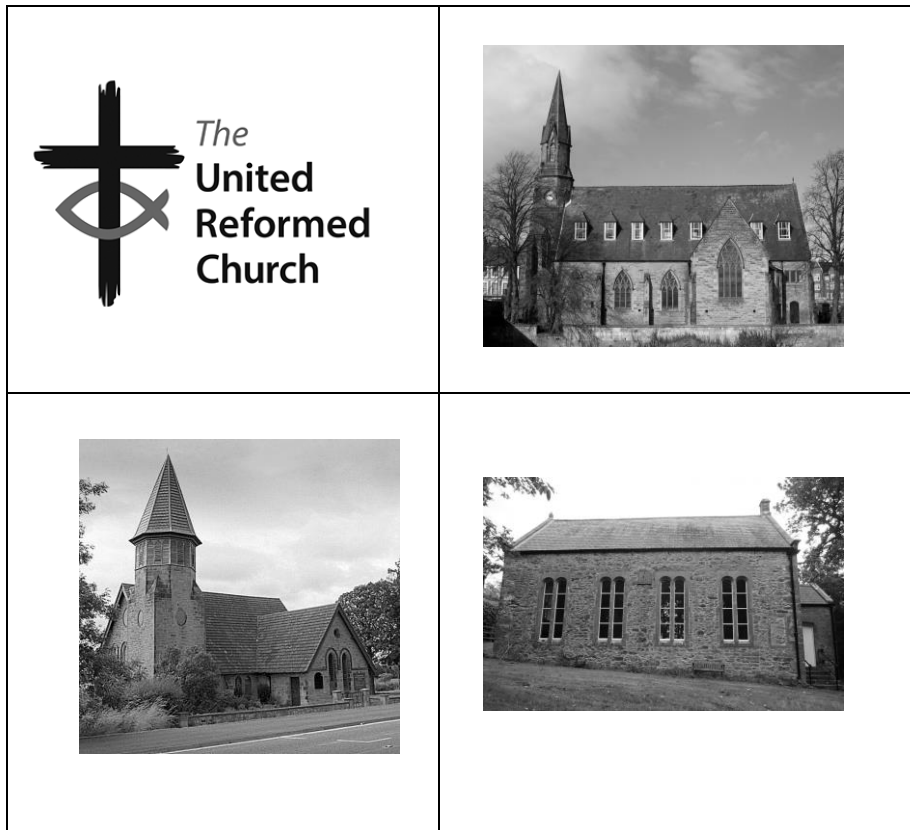


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



June
2025

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

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

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 4th	12.30pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting Conversations About
Sat 7th	10.00am	Coffee Morning for Ukranian friends
Sun 8th	<u>10.00am</u>	Morning Worship at Morpeth Methodist Church . Note earlier time. Morpeth Fair Day
Wed 11th	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Fri 13th	7.00pm	Quiz Night
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club in the Hall
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 18th	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 22nd	10.30pm	Morning Worship with Orchestra
Wed 25th	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Sat 28th	2.15pm	Strawberry Event with Choral Concert
Sun 29th	10.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Service

Stewards Rota for June

1	Madeline Cleverley & Shirley Forster
8	Morpeth Fair Day
15	Linda Glascott & Christine Oliver
22	Sarah Cleverley & Karen Howe
29	Susan Sanderson & Gordon Slack

Flower Rota for June

1		Rep	Vivian Bennett 515263
8			
15	Morpeth Fair Day		
22	Margaret Finnie		
29			

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 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	783434
	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 At St Georges 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/AUGUST**

The deadline is Sunday 22nd June

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

Who's Who at St George's

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

Church Secretary: Morag Stead 07745802475
moragstead@outlook.com

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

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

Stewarding: Andrew and Sarah Cleverley, 515257

Social Events Co-ordinators: tba
Gift Aid Secretary: Linda Glascott, 515582
Junior Church Leader: Barbara Pringle 510068
Janet Johnson 224212

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

kdi@irvines.org.uk

Orchestra Co-ordinators: Christine Oakes, 518608
oakescm@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Hamnett, 518485
Magazine Editor: Stephanie Robson, 511507
Transport Officer: Vivien Bennett 515263

Serving as Elders: Ken Anderson, Lorna Anderson, Laurence Benkhaleb-House, Vivien Bennett, Joyce Calcraft, Andrew Cleverley, Margaret Finnie, Patricia Gatherum, Dorothy Luke, Sue Rutherford, Morag Stead.

