

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



June/July 2021

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

Worship at St George's United Reformed Church

Sun 6 th June	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 9 th June	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 13 th June	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 16 th June	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 20 th June	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 23 rd June	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 27 th June	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 30 th June	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 4 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 7 th July	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 11 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 14 th July	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 18 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 21 st July	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 25 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 28 th July	12.30pm	Midweek Service

Steward's Duty Rota for June

Sun 6 th June	Joan Cooper and Christine Oakes
Sun 13 th June	Karen Howe and Sarah Cleverley
Sun 20 th June	Gillian Irvine and Joan Cooper
Sun 27 th June	Christine Oakes and Gordon Slack
For July	Please see notice board

Flower Rota

Sun 6 th June	Elsie Lang	Sun 4 th July The Auld Family
Sun 13 th June	See Notice Board	Sun 11 th See Notice Board
Sun 20 th June	See Notice Board	Sun 18 th Morpeth Fair Day (New Date)
Sun 27 th June	Margaret Finnie	Sun 25 th See Notice Board
Rep for June: Vivien Bennett 515263		Rep for July: Mary Kelly 829656

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in AUGUST.

The deadline (due to holidays) is Sunday 25th July

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

A Message from our Minister Revd Julian Sanders

Dear friends,

As our churches, and our communities, come back to life and restrictions over our movement and behaviour are lifted many will be excited about getting back to how things were before all this began. But I recognise that there has been a lot of talk about the phrase “the new normal” as a recognition that some things will never be the same again and we will just have to get used to them.

There have been many things we have learnt during lockdown that have been good and beneficial, and we would want to hold onto them. But there is a concern raised too that it will be all too easy, to fall back in to the old way of doing things and forgetting all the beneficial things we have learnt over the past 14 months. In our churches, that is probably more evident than anywhere.

Our churches have been built upon tradition, and there is an inherent fear that change means moving away from ‘the right way of doing things.’ Many churches hold on with rugged determination to an orthodoxy, believing that it is only in protecting and maintain what has always been that they are doing the right thing. As Charles Darwin studied the environment and countless living species, his findings seemed to conclude it was those species that could change and evolve that would survive. This is the pattern he saw repeated in all his investigations. This is the pattern he saw within creation itself. Darwin in his “The Origin of Species” wrote ***“It is not the strongest species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one which is the most adaptable to change.”*** Brian McLaren, in his book “Theology in the Wild” visits the Galapagos Islands and traces the footsteps of Darwin. He reflects on this reluctance in our own human nature to change, and how this reluctance is found in all aspects of our life together. He writes :

“If Darwin is right, and I don’t doubt him on this, how ironic that orthodoxies, whether political, religious or economic punish adaptation and fight change as evil and unfaithful....What would it mean to be faithful not to the old orthodoxies of the recent past (recent in deep time, that is) but rather to the primeval patterns written forever into creation itself, the profound logic of adaptation, evolution, diversification and symbiotic co-existence? Isn’t that a deeper kind of orthodoxy?”

As we emerge fully back into community together, may we not just simply fall back into the old ways of doing things. But let us take the learning from the lessons of the past 14 months, in order that we might adapt and evolve. Let us be open to accept that God might well be doing something new, and to embrace the opportunities which it opens to us.

The prophet Isaiah urges us ***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18,19)***

Keeping you all in my prayers,

Julian



My 12 year old granddaughter sent me her poem that she had entered into their church 'Parish Pump' magazine and she got 2nd prize in the children's category.
Linda Glascott

My covid poem

When Covid walked through the door, not everyone wanted to endure
What Boris said, was it actually going to go ahead?
Parties were forbidden, and noses had to be hidden
Summer exams yes or no? Schools where no one could go
When summer came, things went back to normal again
But of course it was too good to be true, as a lockdown was ready to brew.
Getting tired is this real? Trust me it’s not ideal!
Where had Halloween gone? Its nearly 2021!
Christmas cancelled; Dreams trampled.
New year’s eve, would you believe?
Lockdown three, as you can see.
Vaccinate the elderly, what about me?
Schools back shortly, everything done securely.
Parents waiting, children debating
When will all this be over? Where’s my lucky clover?
At the end of Covid, I’m sure everyone will loath it!

