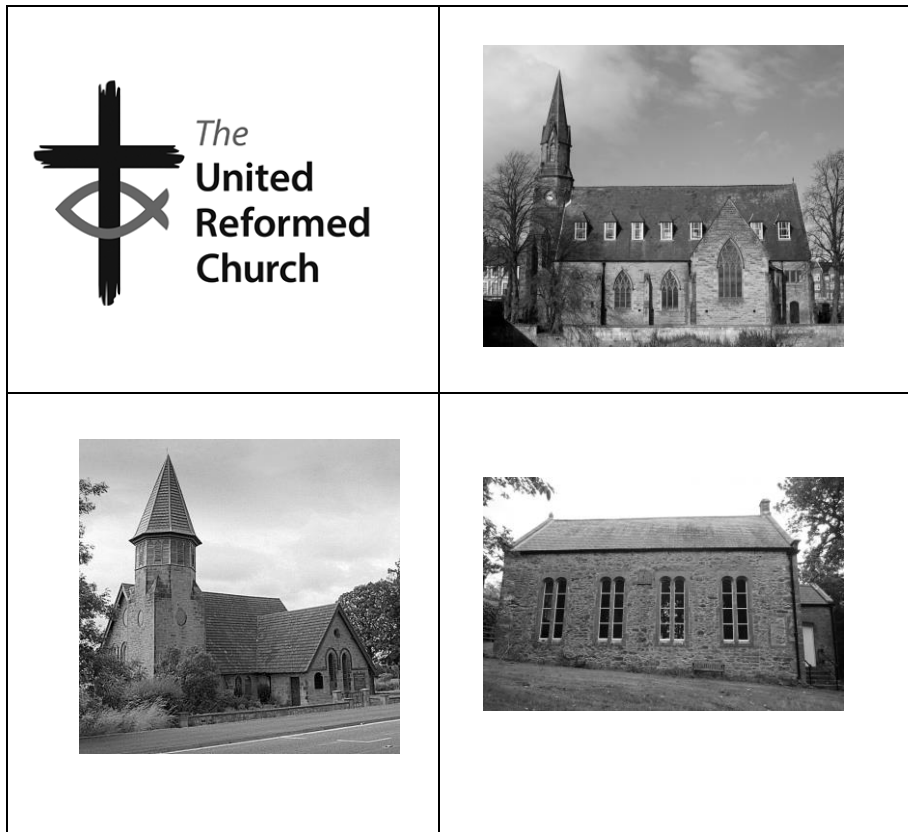


# St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



March  
2025

Website: [stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org](http://stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org)

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

Sat 1st	10.00am	Coffee Morning with our Ukranian Friends
Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 5th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting until 7.30pm
Fri 7th	1.30pm	World Day of Prayer Morpeth Methodist Church
Sat 8th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 12th	12.30pm 7.00pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About
Thurs 13th	2 -4pm	<b>Lent Courses Commence</b>
Sun 16th	10.30pm	Morning Worship
Sun 16th		Stage up – No Badminton etc.
Tues 18th	2.00pm	Coffee Club meet in the Hall
Wed 19th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Thurs 20th	2.00pm	Lent Couise
Sat 22nd	10.00am	Morpeth Book Fair in Church and other rooms
Sun 23rd	10.30am 12.30pm	Morning Worship with xx Morpeth Book Fair until 7.00pm
Wed 26th	12.30pm 7.00pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> also Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> & Sat 29th	2.00pm	Lent Course Community Players' Spring Production
Sun 30th	10.30 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm	Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday Evening Service

### Flower Committee Rota on page 19

### Stewards Rota for March

<b>2</b>	Gillian Irvine & Linda Glascott
<b>9</b>	Gordon Slack & Susan Sanderson
<b>16</b>	Ken & Sally Davidson
<b>23</b>	Madeline Cleverley & Karen Howe
<b>30</b>	Christine Hawkins & Sarah Cleverley