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

Dear Friends,

Pentecost looms ahead of us in the church calendar – this is the 'birthday' of the church and the launch of the mission of the Apostles. If we read through the book of Acts we start to understand what a truly exciting adventure the apostles were about to embark on.

The whole book of Acts is a story of the church stepping out into something new, having new experiences, trying new things. We see within those pages the church wrestling with how to hang onto the past, with what has always been, while embracing this 'something new' that they encounter. People from different cultures, societies and backgrounds, all converting to Christianity, and the apostles wrestling with what it is they need to hold onto and how is this new thing going to be part of the church.

It is what we see happening today. Many churches are branching out into new areas, trying different things, experiencing the Holy Spirit working in different places. Churches being set up in night clubs, in pubs and coffee shops. Churches that are purely using secular music. Churches on a Wednesday afternoon, Messy Church, and a whole host of other expressions of church.

As a church we must always be looking to change the landscape around us. To look beyond the borders at both sacred and secular, and redefine the boundaries of who is in and who is out. Graham Cray when talking about the fresh expressions of church says:

“The church exists not for its own sake, but for the place where it is located in the light of God’s purposes in Christ. The purpose of a fresh expression is to be a community for networks, or parts of a neighbourhood, where the church is not already engaged, in order to fulfil this calling.”

It is too easy to become complacent and inward looking, instead of always seeking to reach out to those places where the church is not already engaged. This was the mission given to those apostles at that first Pentecost, and it is the mission that we as Christ’s followers are called to continue. This is the exciting adventure that the Holy Spirit prepares us for.

Hans Kung puts it in a good way, he says:

“A church which pitches its tent without constantly looking out for new horizons.... is being untrue to its calling.”

May we all, in the months to come, seek to harness that Pentecost Spirit for ourselves. To explore where the Spirit is leading us, to seek out new horizons, and look to seek out those places where the church is not already engaged in our community.

With every blessing, **Julian**

It is with sadness that we note the death of Andrew Hamnett who died from a brain tumour on May 20th. Andrew has served St Georges for many years as organist and as the secretary to the Managers, as well as serving the wider Synod on the Trust body. His experience, knowledge, musicality and sense of humour will be a great loss to the many whom he served. Our prayers are with Suzanne, Gillian, Hilary and Erica..
The funeral will be on Friday June 6th at 2:00pm at the Church.



8th June – Pentecost, not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.



Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

St George’s Knitter Natter Group

Our summer term will finish on the 9th July; the last meeting will be a lunch.

Our Autumn term will start on 10th September.

Thankyou to everyone who has supported us during the year



Joan Cooper.

There was a blind man who was given a guide dog which was such a help. Man and dog blended beautifully.

One day the man somehow started a conversation with another man who specialised in optics. He offered to look at the cause of the man’s blindness, and it turned out that his sphere of study could help. The result was an operation on the man which restored his sight.

The man was able to get a job, which meant he had to move away from where he had lived. He took his dog with him as a pet.

After a couple of years the dog started to fail so the man took him to see a vet.

One of the questions he was asked was “How long has your dog been blind?”

Submitted by Janet Brown

New patio...My husband was attempting to build a patio for the first time. He bought 100 cement blocks. Laying them out in a pattern, he discovered the chosen area was too small. He stacked the blocks against the house and cleared more space. The next day he put the cement blocks back down, only to find that the ground was too hard to keep the patio level.

He ordered a truckload of sand to be delivered the following morning. Again, he stacked the 100 blocks against the house. Observing all this, our next-door neighbour asked, “Are you going to put your patio away every night?”

A gentle reminder for anyone using the church car park.

It is extremely difficult to find car parking space in Morpeth. As more people visit the town during the coming months the church car park is an attractive solution to this problem. The fact that it is a private space is not always obvious if the gates are open . Please would those who attend church functions or need to use the car park for any reason connected to church activities, remember to close the gates if you are the last person leaving. Many thanks

Wordsearch - Pentecost

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.