By Esme Reeve

WERS has provided updates on several of their projects. Their gardening project restarted recently. They are working to create a safe, social space in their garden, with raised beds, seating areas and the opportunity for people to take plants home with them to grow more. This has provided much positive feedback. They have also developed in partnership with Newcastle United Foundation a sports social group, and an arts and craft group. Currently these take place on WhatsApp and Zoom.

Their drop ins have restarted fully on Mondays and Wednesdays. This has been helping provide advice and help with letters and information as well as providing practical support with food, clothing and phone credit. They have also been working with Action Foundation to deliver a Digital Inclusion project. They provide tablets and initial computer training. This has helped their Skillsmatch project to work online and increased the opportunities for social interaction.

They also want to say "a big thank you to all our supporters and funders who make it possible for WERS to continue to offer support, opportunities and to stand up for the people we work with, and to raise awareness of the challenges people face seeking sanctuary here in the UK."

Justice and Peace

With difficulties around food donations from churches due to the current pandemic anyone who wishes to support may like to make a financial donation so they can buy food for their clients. If you wish to do this please note that their bank account name has changed to **DHN Justice and Peace Refugee Project**. The account number and bank sort code remain the same (that is sort code 40-34-18, account number 52854058). Please send any cheques to: Mrs Sara Harris, JPRP Co-ordinator, Justice and Peace Refugee Project, St. Vincent's Support Centre, New Bridge Street, Newcastle NE1 2TQ

Thank you, **Margaret Brock**

An update from Andrew LeGrice from Jerusalem

I hope everyone in Morpeth is doing well and there is light at the end of the tunnel with covid-19. Here we were starting to emerge from the life of restrictions, and even having play rehearsals that reminded me of the great church plays! But the world is closing in around us a bit as tensions rise in the city and across Israel and Palestine. It's a small place – we're only about fifty miles away from Gaza and from the hills of the West Bank it's very easy to see the slow path of rockets being fired towards Israel and the Israel missile defences blowing them out of the sky. The devastation in Gaza is truly horrendous, and bodies continue to be pulled out of buildings, and Israeli towns and cities are not immune to Hamas rocket attacks either. As we've restricted our movements this war of shelled civilians somehow seems far off.

The problems facing people living in and around Jerusalem are different. In the neighbourhood we live in (called Sheikh Jarrah) peaceful protests against the planned evictions of Palestinians from their homes has been met with a very violent and heavy handed response by the Israeli police. This has continued throughout the holy month of Ramadan and resonated for Palestinians across all of historic Palestine (including for Palestinians in Israel) and beyond. We've seen protesters on the Lebanese and Jordanian borders, mob violence from Jews and Palestinians in Israeli towns, in Jerusalem, and now in the West Bank, where at least 21 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces. Back here in our neighbourhood it has been deeply saddening that armed Israeli civilians have been shooting at Palestinians, and earlier today a Palestinian has rammed an Israeli checkpoint and been killed.

We hope and pray that the violence stops soon. We also pray that this is a moment of reckoning for Israel and the international community that helps lead to peace in this very special and holy land. We don't want to see a repeat performance in the next few years. History is not encouraging about the chances, but every opportunity to change the status quo has to be taken.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY MAY 29th from 10am until Noon

ST GEORGE'S CAR PARK IF FINE

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH IF WET

All types of annual bedding, perennial and vegetable plants for sale at very competitive prices

Please come and support this event as we begin to come out of lockdown.

All Government advice at the time will be strictly adhered to.

Put the Flags Out!



The knitter natter group will meet on Wednesday 2nd June in the Sanctuary from 2-- 4 pm and then every week.

All are welcome to join us, we will be following all the Covid 19 rules.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again

Joan

Miscellaneous observations on life...

I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

Scratch a dog – and you'll find a permanent job.

Every seven minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a muscle.

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.

When the sermons clash with the music...

There was a feud between the minister and the choir director of a church. The first trouble came when the minister preached on 'Dedicating Yourselves to Service', and the choir director chose to sing: 'I Shall Not Be Moved'.

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the minister put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on 'Giving'. Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: 'Jesus Paid It All'.

