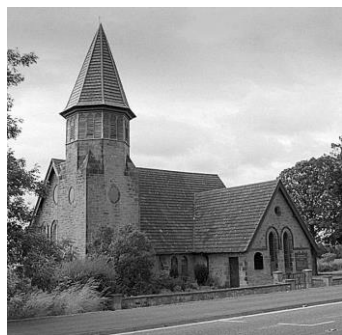


St George's, Widdrington
& Great Bavington
United Reformed Churches
Newsletter



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



MARCH 2020

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

Dear Friends,

One of the passages from the bible used during Lent is of Jesus being led into the desert (the wilderness) by the Holy Spirit where he is tested by the devil. And we, in our Lenten journeys, follow Jesus spiritually into this place of testing in order to prepare ourselves for Easter.

The desert, or wilderness, is a barren waste. There is nothing there. Life cannot be sustained. Travellers will avoid the desert because they are not good places to be stuck without backup. But Jesus at the start of his ministry enters the wilderness, and for forty days and forty nights wrestled with his demons. In this barren place, Jesus had no resources to draw on. He was hungry. He was alone. He was tormented. Everything is stripped back. But Jesus emerges from the desert with a clear mission and with the words of the sermon on the mount already formed on his lips.

For each of us, on our life's journey, just as through each Christian year, we will sooner or later pass through the wilderness. We will find ourselves tested, stripped back and pushed to the limits of what we can endure. It is at those times we learn to step forward relying not on our own resources, but relying more fully on God.

During Lent, we traditionally give up something for these forty days in order to experience for ourselves something of what Christ went through during his time in this wilderness. A lot of people scoff at this tradition and see little worth in it. Others tie themselves in knots trying to get round self-imposed rules, or work out if they can cheat without anyone knowing. But despite the gimmicky nature of this, I would suggest that there is something deeply beneficial to us in doing so.

Having had days of fasting over the last couple of years I have noticed one thing.....everything tastes so much better. Whenever you deprive yourself of something, the experience of having it again is so much more enjoyable. After a period of fasting, even a single slice of bread is so full of taste and flavour that it feels like a feast. You start to realise how many times you have eaten or drank something and never really tasted or appreciated it. Absence certainly makes the heart grow fonder.



When we deny ourselves even the simplest thing then that increases our appreciation of it. We begin to see how much of this life we just take for granted, and we start to live with a new appreciation and gratitude. The desert places become rich with beauty and loveliness.

So why not this Lent, take something that you love, and try to deny yourself that thing for a period of time – it doesn't matter how long – and perhaps you may find yourself loving that thing even more, and perhaps even loving the whole of life a little better too

With every blessing

Julian

St George's Needs You!!

Our church is full of people who work hard to keep things running as smoothly as possible, and it's because they do such a good job that many don't realise just how many roles need to be filled. As it comes up to our annual church meeting we not only give appreciation for what everyone does, but inevitably it is a time when there are changes in the roles undertaken.

In the coming months we are looking especially for people to fulfil the roles of Lettings Officer and Property Manager. This need not be a lifetime commitment!!- and training and support will be given to those who take up these roles. So if you think you might be able to help to keep St George's running smoothly, or would like more information about what is involved, then do please contact the minister.

Morpeth and Mitford Churches Together Asylum Seekers Support Group

West End Refugee Service

WERS has put out an URGENT REQUEST for men's clothing and shoes. They say they are still full to capacity with children's, babies' and women's clothes. They have also asked that clothing should be sent in bundles according to type e.g. trousers, jumpers, shoes etc. This will mean that when there is a car load of clothing to be taken down, it will need to be sorted in the garage. Volunteers to do this will be required. Please let me know if you would be able to undertake this task on an occasional basis.

Their latest newsletter says a big THANK YOU to all their supporters as they received a huge amount of toiletries and gifts for the Festive Week. All 168 destitute clients received a bag of gifts and an extra cash bonus from the hardship fund. They also recognised the work of their 80 volunteers, who last year gave over 5000 hours of time to support asylum seekers and refugees, by holding a social which was funded by an event sponsor.

They have a new Volunteer Coordinator, Courtney Wallace to work alongside their existing Volunteer Coordinator, Hazel Bloor.