**What's On at St George's**  
**SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH 10.30 am**

<b>MON</b>	<b>Age UK Exercise:</b> 9.00-12.00 noon Ronka Gbadebo	07952381160
	<b>Age UK Exercise:</b> 3.00 – 4.00pm As above	
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Morning Badminton</b> 10.00am – 12 noon Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	<b>Rainbows,</b> 5.00pm Liz Kelly 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	<b>Brownies:</b> 6.00pm Susan Fairgrieve. s.fairgrieve21@gmail	
	<b>Guides and Rangers:</b> from 7.00pm Liz Kelly Mobile 07714481089 783434 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	<b>St. George's Coffee Club:</b> 2.00pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues) Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	<b>Cobweb Orchestra</b> 7.30 – 9.30pm <b>At St Georges</b> Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612	
<b>WED</b>	<b>Morning Badminton:</b> 9.30am Sarah Cleverley	515257
	<b>Knitter, Natter Crafts &amp; Chatter</b> 2.00 – 4.00pm Joan Cooper	515682
	<b>Afternoon Bowls</b> 2.00pm Andrew Cleverley	515257
	<b>Zumba:</b> 6.00pm High Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or <a href="mailto:zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com">zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</a>	
<b>THURS</b>	<b>Morning Badminton:</b> 10.00-12.00 Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	<b>Zumba:</b> 5.45pm. Low Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or email <a href="mailto:zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com">zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</a>	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Table Tennis:</b> 10.00 – 12.00 Christine Richardson <b>Country Dance Club:</b> (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	513913
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Orchestra:</b> Norm. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Andrew Hamnett (not August) Christine Oakes	518485 518608

**The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in April**

**The deadline is Sunday 16th March**

**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](mailto:robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk)**

**From the Vicar** *Extracted from Parish Pump*

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives. Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)  
"I Made You Wonderful" Psalm 139:14**

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. Once written it goes to the International Committee in New York for translation and dissemination to the National Committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and then locally for branches to make their plans. Morpeth Branch of WDP consists of two women from the RC, Methodist, Baptist, Anglican, and URC churches. Finally at the Methodist Church in Howard Road, Morpeth, on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at 1.30 pm people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of The Cook Islands. Kia Orana!

*(Kia Orana is a phrase in the Maori language that Cook Islanders use to greet each other. Kia orana means more than just hello.)*

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 Islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Maori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme "I made you wonderful."

We invite everyone to come join us at the service on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. Prior to this we hold choir rehearsals on the mornings of Fridays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

February at 11am and we always welcome new members for the choir.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer...

Turou, turou!

Oro mai, oro mai!

E te ao nei!

Iekoko!

Welcome, welcome!

Come all, come all,

The whole world!

Iekoko

## The Yorkshireman

Through rolling hills and valleys wide,  
Where heather sways and rivers glide,  
A Yorkshireman walks, strong and free,  
With pride as bold as the North Sea.  
His words are straight, his handshake firm,  
He's steady as the moors in storm.  
No need for fuss, no time for airs,  
He says what's right, he speaks what's fair.  
A pint of ale, An Apple pie well made,  
A life that's honest, hard, and staid.  
He toils, he laughs, he stands his ground,  
With roots as deep as those around.  
Through wind and rain, through sun and snow,  
He carries on, he makes it so.  
For Yorkshire's heart beats strong and true—  
A land of grit, a sky of blue.

**Anon.**

My family and I would like to thank you all for your kind and caring support during the last couple of months. Your prayers, messages and hugs have given us much strength at this difficult time.

**Joan**





## Four Days of Celebrations for St. Cuthbert's Day

Thursday 20th

March -2.30 – 4 p.m.

St. Cuthbert's Centre Archive Exhibition and creative story telling of Cuthbert's life with Andy Raine and friends. Refreshments available.

Friday 21st

March

10 a.m. -1 p.m. St. Cuthbert's Centre Archive Exhibition

3.30 -5 p.m. Family Afternoon -Story telling, crafts and refreshments

Saturday 22nd

March

Epiphany 'Sound Portraits' of people

12.30 -2 p.m.

will lead a session on St. Cuthbert and his conservation of nature

They will then be at the Crossman Hall from 2-5pm for a workshop on environmental issues in the light of St. Cuthbert.

An Evening with Celtish at the Crossman Hall  
(round the corner on Crossgate Lane)

Tickets £12.00 each (£10 students) booked in advance from TicketSource  
(booking fee applies)

[ticketsource.co.uk/st-cuthberts-centre-holy-island](http://ticketsource.co.uk/st-cuthberts-centre-holy-island)

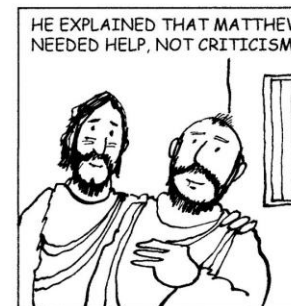
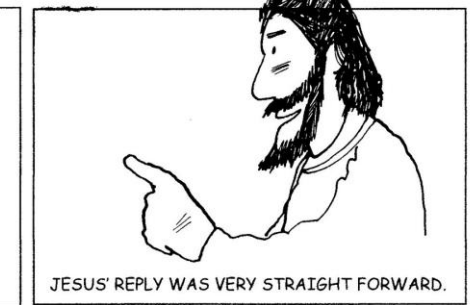
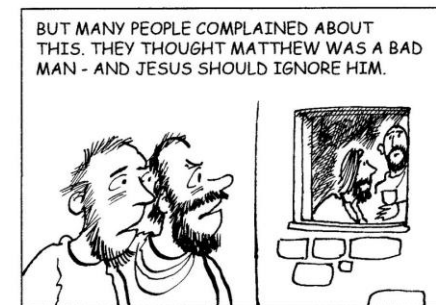
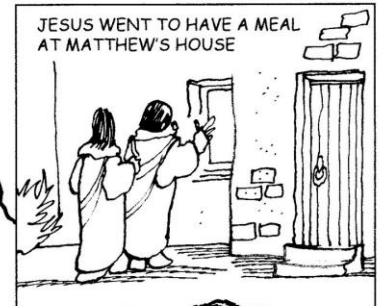
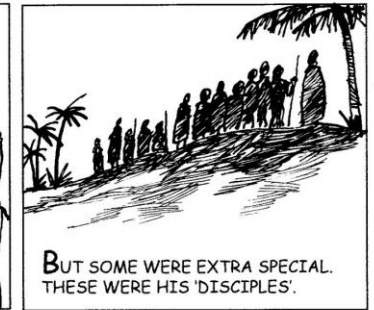
or from Rev Kay at St. Cuthbert's Centre

Sunday 23rd

March -3.30 p.m.

Service of celebration for the life of  
St Cuthbert.

## The Doctor and the Patient



**FOR ALL EVENTS CHECK THE CAUSEWAY SAFE CROSSING TIMES**

## **Margaret Johnson**

It is with great sorry that we have to announce that Margaret Johnson passed away peacefully at Foxton Court, after a long illness.

Margaret was a very long time member of St Georges Church and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends as this sad time.

*Photographs sent to us from her daughter Catherine can be seen on the 'Players' notice board and on the Website.*

To those that knew her, here is our lovely mum. She sadly and unexpectedly passed away last week. Exactly as she'd wanted to go, with no fuss and no loss of dignity.

Everyone who knew her will know what a lovely soul she was. In her lifetime she quietly achieved so much; from making the move from London to Newcastle in her early 20s to be with my dad, to being one of the best female archers in the north east (and winning dozens of medals), to taking up jogging in her 60s and going on to run the GNR at the age of 70, raising well over £1000 for Christian Aid. She strongly believed in what was right and ethical, and attended G8 summits and other rallies in Europe and Britain. I still remember her marching through Newcastle when my kids were little, and being interviewed about her views on climate change for the BBC Politics show!

She loved arts and crafts, gardening, singing and amateur dramatics, the Lake District, walking, brain teaser puzzles, and of course, her family.

Never one to make a fuss, she just got on with life. Even when her rare neurological condition took away most of her memories, her ability to walk and much of her speech, she would find the humour, joy and beauty in everything around her. Literally till her last day.

We have so much admiration and love for mum, and Robin, Ian and I hope you will remember her as fondly as we will.

Thank you to everyone who has been so kind with their messages and cards in the last few days. We're an undemonstrative bunch but we really appreciate you all.

**Catherine**



**30th March – What people say about mothers.  
Motherhood is something special...**

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers. – *Jewish Proverb*

Every mother is a working mother. – *Anon*

No man is poor who has had a godly mother. – *Abraham Lincoln*

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother – which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician. – *Sydney J Harris*

If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much. – *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car for ever after. – *Peter de Vries*

Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family. But here again, because there is nothing to sell, there is a very general disposition to regard a married woman's work as no work at all, and to take it as a matter of course that she should not be paid for it. – *George Bernard Shaw*

There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the mouth that bites you. – *Peter de Vries*

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.– *Robert Browning*

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. – *Sophocles*

Motherhood is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. – *Joan Ryan*

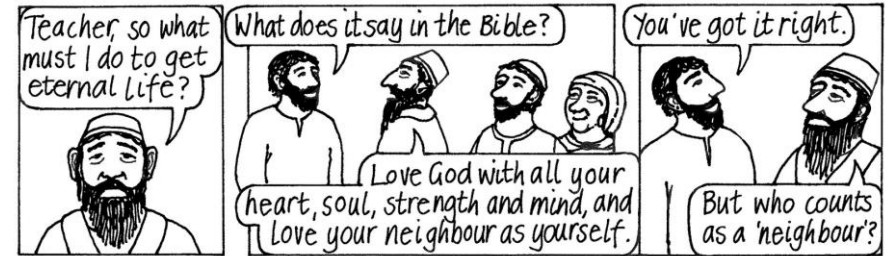
There are places in the heart you don't even know exist until you love a child. – *Anne Lamott*



**Bible Bite** A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.





This is a photograph taken by a dear friend who lives in Canada and visited us a few years ago.

*Carla*

*Image by George Meiers*

### King Edward VI Lunchtime Concert

St George's Church has for many years supported KEVI Music Department and their young musicians and a Lunchtime Concert was held in the church on Wednesday 12th February. Twenty five of their students performed to a packed, most appreciative audience who enjoyed a variety of piano music, a guitarist, the Northumbrian pipes and the amazing Chamber Choir. These talented young people presented their programme with maturity, humour and assurance. This annual event is a wonderful and much appreciated way to prepare them for their forthcoming final music exams at school whilst also raising £391 for their Music Department. Thank you to the loyal helpers on the day and also to the Worship on Wednesday group who gave up their usual time to allow the concert to go ahead.

**Gillian Irvine**

### Request from Gillian

I am already thinking about card making for the Charity Card Sale in September and Christmas. I would appreciate any Christmas or Birthday cards which may be lurking in cupboards and drawers and which you may no longer wish to keep. All types will be gratefully received and I will sort them although you may wish to remove personal messages. Please pop them in the vestibule cupboard marked 'For Gillian'.

Paperback books and jigsaws are also most welcome.

Many Thanks **Gillian**

## Morpeth Country Dance Club

find us on Facebook

# March

# 8

# April

# 12

# May

# 20

7.30  
to  
9.30



Ceilidh

SGURC  
live band.  
new players  
welcome

@ St George's Church Hall,  
Morpeth NE61 1PD

£2.50

bring own  
drinks&nibbles

- All dances explained
- You don't need a partner
- Just come along & have fun

### Snoring....

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

## Crossword for March

**Across: 1** These letters come

between Romans and Galatians (11)

**9** 'You will not — me to the grave'

(Psalm 16:10) (7) **10** King of Moab

to whom the Israelites were subject

for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)

**11** Town possessing mineral spring

(3) **13** Mede (anag.) (4)

**16** High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)

**17** He succeeded his father

Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings

14:31) (6) **18** A son of Simeon

(Genesis 46:10) (4)

**20** Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)

**21** 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured

out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3) **22** 'You — me together in my

mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4) **23** Edit (anag.) (4) **25** 'Who has believed

our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1)

(3) **28** Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5) **29** 'When Mordecai learned of —

that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

**30** Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7).

**Down: 2** 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23)

(2,3) **3** Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4

**4** 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel

18:7) (4) **5** Concept (John 8:14) (4) **6** 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith?

Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)

**7** Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11) **8** 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart

may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you

(Ephesians 1:18) (11) **12** 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James

3:10) (6) **14** This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John

10:20) (3) **15** Vitality (Job 20:11) (6) **19** He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah

(1 Samuel 26:8) (7) **20** 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the

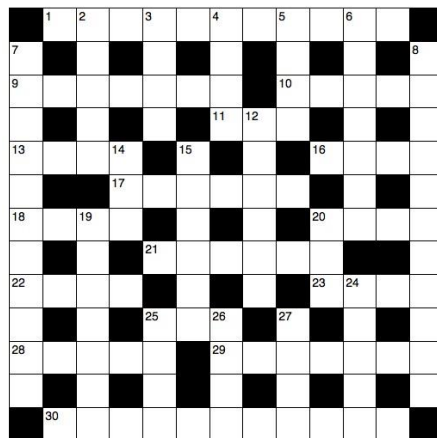
church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)

**24** 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)

**25** Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4) **26** 'In the image of God he created him; —

and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4) **27** Disparagement (Psalm 15:3)

(4). Solution on page 19



## Telephone Numbers

It appears that some of our members no longer have a telephone land line and are using their mobile numbers instead. If this is the case for you, can you please let me have your mobile numbers so we can update our contacts list.

Thank you. **Morag**

Just a few notes to tell you about my gardening... All is going well, though my amnesia forgot to bloom this year. I've got beds full of rubella and influenza. The alopecia has left a few gaps on the rockery, but I've filled these in with eczema and carbuncles. For climbing up the wall I have psoriasis, thrush and herpes. At the foot I've put corns and veruccas. Lumbago and sciatica are excellent creepers. The halitosis and flatulence are fine in the perfume garden, while the pneumonia takes your breath away. The gentle splashing sound of the fountain is enhanced by tinnitus. It's good to have a garden where one can relax and enjoy good, healthy, clean air.

Submitted by **Janet Brown**

## Beware of these contagious diseases in church....

*Double Auricular Clearance:* A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

*Accelerated Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

*Retarded Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

*Theexits:* A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.  
*Church Meeting Paralysis:* This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.



## St George's Church Coffee Club

At the Coffee Club's AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 it was decided, with much sadness that the meeting in May would be the last meeting of the club. Although the club is not struggling it is becoming more difficult to arrange and support the meetings and it was felt it would be better to close with the May meeting.

The club was formed in 1966 and the first meeting was on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September in the Drysdale Room and the first talk was on "The Care of Carpets" The meetings were initially held twice monthly on Wednesday evenings and later moved to Tuesdays. In 2002 it was decided to hold meetings monthly and to continue holding meetings from September to April with a social event in May.

Over the years there have been numerous talks, outings, meals out and fundraising events. Too many to list! One of our most popular events was a Domino Drive with a meal. The last of these was held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 with 98 players. This turned out to be the last social event in church, for some time, as the COVID pandemic with all its restrictions changed the world.

The club has contributed to the life of the church in many ways over its 59-year history. As well as monetary donations there have been practical gifts such as the dishwasher in the hall kitchen. As a church organisation the club has also given donations to local charities.

We hope to hold a reunion at some stage and arrange/support a fund raising event for the church.

I must mention that four members of the original "Ladies Coffee Club of St George's Presbyterian Church, Morpeth" who are still members of the congregation. They are Jean Elliott, Elsie Lang, Pam McKenzie and Norma McMorran.

The records of the club from its inception in 1966 to its closure in May 2025 will be stored in church when a suitable cupboard is found.

We still have 3 more meetings in February, March and April before our final meeting in May. Details are in the Sunday Order of Service and the Church Magazine. All are welcome so do come!

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in and supported the Coffee Club over the years.

**Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator January 2025**



## St Georges Coffee Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Our guest speaker will be

Lisa Mordue with a presentation entitled  
'Carers Northumberland'

Start time 2.00pm in the Church Hall (lift permitting)

There is a small charge of £3 which includes  
tea or coffee and a biscuit.

For further information contact **Sarah Cleverley – 515257**  
or come along to the meeting.

**Members and friends welcome.**



## St George's Knitter Natter Group

We meet each Wednesday from 2.00 – 4.00pm  
In the Drysdale Room

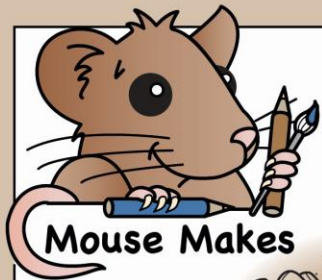
New members will be made very welcome.

**Joan Cooper (Coordinator) 515682**

### ***Beware of these contagious diseases in church....***

**Frontophobia:** A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

**Sermonic Throat:** A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.



**THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1

**For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?**

Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



**READ**  
the story in  
**Luke 4:1-13**

**Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...**

Luke 4:12

- JESUS • LED
- WILDERNESS
- DESERT
- TEMPTATIONS
- DAYS • DEVIL
- HUNGRY • SON
- STONE • ROCK
- KINGDOMS
- WORLD • GLORY
- WRITTEN
- SCRIPTURE
- WORSHIP • ONLY
- SERVE • LORD
- JERUSALEM
- HIGH • TEMPLE
- THROW • DOWN
- JUMP • ANGELS
- HANDS • HOLD
- LIFT • FOOT

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

Find the words from the questions too!

Coffee Mornings with our Ukrainian friends take place on the first Saturday of each month so they can meet with us and also catch up with each other and iron out any small problems.

**Wordsearch for March**

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

e e f e p d n t l y r l g p i  
l c r t r r y f a m i l y n u  
a a n e e i a g i e t e n u h  
c g u a d s h y n n e i i r e  
u s n t t i o r e i d w r s i  
o t n i i n w l d r n i t i t  
y r n r h r e d f w n r n n t  
k g d i s c i p l e s g a g u  
n o i t a r a p e r p r k e f  
a g g n i k e e s r o o r r l  
h l n t k t a h t i e w t u o  
t a h r i y s e t h l i n t w  
a o e l e l t i a o c n a r e  
t i i p t r e e v l m g d u r  
p i l d e t r e s e d m f n s

can

*Lent spiritual easter preparation fasting prayer desert selfdenial  
Repentance seeking finding growing mothers love care nurture  
Learning teaching disciples worldwide flowers thankyou nursing family  
Solution on page 19*

- 4<sup>th</sup> March Shrove Tuesday, Pancake
- 5<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent –  
Mothering Sunday
- 30<sup>th</sup> March – Clocks go forward.



Day.



"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

**Lost in translation...**

Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

**Danish airline:** We take your bags and send them in all directions.

**Heathrow:** No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

**Japanese taxi:** Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

**Kenyan maternity ward:** No children allowed.

**Beijing shop:** Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

**Swedish furrier:** Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

**Sudoku for March.**

Solution on page 19

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

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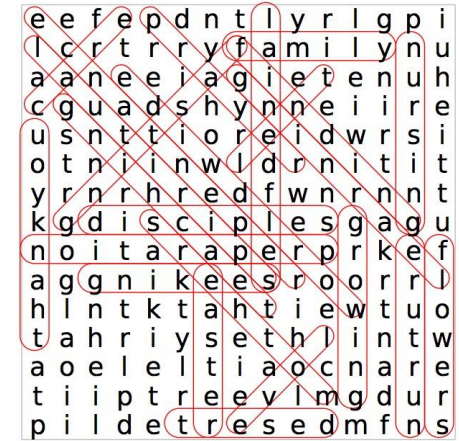
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	K	I	N	D	H	E	A	R	T	E	D	



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



Clocks go **FORWARD**  
 On **Sunday 30 March at 1am**  
 Don't be late for Church!!

**Flower Rota for March**

2	Margaret Miller
9	Vivien Bennett
16	
23	
30	Elsie Lang
Rep	Margaret Finnie 514186



## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Bavington:

### **A tribute to Mary Hogg**

Mary Hogg was a member at Great Bavington since Middleton URC joined with Bavington in 1992. Mary reached the grand age of 100, and her funeral was held at Bavington on 9 January. Having grown up in Tynemouth and Blyth, Mary originally came to Middleton in 1942 as a Land Girl - to help increase food production during World War 2, young women across the country were deployed to work on farms to replace the men who had gone away to fight in the war. After the war, Mary married the dashing young farmer Bunny Hogg and three children, Philip, Chris, and Rachel, arrived in the following years. She ran the Post Office in Middleton and was very much the centre of the community, and was a highly valued member of the congregation in Middleton and then at Bavington. Mary remained very active throughout her life and was still mowing her own lawn at the age of 95. An inspiration to all of us.

### **Services for March**

Sunday 2 March, 2.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders. Church meeting afterwards.

Sunday 16 March, 2.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

From April to October, services will be at 6.30pm.

### **Film Night**

Monday 10 March, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start

Conclave (12): Winner of BAFTA Best Film, Best British Film, Best Adapted Screen Play and Best Editing awards; nominated for Cinematography and Original Score.

Following the death of the Pope, the reluctant Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with overseeing the group of Cardinals from across the globe that make up the Conclave; those responsible for selecting a new leader for the Church. But as the political machinations inside the Vatican intensify, Lawrence realizes that the departed Pope had kept a secret from them that he must uncover before a new Pope is chosen.

Refreshments provided, donations welcome towards expenses.

### **History Night**

Tuesday 25 March, 7.00pm

"The Railways That Might Have Been" – proposals for railways from Newcastle to Edinburgh and Glasgow, via Carter Bar. To mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway, the first railway in the world to use steam engines to transport coal and passengers.

### **The church is connected to broadband**

The church now has gigabit fibre broadband (very fast!), provided free of charge by B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) as the church is a community building. This means that we can stream services so people can watch them from home; we can do online research during History Night; visitors can connect to the wifi network; people attending meetings (such as the Parish Council) can refer to online resources; the meeting room can be used as a workspace for people whose B4RN broadband isn't connected yet. There is now also a telephone in the meeting room (B4RN also provide a free-to-use telephone line) which will be very useful in case of an emergency, for example.

### **Resources for visitors**

In the church is a box of books which visitors (children, teenagers and adults) can read, and a bag of craft and other activities. In the meeting room is some local history information, which we are adding to all the time. In the kitchen is a kettle. In the porch are books and leaflets, some for sale and some are free. And possibly the most important thing – there's a loo. The church is usually open during the daytime so you will be welcome to call in.

### **Keep in touch**

Please check the church's Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC](http://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC)) for any updates and changes to events, email [bavingtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bavingtonchurch@gmail.com) or phone 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 March 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

Sheep farmers as lambing starts

"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](mailto: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 in March by Fiona and in April by Kathleen..Donations for flowers can be given to either of us. Details of Easter Flowers next month. Easter is very late this year so we will probably be looking for alternatives for daffodils.

**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](http://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. The payout this month was £56.92. Obviously a lot of online Christmas shopping - or have you all been booking exotic foreign holidays?

**Fund raising:** no extra fund raising events to report this month. However, good ideas will always be welcome.

**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 March along with duty rotas are in the table below.

For details of World Day of Prayer service on March see below under Churches Together

**Social:** Sorry, no special events this month.

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:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the church hall. In March we will return to Warkworth House (when we will meet at 11.00am).

(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.)

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Group:** We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park at 7.00pm. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer. (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.

**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](http://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

Our next event is the World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 7th at 2.00pm, at the Community Centre.

Our Lent Course will be on Tuesdays at 2.00pm starting on March 18th for five weeks at the Community Centre.

FEM

### March Rotas

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
2nd	Worship Team	Kathleen Bailey	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
9th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	Diana Hogg Elizabeth Barber
16th	Margaret Field	Diana Hogg	Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves
23rd	Steve Collinson	Kathleen Bailey	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
30th	Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	Diana Hogg Diane Cooke