By this time, the minister was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on 'The Sin of Gossiping'. And sure enough, the choir director selected: 'I Love to Tell the Story'

By now, there was no turning back. The following Sunday the minister told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the choir director led them in: 'Why Not Tonight'? Truthfully, no one was surprised when the minister resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The choir director could not resist: 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'.

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to memorise the short Psalm. Little Richard was excited about the task – but he just couldn't memorise things very well. On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Richard was very nervous. When it was finally his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.

David Brown

David Brown, who was minister at St George's URC from 1970-1991, sadly passed away in Dumfries on Monday 10th May 2021

Memories of David Brown by Vivien Bennet

David welcomed me into St George's in the early seventies when Pete and I arrived in Morpeth as newly weds. I visited various Morpeth churches but felt most comfortable and welcome at St George's. David's sermons always had an amusing anecdote or quirky activity involved. We knew we would be busy when we saw pencils and cut outs on the pews! I became a member before our son Richard was born and he was christened one cold December morning. David entertained us at the Manse in Churchburn Drive and discussed how our vows would be taken, fully respecting our divergent beliefs. He was wonderfully caring and concerned when tragedy hit our family and helped us through some dark times.

David had a delightfully warm personality along with a wicked sense of humour. The manse had an open door to all, and a warm bowl of soup would be served whilst problems were carefully listened to, accompanied by words of wisdom dispensed in a gentle fashion.

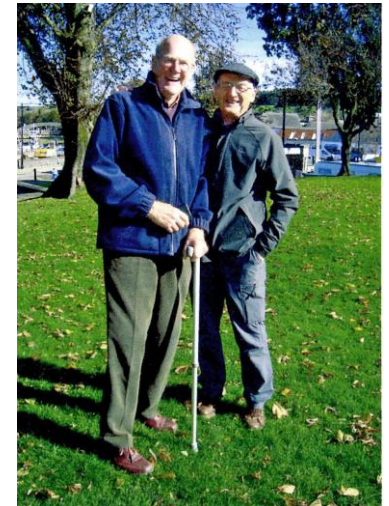
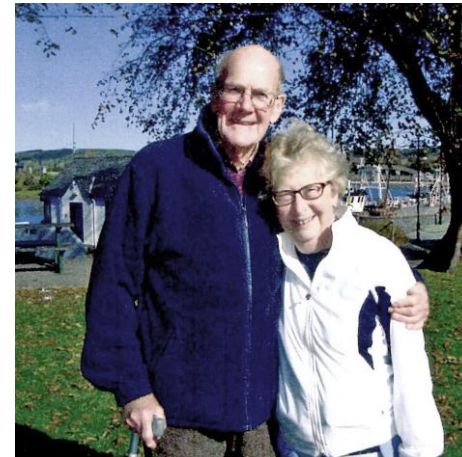
Lunch club was one of his favourite innovations and became a meeting place for young mothers with toddlers and older retired and perhaps, lonely folks!

David had a lovely voice and he and Min were founder members of the Michael Doswell's Mid Northumberland Chorus. The choir sang all over the area and of course, music was an integral part of services in St George's too. Burns' Nights, where he was Master of Ceremonies were also popular and well attended along with concerts, barn dances and other social occasions. Elder's meetings at the Manse, sitting round the huge dining room table, were informative and thoughtful about the needs of the congregation before concluding with coffee and Min's famous rock buns!

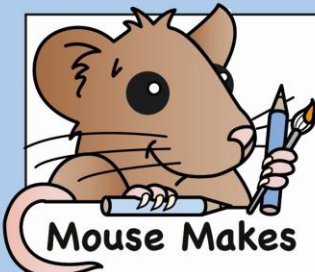
David and Min were a wonderful partnership and he looked after her in her latter years with great love and devotion. Now he has gone to join her after only a few weeks' of separation. I feel privileged to have known two such inspiring people.