Pentecost Trinity Jerusalem Disciples Praying Tongues Power High Fires Flames Languages Praise Drunk Wine Nine Morning Glory Waiting Place Wind Father Son Holy Spirit Eternal
Solution on page 19

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



Saturday 28th June 2025

“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 £8 includes refreshments.
Accompanied Children £5.**

For further details and to reserve or buy tickets please
contact Gillian 01670 220853
or Email kdirvine@solveit.org.uk

ST GEORGE'S URC

Quiz Night

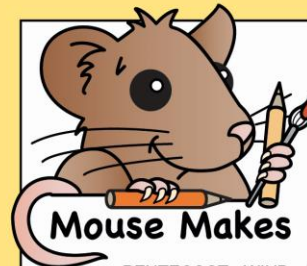
FRIDAY

13 June

7-8:30pm

Come on
your own
or as a team

£3 or £10 for team up to 4
(includes refreshments)



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
ROME • CRETANS
ARABIANS • GOD

READ
Acts
2:1-41

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language. *How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?*

DID YOU KNOW?
The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

PHRYGIA
YRYP
PGE
WIND
HATL
JEW S
GCHP
AOEHJ
LSAEU
CITRGP
PALIBYA
J
LGREEKPRE
LANGUAGETTR
ICRETANSORHU
ACUJCLASIAS
LRGRPAMPHYL
IAA
HAJEMPPHYLF
ONL
SMESOPOTAMI
ASE
HPARTHANSGL
ROP
M
OIJ EEDTCYRE
NE
LRCUDLOUHEB
REW
YIADOACSWBG
OD
LTD EBMIAEEK
M
ARABIANSSEJE
GYNOTONGUES
MEDESYPAR
ESSHM

St George's Church Coffee Club

The initial meeting of the club was on 4th May 1966 in the Drysdale Room. The final meeting of the club was on Tuesday 20th May 2025 and was a social event.

Twenty-four members gathered for afternoon tea at Gran Caffè Lollo Rosso. This included three of the original members – Jean Elliott, Pam Mackenzie and Norma McMorran. The tea was delicious with sandwiches, dainty scones and cakes. Photos of previous meetings were shared with much name remembering and a lot of chatting!

Thanks to all the people who have supported the coffee club and the events that they have organised over the last 59 years.

Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator



Further Photographs can be viewed on our online version after Widdrington Notes or can be sent to you by email: robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk



Our friend George Brown will be celebrating a very special birthday in July, he will be 90 years young. We wish you all the very best.

Sudoku for June

Solution on page 19

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

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Economy... The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

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Get a grip... It was said that Archbishop Tench of Dublin, in his later years, had a fear of sudden crippling paralysis. One night at a formal dinner he sat looking more and more forlorn. Finally, he confided to the guests around him: "Well, it's come at last – total lack of feeling in my right leg." Whereupon the lady sitting next to him said soothingly: "Not at all, Your Grace. It will comfort you to know that during the whole of this meal it has been *my* leg that you have been pinching!"

Good quote... A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!'"

Morpeth Churches work together to support Christian Aid.

Our challenge is 70k in Christian Aid week May 11th -18th. Join our walks. Sponsor our efforts. Donate here.

We REACHED OUR TARGET and more HOORAY !!

THANKYOU SO MUCH TO BOTH ONLINE AND CASH GIVERS -

(but more donations welcome if you havent given yet!!!)

Distance walked between 12 walkers 300k ++!!

-on the walks listed below, plus walking to and from the Market Place plus envelope delivering!!

Sunday Carol got to 70k her exercise bike!

Sunday 3 walkers on our final walk Karin Shirley and Ron added another 10.5 k each to our total

Saturday 4 walkers added a 9k walk Clifton to Stannington and back plus 2k round Morpeth Roger Sue Shirley and Ron

Saturday 4 parkrunners added 20k Karin Roy Shirley and Ron

Friday 5 of us Karin Ron Shirley from Morpeth + Rosemary & John from st Johns Wideopen to Hartford Bridge for a surprise amazing spread with Mary K 5x10.7k!

Thursday 6 of us Elaine JanetB Ron Shirley from Morpeth + Rosemary & John from st Johns Wideopen to Ulgham for a lovely cuppa with George and Janet B. 6x10k!

Wednesday 3 of us Ruth Ron Shirley to Mitford and Mitford Steads. 12k each Linda and Sean welcomed us at Mitford Stable room with drinks and biscuits.

Tuesday 2 of us Hebron Shirley 17k Ron 6k Northgate roundabout Lovely scones and garden at Hebron Thanks Maureen!!

Monday 2 of us ron Julian Monday bypass 16k

Sunday 3 of us, Karin,Ron, Shirley 31K Bluebell woods and Rock Cottages tunnel (and a church service in the middle)

We believe everyone is equal in the sight of God. For nearly 80 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none. Poverty robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Together with people living in poverty, we seek to tackle its root causes and create lasting change.