Justice and Peace Refugee Project

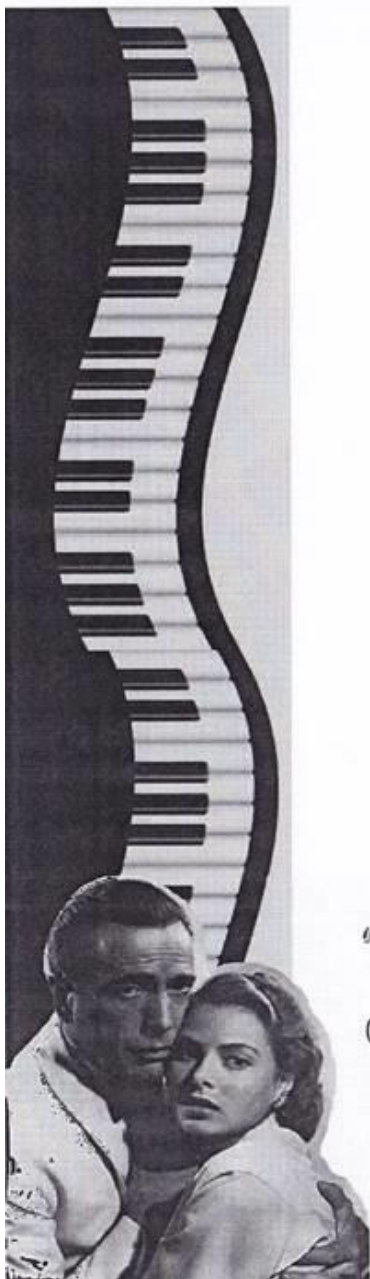
John Dowling, Manager, reports that in August 2019 the company that provides accommodation for refugees in the region (on behalf of the Home Office) changed. There is evidence that this new accommodation provider has not rented enough houses and that a lot of asylum seekers are now being put up in local hotels and hostels. Consequently, there has been a great reduction in the numbers of asylum seekers being sent to the region. This slowing of the increase in the numbers has given the J&P Project some much needed relief, although they are still under a lot of pressure.

The other piece of news is that John Dowling, who has been the Manager for over three and a half years is leaving the project at the end of April as he feels it is time to hand over to someone else. I'm sure he'll be greatly missed. We wish him well for the future.

Ruhi Aktar

Ruhi has now taken a 3 year sabbatical from work to live on the Greek Islands to work with the refugees and asylum seekers there. She will be in need of continuing support throughout this time.

Thank you for your continued support for all the above work. **Margaret Brock**



MORPETH CHRISTIANS
TOGETHER

LENT COURSE

MORPETH METHODIST CHURCH

Mondays at 7.00 to 9.00 pm

2 Mar, 9 Mar, 16 Mar, 23 Mar 30 Mar.

St. GEORGE'S URC

Tuesdays at 2.00 to 4.00 pm

3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, 24 Mar 31 Mar.

NB Each Monday Session will be
repeated on the Tuesday

"A Beautiful Friendship"

This course has been written by Paul Kerensa
(Writer of BBC's "Miranda" and "Not going out")
and his wife Zoe Young.

The course uses the film "*Casablanca*"
– a classic movie – that provides a great basis
for discussion on the themes of sacrifice,
repentance, suffering loss and hope at Lent. Its
wartime setting provides additional poignancy
as we near the 75th anniversary of VE Day



Women's World Day of Prayer

The service is prepared by Christian women
of Zimbabwe
on the theme

"Rise! Take your mat and walk."

**Friday 6th March at Morpeth
Methodist Church at 2pm**

Rehearsals Friday 21st and 28th February
10am (for readers) and 11pm (singers and
musicians). Singers and players welcome to
join choir and band led by Harriet Gilfillan

Please contact Christine Oakes or Suzanne Hamnett for more information.

All welcome

The Service is followed by refreshments and hosted by members of the Baptist
Church.



Bible Readers

Readers are needed for the Months of February and March. Please consider
whether you would be able to help with this and sign up on the list in the
Vestibule. Please contact Church Secretary Teresa if you need any further
advice or information.