Vivien Bennett

Further images can be viewed on the electronic copy of the newsletter and the website







JESUS HEALS

Mouse Makes

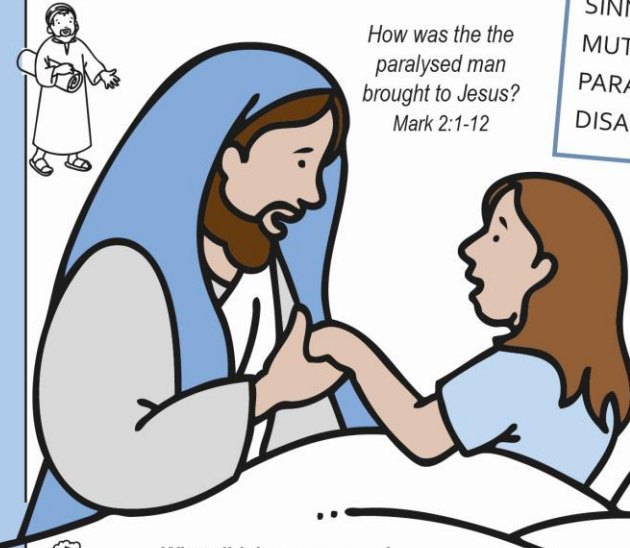
Who was the first person Jesus healed?
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
Mark 1:29-31

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
Mark 2:1-12

Jesus **healed** and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made the woman well?
Matthew 9: 20-22


"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

John 21:25

How many men were healed from leprosy?
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
Mark 10:46-52

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
John 11:1-45



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It was very sad to hear of David Brown's death this week and so soon after Min's. I feel as if I have lost two very dear friends in such a short time. David was minister here at St. George's from 1970 till 1991 and for most of that time, my husband, George was Session Clerk / Church Secretary. David and George worked closely together and our two families became very good friends. My memories of David and Min are of wonderful happy times both at church and socially. Christmas time was especially memorable - Midnight Service at church - back to the Manse for coffee and mince pies - home about 1.30am - up again for Christmas Morning Service at 10am. We were all young then! Happy Days!

Jean Elliott

Wordsearch for June/July....

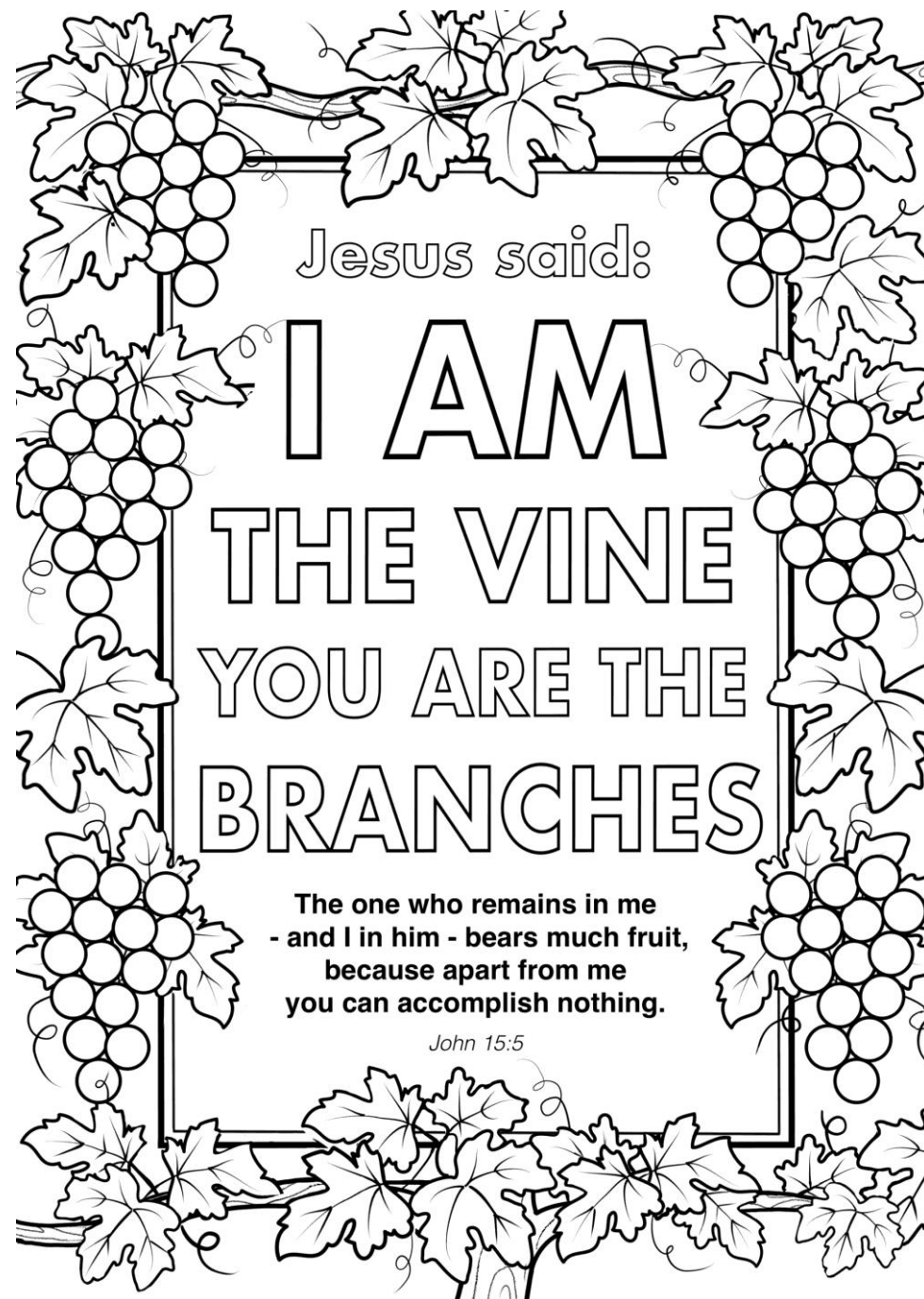
St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Alban martyr persecution
Roman emperor Diocletian
Priest converted soldiers sacrifice