Our team visited Morpeth Churches team visit Mitford , Fairmoor, Hebron, Longhirst, Ulgham, Clifton , Hepscott, Stannington and Hartford Bridge in a week of short walks.

Thankyou everyone who sponsored us, or put money in our collection buckets!! or GIVE VIA THIS SITE !

Our supporters came from nearby and as far away as Norway!

Morpeth Churches Christian Aid Group is looking forward to planning more activities soon. morpethchristianaidgroup@gmail.com

The screenshot shows the JustGiving interface for a fundraiser titled "Morpeth Churches for CHRISTIAN AID". The progress indicator shows 129% completion, with 23 supporters having raised £1,294 towards a £1,000 target. The page features a prominent orange "Give Now" button and a white "Share" button. The fundraiser is identified as "morpethchristianaidgroup's fundraiser for Christian Aid".

Total raised
 £1,293.80
 Online
 £826.00 via just giving
 Offline
 £467.80 cash donations// sponsorships

Shirley



Summer Fete

9th August 2025
11am - 3pm

For this event we are appealing for donations of:

Scones & whole cakes for the cake stall to sell
also Cakes and scones, sausage rolls and quiches to be served
with the lunches.

We are also appealing for unwanted jewellery, Tombola prizes
and children's sweets for prizes.

If you haven't been asked to help, please volunteer, we are a
friendly team and our aim is to have fun while
raising funds for St George's.

Please contact Shirley, shirlsgur@gmail.com

Mary or Stephanie

Notices in a church newsheet:

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Beware of the new Amazon scam. I asked my husband to order me some expensive jewellery, but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they fit his bike.



St George's United Reformed
Church
Bridge Street, Morpeth



Summer Fete



Saturday 9th
August
11am—3pm

With Live Music

Light lunches, Refreshments

Books, Jigsaws,
Tombola, Plants,
Games,

And much more.

Free Entry

All proceeds are in aid of St George's
Church

The Justice and Peace Project

The Justice & Peace Project currently have 326 men and 159 women on their books at the moment.

The items they are requesting are as children's clothes, nappies, toiletries and non perishable foodstuffs.

Patricia

Crossword for June

Across:

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5) **22** Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3) **25** Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down: **1** 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6) **2** 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6) **3** The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

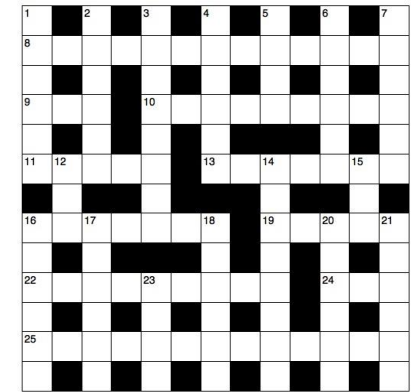
4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6) **5** Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4) **6** One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6) **7** 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3) **14** 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8) **15** Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6) **17** 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6) **18** 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2) **20** Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6) **21** 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6) **23** Diva (anag.) (4).

Solution on page 19

Encore! The new curate had visited the local prison and taken along his electric guitar. He was so pleased with the applause that he responded: 'Thank you very much for your appreciation. I so hope that I will see you all back here again next year.'





"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."

Our next hymn...A visiting minister, seeing the list of hymns chosen for the Sunday service, sent a message to the organist to say that the last hymn (519) did not suit his sermon, and so he wanted it replaced by 213. The organist's message replied: 'In this church the organist chooses the hymns and I will play 519.' The minister shot back: 'At this service I announce the hymns and I shall still announce 213.'

Father's Day – what we most value in our fathers

Father's Day is 15th June – a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day. No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.



These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young. That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' – Daddy!

SOLUTIONS:

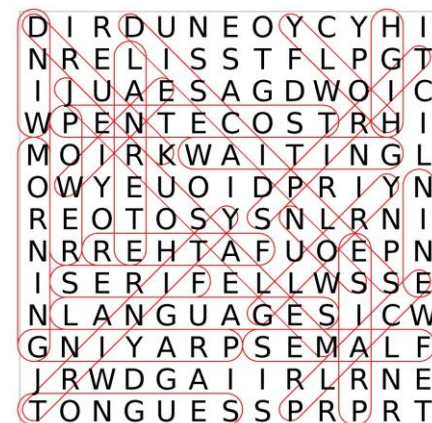
ACROSS:

8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

DOWN:

1, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armllet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.