Church Flowers

Flower Donors are required also for the months of February and March.
Please consider whether you would be able to help with this and sign up on the
list in the Vestibule

Tea & Coffee Rota

Tea/Coffee servers are urgently required. Please consider undertaking this duty
– please also sign up where possible for dates further in the future. A new Rota
has been posted on the Hall Notice board.

Wordsearch for March

Lent lasts for 40 days. Sundays in Lent are 'oases'; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their '40 days in the wilderness', when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth. Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ. The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter! The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', or 'lengthen'. At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer...

Lent Forty Days Sundays
Fasting Weekly Celebration
Resurrection Jesus

Wilderness Indulgences
Inward Spiritual Renewal
Growth Cross Empty

Tomb Redemption
Daffodils Lencten

Solution on page18

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

Nature is wonderful. A million years ago she didn't know we were going to wear spectacles yet look at the way she placed our ears.

Too much of the world is run on the theory that you don't need road manners if you are a five-ton lorry.

A senior moment.... I made a list. I checked it twice. I left it at home.

Teacher: "What is the difference between results and consequences?"

Bright pupil: "Results are what you expect; consequences are what you get."

Tea Time Talks

Thursday 26th March at 2.00pm

The Speaker will be Terry Davison with
'Tokyo Toilets & the Rugby World Cup 2019'

The talk will be followed, as usual, by a cream tea with homemade scones and jams. Entry is by donation of between £2 - £3 per person. Please let Jared know (preferably in advance) if you are likely to attend, so that the caterers can bake enough scones. Contact details are: 01670 514610 or email jared-marg@hotmail.com

St George's Ladies Coffee Club



On Tuesday 17th March we have

*Patricia Gatherum with a talk entitled
'An African Adventure'*

(Please note that this is a change to our original programme)

***We meet in the Drysdale Room at 3.00pm and
new members will be made most welcome***

Knitter, Natter, Crafts & Chatter Coffee Group

The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12noon in the Drysdale room (entry by the **front** door). We aim to enjoy each others company whilst drinking tea/coffee, sharing projects for church or charity, or doing our own projects. Anyone is welcome to drop in just for a cup of coffee.

Contact: Joan Cooper, Tel: 515682

Lunchtime Concerts

Wednesdays from 12.30 – 1.30pm

WINTER-SPRING SERIES

All concerts run from 12.30 to 1.30 pm and tickets cost £3 at the door. Doors are open at Noon. Tea & Coffee is available in the South Transept of the Church.

Wednesday 11th March there will be a concert by "*The Fiddling Three*" Stuart Hardy (From The Bottle Bank Band) together with Brian Jackson and Alan Edwards present a wide selection of short pieces varying from Pachelbel's "*Canon*" via Haydn, Mozart & Dvorak to Lehar, "*The House of the rising sun*", "*Smoke gets in your eyes*" and some folk classics – something for everyone.

Wednesday 8th April there will be a concert by The Grainger Singers in a programme of popular songs. Some of you will have heard their fine performance at the Strawberry Tea last July.

Details of all the Winter – Spring Series concerts are posted on the Vestibule & Hall Notice boards.

Serving the Community

The February Lunchtime Concert was used to support the Mayor's Charity "***Northumbria Blood-Bikes***". The concert by KEVI Students and Chamber Choir attracted our largest ever audience of 190, resulting in a struggle to provide enough chairs, and at least six people standing throughout. As there were 30 performers there was an overall total of 220 in the Church.

The Lunchtime Concerts had offered to pay the Charity £3 for every seat occupied by the audience so £570 was raised in this way. The Audience however were also most generous in their support and another £208 was donated as they left the concert. The Mayor's Charity has therefore been sent a total of £778. A letter of thanks from the Mayor is posted on the Vestibule notice board.

In addition KEVI Head of Music, Mr Robin Forbes, appealed for help to provide more digital keyboards which are vital to the operation of their Music Department. Three members of the audience are providing keyboards which they no longer require and the Lunchtime Concerts are giving £400 which should

be sufficient to purchase a further two good quality keyboards. If anyone is aware of a keyboard out of use please let us know!!!

The music tuition being provided at KEVI is, quite simply, outstanding and many in the audience left amazed by the quality of the performances we heard – the Chamber Choir must be one of the best School Choirs in the North-East.

Many thanks to those members who attended the concert and helped to raise a good total for this very worthwhile charity.