Gods condemned death execution
Serenity died site town name
Doorstep Solution on page 19

D	R	N	R	T	P	I	G	O	D	S
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O	R	O	R	T	C	N	N	T	R	P
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Crossword for June/July

Across:

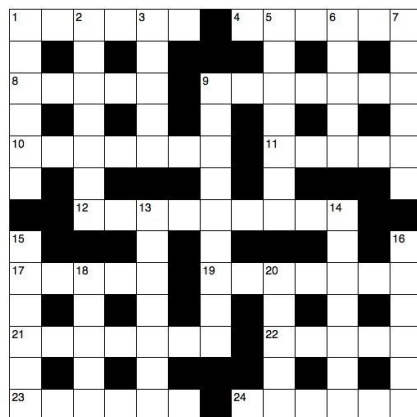
1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6) **4** Place of learning (6)
8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7) **10** Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7) **11** Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9) **17** Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
19 So clear (anag.) (7) **21** 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7) **22** Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5) **23** Musical beat (6) **24** What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6).

Down: **1** Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6) **2** Art bite (anag.) (7) **3** 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7) **6** Possessed (Job 1:3) (5) **7** Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6) **9** 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9) **13** Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7) **14** They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7) **15** 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6) **16** How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6) **18** The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5) **20** Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5). *Solutions on page 19*

An estate agent's board outside a redundant church:

FOR SALE: Suitable for conversion.

On a church notice board: Visitors welcome. Members expected.

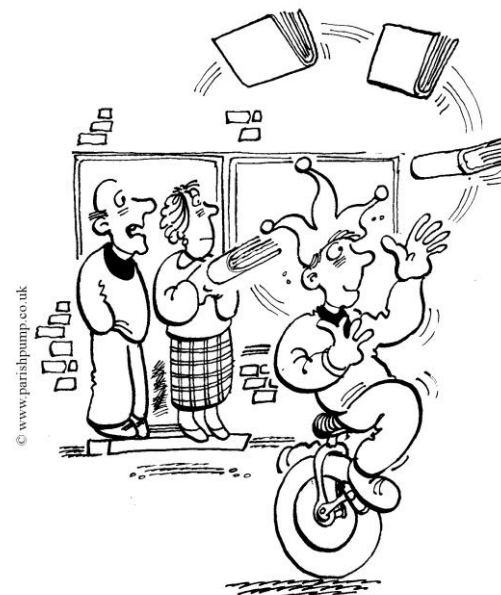


Oh let me unobservant be
 In just the wisest way,
 And let me only see the best
 In folk I meet each day.
 And may I never seek for flaws
 Condemning out of hand
 All those whose words or actions
 may
 Seem hard to understand.
 And oh, I hope, where'er I go
 May all the folk I see
 Be just as unobservant when
 It comes to judging me.

Maggie Ingall



Perhaps he's heard that we're
 losing our churchwarden



...I think I must have missed that module
 when I was at theological college!