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



- 8th June Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday
- 15th June Trinity Sunday
- 22nd June First Sunday after Trinity
- 29th June Second Sunday after Trinity – St Peter and St Paul

15th June – Fathers Day

90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Gt Bavington

Tea on the Lawn - Sunday 1 June, 5.30pm

Join us for Tea on the Lawn, with music from the Band of St George's. Tea and cake provided.

Followed by the service at 6.30pm, led by Rev Ron Forster

Sunday 15 June

Service at 6.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Now that we have gigabit broadband in the church, we usually stream the services so you can watch them live, or catch up with them later: <https://www.youtube.com/@morpethandareaurc8357>

Celebrating anniversaries

Great Bavington Church has a long history of celebratory tea parties. The article in the Morpeth Herald of 1855 about the opening of the new Bavington Manse, could just as well describe the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the church porch, the 50th anniversary of the meeting room, and the 100th anniversary of the Bavington Presbyterian Church Recipe Book, held on 17 May 2025: "The tea tables, sumptuously furnished by the ladies of the congregation [and others, with cakes from the Recipe Book] were crowded with a large and respectable assemblage of guests, consisting of the members of the congregation and their friends from different quarters. The utmost hilarity prevailed on the occasion. The draught "which cheers but not inebriates" was copiously supplied."

We also commemorated VE Day and showed "The Next Morning", the film created by the National Theatre to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe. Set in contemporary Britain, the film explores how memories of the Second World War are passed down through generations. The film can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/uolbRQ_g5R4

Rogationtide Walk and Service

Traditionally people walked the parish boundaries and asked God's blessing on people, livestock and crops on Rogation Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Easter.

This year, walkers set off from St Aidan's Thockrington on 18 May, the Sunday before Rogation Sunday (as Rogation Sunday was on the 4th Sunday of the month) and walked across the fields to Great Bavington. This was followed by more tea and cake, and then Julian's thought-provoking Rogation service reflecting on how farmers in the UK and overseas need fair prices for their crops and are affected by the changing climate.

The church is open for visitors

The church is open for walkers on St Oswald's Way and other visitors. They can re-fill their water bottles and find a snack in the tuck box - there are many appreciative comments in the visitors' book, as there are no other facilities on this leg of St Oswald's Way.

Please keep an eye on www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for any updates to services, events, etc, or ring 01830 540350.

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 continue to pray for:

All war zones and any peace negotiations

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering still from Covid19 throughout the world

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

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

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

Students who are doing or have done important exams

The hay and silage harvest

"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. We appreciate donations both of cash and garden flowers.

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 £600. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised.

Fund raising: The Easter Monday Coffee Morning raised £300, which is back to pre-Covid levels; Early Spring Bank Holiday Coffee Morning raised £250 which is BETTER than pre-Covid! (This coffee morning was always quieter). We really appreciate your generosity. Results for Spring Bank Holiday will be reported in the next magazine.

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

Worship:

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:

Get ready for Saturday morning 'Pop-up Coffee Mornings ' throughout the summer and early Autumn.

Remember, if you have a good idea for a social event which you think people will enjoy, please suggest it to the Elders (or organise it yourself!)

Regular events:

1st Wednesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the Sunday School Room. Our June venue has to be confirmed. We have changed the day of meeting because several of the places we would like to try are closed on a Tuesday.

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

Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.00am (please note new time) We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer. (If you are interested in joining us, please speak to one of the Elders, as we occasionally alter the date without notice)

Open Church: Open Church will continue, on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments, and the opportunity for quiet reflection in the church. Enquiries to the above email address. Please note that there will be **NO** Open Church on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Apologies to anyone affected.

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

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

WhatsApp: A WhatsApp group has been set up. To join please give Kathleen your mobile number, and accept your invitation.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The summer months are quiet for Churches Together. Our next meeting will be in September.

The Community Choir continues to meet monthly. Please note that the June meeting will be on **June 12th at Holy Trinity**. Those choir members who are available will then take part in the service on at Holy Trinity on June 15th.

FEM

April Rotas

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
1st	Clive Kemp	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
8th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Elizabeth Barber
15th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Diane Cooke
22nd	Worship Team	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
29th	Margaret Field	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves

In memoriam

It is with sadness that we record the death of Tom Whinham. Tom was a member of Widdrington United Reformed Church for some fifty years. In recent years he served as an Elder until his health broke down. He will be much missed.



LADIES
COFFEE
CLUB
20 May
2025