Buy or Borrow Book & Jigsaw Library

Again, our grateful thanks to all those who continue to bring **paperback** books (only paperbacks please) and jigsaws enabling us to refresh the shelves and update the library. There has been a big demand for this service in the last couple of months and we need books and particularly need jigsaws to keep the Library refreshed with up-to-date material.

More importantly keep borrowing or buying !!!

The library continues to be a steady regular income for the Church so many thanks to those who do borrow or buy.

Domino Drive 22nd February 2020

A big thank you to everyone who helped with and supported the Ladies Coffee Club Domino Drive on 22nd February. £1,132 was raised. It was a sell out! A special thank you to Joan for the pie making and the kitchen team for the preparation of the meal and who kept the kitchen running smoothly. Thanks to everyone who provided desserts, gave raffle prizes, helped set up for the evening and helped clear up afterwards. A big thank you to Helen, John and Angela for running the raffle and of course an enormous thank you to our caller Jared who "called" for the evening and ensured the smooth running of the games.

Linda Glascott Treasurer, Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator
St Georges Ladies Coffee Club

This is a thank you message to say how delighted I was to receive the lovely flowers from St George's church.

Thank you very much, they are very much appreciated.

Isobel Pringle

Rubbish and Recycling

Please do not put any rubbish straight into the black bin or blue bin outside church

All rubbish going into these bins needs to be either in a black bag for ordinary rubbish or a green recycling bag. Glass can be put into the bins at the far end of the Terrace car park.

Yes please for recycling

The following **can** be recycled: - Clean paper and card, flattened cardboard, clean food tins and drink cans, plastic bottles with or without lids.

No thanks for recycling

The following **cannot** be recycled and must go into the general waste bin:- shredded paper and paper towels, tin foil and foil trays, food waste, tetrapaks, plastics which are not bottles – bags, yoghurt pots, food trays, cling film, margarine tubs.

More information on recycling can be found on Northumberland County council's website: - <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Recycling.aspx>

Any rubbish not in bags is left in our bins and does not get removed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sarah Cleverley - Housekeeping Team

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5							6	
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	6							2
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	4	1	9					8

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Church Magazine Bloomers

You know what they meant, but what they said was.....

This evening at 7 pm there will be hymn-singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Don't forget the Singles Progressive Dinner. Attire is optional

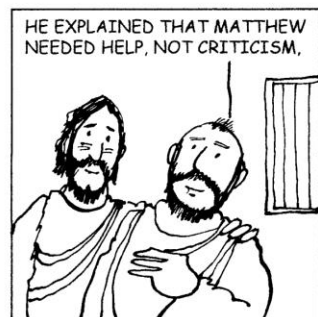
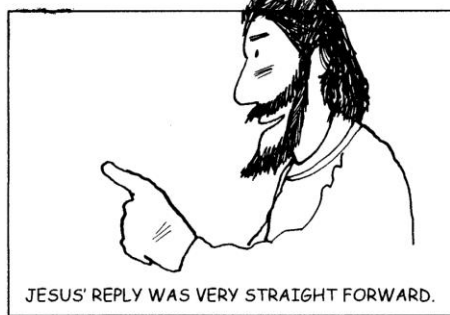
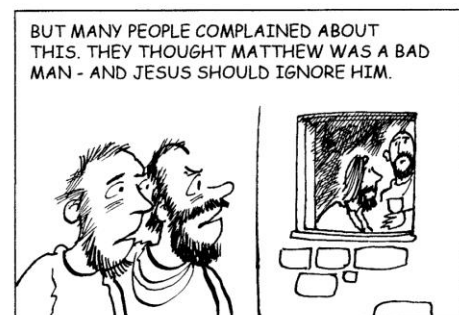
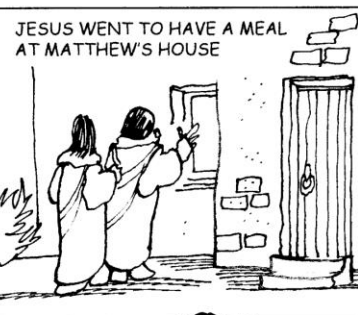
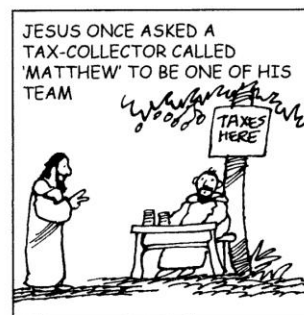
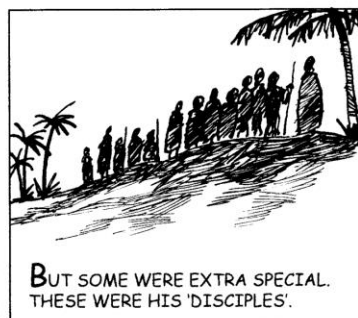
Thursday at 5 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers please see the minister in his private study.