Friend?

Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured. "Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."

Curate...

As the enthusiastic curate was preparing to move on to his first church as a vicar, a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church. He replied: "People here didn't know what sin was until I came."

I would like to thank my many friends at St George's for all their cards and best wishes I received on my 90th Birthday.

I was surprised that so many people knew but the St George's grapevine continues to work very well.

Also, thank you for the beautiful church flowers.

In spite of restrictions I had a most memorable day.

Thank you all, Jean Elliott

I would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone for the beautiful flowers, card and Dobbies gift card which Julian presented to me on your behalf as I stepped down from being Church Secretary. I am very touched by the generous gift card, which I will enjoy spending on all things to do with the garden.

Thank you. Teresa

Slow down...

Each Sunday morning our minister was mildly irritated by a member of the congregation who was a fast reader. Finally, announcing the 23rd Psalm, he added: "And will the lady who is always by 'the still waters' while the rest of us are still in 'green pastures,' please pause until we catch up?"

Bishop...

An exam for R.E. asked the following question: 'What does a Bishop do?'

Came one answer: 'Move diagonally across the board.'

Learn from others' mistakes. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Money isn't everything, but it does keep you in touch with your children.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

On getting to church at a social distance

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verges now object to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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Sudoku solution on page 19

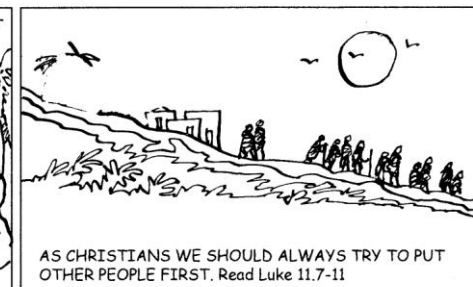
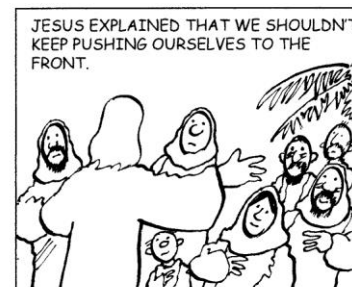
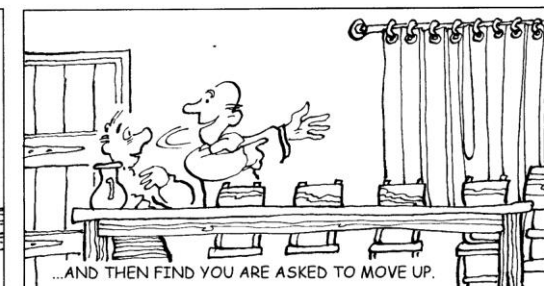
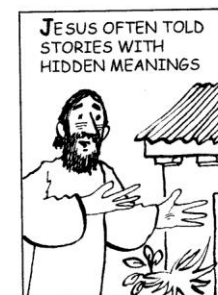
Neighbourhood Watch...

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?" "He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked. "Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

Out to graze...

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?" A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

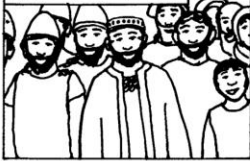
It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15: 1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When King David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



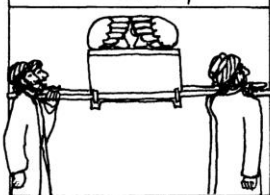
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.



Solutions

Crossword: ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop. **DOWN:** 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

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

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

Great religious truths...

During these serious and troubled times, people of all faiths should remember these four great religious truths:

Muslims do not recognise Jews as God's Chosen People.

Jews do not recognise Jesus as the Messiah.

Protestants do not recognise the Pope as the leader of the Christian world.

Methodists do not recognise each other in the pub.

Don't forget the other half...

When my daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). Then one night, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she added: "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine.

Finally, my curiosity got the best of me and I asked her why she had begun adding the part about all girls.

Her response? "Because at church the minister only ever says 'all men!'"

Here is the News From Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Services

As Julian will be on Sabbatical during June and July, we welcome others to lead services here (all at 6.30pm):

Sunday 6 June: Ron Forster

Sunday 20 June: Carol Dixon

Sunday 4 July: Ron Forster

Sunday 18 July: t.b.c.

