posting for him recently!

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:

Christian Aid Quiz: this was held in the Hall on Saturday 13th May. Eleven people gathered and enjoyed a quiz largely provided by Christian Aid, though the question master (Rev'd Julian Sanders) added a couple of rounds of his own devising. It was followed by a supper. £132 pounds was raised for Christian Aid.

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 for June

Date	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
4th	Margery Tate	Diana Hogg	K Bailey E Barber
11th	Sue Rutherford	Kathleen Bailey	R Gordon F Middlemist
18th	Rev Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	D Hogg M Scott
25th	Revd Andy Lie	Diana Hogg	A Grieves F Middlemist

Ian Gordon

Ian Gordon died on 14th April.

Ian was involved in the community. By profession a civil engineer, he was involved in road building projects both locally and nationally, including the Newcastle Western Bypass (known in the family as 'Uncle Ian's road'). He was awarded an OBE for his service. He sat on the parole board at Acklington prison. He was on the board at Nomad Housing, and later on the board of Woodhorn Museum. After retirement he became a Justice of the Peace. He was involved with his family. He helped out on the various farms of family members. I several times encountered him at West Stobswood dressed in a green boiler suit and wellies. He was very fond and supportive of his many nieces and nephews and their children who will remember him with affection. He was involved in his Church. His family has long been prominent in Widdrington Presbyterian, now Widdrington United Reformed Church. As such, Ian contributed to the practical upkeep of the church with grass cutting, decorating and other maintenance tasks. He was an Elder for many years until a promotion meant that he had to spend weekdays in London. He was the church organist for even longer, continuing until pancreatic cancer caused him to stop. He played every Sunday until a change in service time from afternoon to morning gave him a monthly week off for what was nominally 'family service'. He also knew exactly what to do with a screwdriver when the organ keys were stuck and 'siphoning'. In fact he last played the organ in October last year when illness left the worship team without an organist, so they were sharing the playing while also delivering the service. Ian stepped in after the second hymn, which was greatly appreciated by all. He rather enjoyed the experience. He also used to lead the church choir, which when I came to Widdrington was a small group who sang for Christmas and Easter. Ian was torn between being our only bass, and our only competent accompanist. He patiently recorded the tenor line onto Don Short's little red cassette recorder. In 2014 Ian developed pancreatic cancer. Against the odds he survived the treatment, which included the removal of his pancreas, making him a type one (insulin dependent) diabetic: a sudden change in lifestyle for one of his age. His independence curtailed, his family rallied round as he had so often done for them.

We thank God for his life and service, and pray for God's care and comfort for his family and friends. He will be missed.