The cost of the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Attention Parents. There will be a conference on how to help your teen avoid pre-marital sex. The featured speaker will be Molly Kelly, a nationally known speaker on abstinence and mother of eight.

The Doctor and the Patient



March Crossword

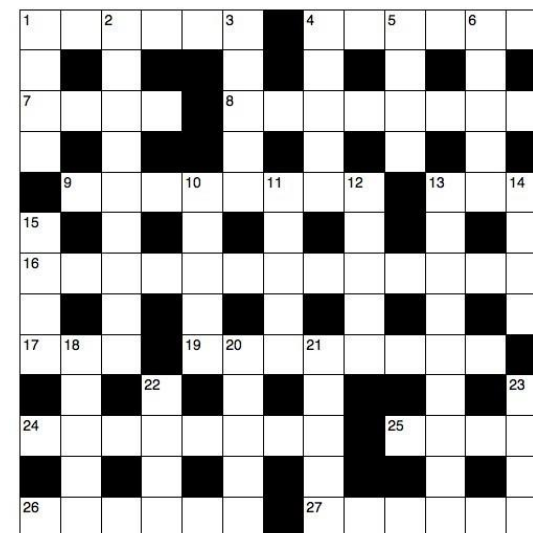
Across: 1 The earth is one (6) 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6) 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)

8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)

9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)

13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3) 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13) 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3) 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8) 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8) 25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4) 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6) 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6).

Down: 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4) 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9) 3 Gospel leaflet (5) 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18) 5 Tugs (anag.) (4) 6 To put forth (5) 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5) 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5) 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5) 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9) 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4) 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4) 18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5) 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5) 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5) 22 Does (anag.) (4) 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream



were this (Genesis 41:19) (4). *Solution on page18*

Country Dance Club

The CDC will be held in the Church Hall from 7.30 pm on

Saturday 14th March

No experience necessary – all dances are “called” before doing them!
It is suitable for ALL ages! Bring along your own refreshments (and a friend or two?)

Still only £1.50 per adult (Children Free)

Everyone welcome

Contact me by phone or email if you need any further details.

Ring 514610 or email: jared-marg@hotmail.com

Advance Notice to ‘Save the Date’

Morpeth Methodist Church and St George’s Church are holding a joint ‘V.E. Day Celebration’

There will be tea,
games, dance and
much more.

It will be held on
Friday 8th May at
5.30pm

In St George’s
Church



Tickets: £5.00 for Adults, £3.00 for children

Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis next month.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples
to be ready for the end of time. 'A
rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money
to look after, depending on
what they could do.

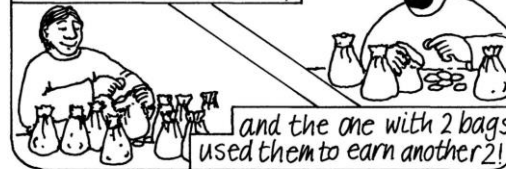


He gave 5 bags of coins to the
first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone,
the first two servants
started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins
used them to earn 5 more,



and the one with 2 bags
used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a
hole and buried his bag.



When
the master
came back,
he called
his
servants
to him...



The first two showed him they
had doubled his money, and he
was very happy with them.



You are a hard man
who expects us to work. I
was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I
expected, why didn't
you do it?



Get out of here!



GREAT BAVINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services

Sunday 1 March, 6.30pm
Sunday 15 March, 6.30pm

History Night

Wednesday 18 March, 7.30pm

Film Night

Tuesday 10 March, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Film to be announced

Further information on all of the above: bavingtonchurch@gmail.com,
01830 540350

The church is usually open during the day to welcome walkers and passers by. You can fill up your water bottle and there is a tuck box in case you need a snack!