For any church matters which arise during Julian's sabbatical, please contact the Church Secretary: 01830 540350, bavingtonchurch@gmail.com

Tea on the Lawn

At the time of writing, lifting of covid restrictions is still under review but we hope that Shirley and The Band will be able to come on 4 July too, and that we will be able to have Tea on the Lawn before the service. As usual, please check on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC> nearer the time.

Opening the church for visitors

The church will be open for visitors on Saturdays and Sundays from 22 May, but again please check on the Facebook page in case there are any changes.

History Night and other social events

Resuming History Night and other social events in the church is also subject to covid restrictions, so announcements will be posted on the Facebook page when events can resume.



WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER

During June and July please pray for:

People in war zones and refugees

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced. That vaccines may be fairly distributed. Pray especially for India

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

Farmers and farm workers; pray for the hay harvest.

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine and treatments and teams working to deliver the vaccines

Those who have still to receive the vaccine; vaccine delivery in third world countries.

Those whose mental health has suffered over the past year.

The homeless

Your neighbours

"Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,

God's breath in man, returning to his birth,

The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,

The Christian plummet, sounding heav'n and earth" (George Herbert)

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com 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.

During June and July we continue to offer Sunday worship. Please see below for details. Please note: the copy date came before the May Elders meeting. If anything changes we will make sure to let you all know!

Flowers: Flowers for June by Fiona and July and August by Kathleen. Gifts of garden flowers or cash donations would be appreciated.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? If not, now would be a good time to get busy! 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. 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 £325 so far with just nine members. We got a payout last month.

Social: We hope to begin social activities when we reach stage four of the 'roadmap', hopefully in late June. We will let you know what is happening as soon as we decide, by the usual means

Last year we lost all our fund raising events. Please continue to 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. Please contact Kathleen for bank details.

Worship:

We will be continuing Sunday worship throughout June and July. Please join us when you feel able. We expect to have to continue with COVID 19 precautions at least until June 21st, so please continue to wear a face covering if you can. You will still be asked to sign in (for track and trace purposes - visitors will be asked for contact details) and to sanitize your hands on entry.

Offering plates will be placed at the back of church. Please place your offering in them either when you come in, or before leaving. We do not know when the advice on hymn singing will change. Until informed otherwise, please continue to sit and sing quietly into your mask, or just follow the words.

We hope to recommence serving coffee after the service on Sundays after June 21st, provided the 'roadmap' continues on schedule.

For those who don't feel able to return to church, during Julian's sabbatical, there is a plan for services from St George's to be recorded and broadcast later in the day (or possibly Monday) so there will continue to be worship at home available. Preachers scheduled for June and July are:

June

6th Revd Paul Golightly

13th Carol Dixon

20th Margery Tate

27th Louise Kemp

July

4th. Worship Group

11th Carla Grosch-Miller: Holy Communion

18th Sue Rutherford

25th Sue Rutherford

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club **will** meet again on the 1st Tuesday in the month - sometime! We haven't yet decided on July or August.

1st Wednesday: Prayer Group: Information on Prayer Group from June will be on Facebook and in Church Notices. We haven't yet decided whether to continue weekly by zoom or revert to monthly in person.

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 160 likes, with another 5 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements will be published there. Thanks to Liv for her contributions.

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! He is really happy to see us back!

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.

We are now considering a relaunch - watch this space.

New ventures:

We will have more information about our new ventures in future magazines, and on Facebook. The schemes are:

Sight loss Friendly Church

Breastfeeding Friendly Church

Ecochurch

Child Friendly Church

We are also looking into Dementia Friendly Church

In relation to Ecochurch, we hope to have sown our first 'bee bombs' in the area to the left of the drive as you enter by the time you read this - or soon after. Please contact the Elders if you wish to dedicate a tree in the memorial arboretum. We hope to be able to do some planting in autumn.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

We will continue to welcome our Methodist friends who join us for worship until the Community Centre is available.

Any new events will be communicated through Facebook, church notices, or directly by phone/word of mouth. There is a meeting in September.

CHURCH MEETING

The Church Annual General meeting will be held on 24th June at 7pm, providing there is no change to the expected timetable. Please attend if you can. Please make sure reports are available in advance.

FEM