* * * * *

ANSWERS: ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen. **DOWN:** 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

D R E D E M P T I O N S
R S E W B M E A N O L E
A U S E L M P F I A D C
W N U E E D O T U D L N
N D S K N R A T Y A D E
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8	6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2
9	3	2	5	8	7	6	4	1
6	8	5	1	3	4	9	2	7
7	4	1	9	6	2	3	5	8

Widdrington United Reformed Church

PRAYING TOGETHER

During March please pray for:
People in war zones
Victims of natural disasters
Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)
Our country
The refugee families being settled in the county, and those who help them
The work of relief agencies
Our farmers and shepherds at lambing time
Anyone who is recently bereaved
Your neighbours

"Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,
God's breath in man, returning to his birth,
The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet, sounding heav'n and earth" (George Herbert)

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). 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. December/January and June/July are usually double issues.

Flowers: Arranged February by Kathleen and in March by Fiona

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. (Some of our EF members only shop with retailers who are in the scheme!) This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at easyfundraising.org.uk and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. Please talk to Fiona about it soon.
We have raised over £245 so far with just eight members. As they say, every little

helps!

Recent fund raising: The Burns Night Ceilidh raised £185 for Church Funds. Donations for hall expenses at the Domino Night amounted to £28

Our March **Social Event** will be a Bowling Night at Concordia, Cramlington on Friday 13th.. Four lanes are booked from 7.00 pm and the cost is £8.25 per person for two games. Refreshments are available to purchase.

Also in March you may be interested in an event at St Mark's URC, Amble. Fliss Tunnard will be talking about her trip to Israel and Occupied Palestine last year. This is on Friday 20th March at 7.30pm. Fliss, who comes from Belford, is training to be a CRCW.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets at a variety of coffee shops in the area. 10.30am. In March we will be going to the Amble Inn and in April to Warkworth House

1st Wednesday: The Prayer Group meets at 7.00pm, usually at Cook's Hemmel. All are welcome, and suggestions for prayer can be given to any member of the group. (I'd like suggestions for Praying Together, too)

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. If you take pictures at any event please post them as a guest (but remember to get permission of any people on your photos and particularly from the parents of any children before you post) The page now has over 100 (106 actually) likes, with another 5 people 'following '!

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 17 page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!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 the can post pictures would be good!

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The Shrove Tuesday meal was well supported and much enjoyed.

There will be a Lent Course running on Tuesdays from March 3rd at Widdy Welcomes, at 1.30pm and 7.30pm.

Details of the Midweek meeting will be in the notices

We intend to run the Big Brekkie for Christian Aid again, on Saturday May 9th from 9 to 11am.

Meanwhile, the pop-up cafe continues on Thursdays at Widdy Welcomes. Why not pop in for a cuppa and a chat?

FEM

Widdrington Calendar

March		
Sun 1st	10.45am	Barbara Allen
Sues 3rd	10.45am	Coffee Club: Amble Inn
Wed 4th	7.00pm	Prayer Group: Cook's Hemmel
Sun 8th	10.45am	Worship Team
Fri 13th	7.00pm	Bowling at Corcordia, Cramlington
Sun 15th	10.45am	Revd Julian Sanders
Fri 20th	7.30pm	Fliss Tunnard's Holy Land Trip: St Mark's URC Amble
Sun 22nd	10.45am	Val Mace
Sun 29th	10.30am	SENEA Area Service with John Bell of the Iona Community. NO SERVICE AT WIDDRINGTON URC
April		
Wed 1st	7.00pm	Prayer Group
Sun 5th	7.00pm	Annetta Read
Tues 7th	10.30am	Coffee Club: Warkworth House

Widdrington Rota

Date	Vestry	Door and Offertory
01-03-20	Diana Hogg	Kathleen Bailey Judith Hart
08-03-20	Fiona Middlemist	Ena Whinham Audrey Grieves
15-03-20	Kathleen Bailey	Liv and Hannah Walden
22-03-20	Tom Whinham	Diana Hogg Margaret Scott
29-03-20	SENEA Area Service	No service in WURC
05-04-20	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon