

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



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



May  
2022

## Worship at St George's United Reformed Church for May

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 4th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert (Doors open at Noon) No WOW this week
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 11th	12.30pm	WOW Worship on Wednesday
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tues 17th	2.00pm	Ladies Coffee Club (Last of the Season)
Wed 18th	12.30pm	WOW Worship on Wednesday
Sat 21st	10.00am	St George's Annual Plant Sale
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (Tea/Coffee in Hall upstairs)
Wed 25th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship

### Steward's Duty Rota

<b>1</b>	Katherine Smailes and Joan Cooper
<b>8</b>	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
<b>15</b>	Gillian Irvine and Karen Howe
<b>22</b>	Christine Hawkins and Gordon Slack
<b>29</b>	Helen Muckle and John Muckle

### Flower Rota

<b>1</b>	Lyndon Jobson
<b>8</b>	Patricia Gatherum
<b>15</b>	Trish Wright
<b>22</b>	Morag Stead
<b>29</b>	Dorothy Luke
<b>Rep</b>	Dorothy Luke 514918



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's  
covers events in **June 2022**.

**The deadline is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Please do not wait for the deadline if you already have  
articles ready to be included.

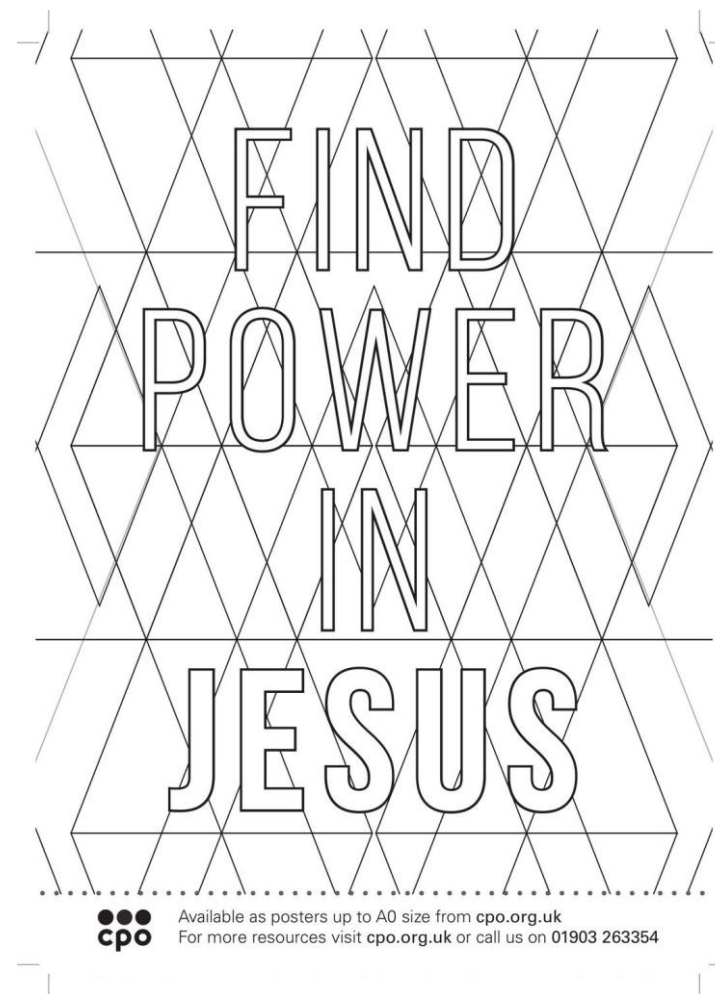
Please contact Stephanie. E-mail: [robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk)

## 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 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	<b>Ladies Coffee Club:</b> 2.00pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues) <b>nb: new start time</b> Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	<b>Cobweb Orchestra</b> 7.30 – 9.30pm In the Sanctuary 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 <b>zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</b>	
<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 <b>zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com</b>	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Table Tennis:</b> 10.30 – 12.30 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 518485 (not August) Christine Oakes 518608	



## A Message from our Minister Revd Julian Sanders

Dear Friends,

Later on this year, in July, the Commonwealth Games are taking place and many athletes looking to compete in this event will be fine tuning their training programmes to get the very most out of their bodies, and the time left available to them, so that they can be at their peak performance by the time the games begin.

*Fartlek* is a Swedish word which means 'fast and slow running' – and a word that came into use about the same time the Commonwealth Games was created – and used to describe a training regime for athletes that incorporated periods of fast running alternating with running at slower speeds. The word literally translates as 'speed-play'.

The word for me resonates with the inner child that is within each of us. The first four letters make the hidden 8 year old inside me snigger and giggle! But the second half of the word 'lek' also reminds me of the hidden playfulness inside us. The word remains within the Yorkshire dialect, a hangover from its Viking origins, and today '*laik*' is still a word used in some areas to mean 'play'.

*Fartlek* encapsulates this whole idea of the intensity and drive that is required from first class athletes intent on achieving their goals, as well as the playfulness of an 8 year old who can do nothing more than amuse themselves thinking about embarrassing bodily functions. The need for a balance between fast paced intensity and slow forward movement.

This paradox almost is held within the gospel stories too. Mark's gospel is a gospel in a hurry. With the intensity and drive of an athlete, Mark races through the story of Jesus with little time to catch a breath. The Greek word *euthus* is used around 40 times in Mark's gospel, and 11 times in the first chapter. The word *euthus* means "immediately" or "straight away", and gives a sense of the urgency in which the gospel was written. Twice we read in the gospel that Jesus was so busy that he didn't even have chance to eat (3:20, 6:31)

John's gospel on the other hand is taken at a much more leisurely pace. Take, for example, the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. John writes:

***"Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her "Will you give me a drink?" His disciples had gone into town to buy food."***  
**John 4:4-8**

John then goes on for another 33 verses to make sure we get all of that conversation and the impact that that encounter had. Tony Horsfall comments on this and says "Everything that happens in this story happens because Jesus was doing nothing." And it was because Jesus was doing nothing, that he had the time to chat with this Samaritan woman, and out of that chance encounter not only is she transformed but the whole town experiences a revival.

So I might suggest that even though we may not be athletes in training, we might consider the idea of *fartlek* in our own Christian journeys. The need to balance both the speed and intensity of achieving aims and goals, with the lazy playfulness of just allowing those encounters with others and with God to develop naturally and easily – of sensing what God is doing and responding to it accordingly. There are things we need to do in order to achieve the mission that God has for us, but let us not be so focussed on this, that we miss the opportunity to stop and see what God is doing around us.

With every blessing, **Julian**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of  
our friend Lis Elders.  
She will be missed by the St George's family and our thoughts  
and prayers go out to Lis's family and friends.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Lis's life on  
5<sup>th</sup> May, at 2.00pm

## Refugees and Asylum Seekers May 2022

With refugees and asylum seekers in the news at the moment so much because of the war in Ukraine I thought it would be useful to include some facts about seeking asylum in the UK. On the WERS website there is basic information about the asylum system. We may think we know what happens but do we know it all? Can we imagine what it must feel like to be a refugee or an asylum seeker?

### **“Why do people seeking asylum and refugees need help when they get to the UK?”**

Whilst many assume that the UK is a safe and welcoming place for people seeking asylum, there are huge challenges for individuals who arrive here seeking sanctuary.

**The Asylum System:** The asylum system is tough. Interviews and communication with the Home Office can be incredibly stressful for individuals, many of whom have experienced trauma in their home country and on their journey here. Waiting times for asylum claims can cause anxiety and often further trauma.

**Poverty:** Whilst government support exists (housing and weekly financial support of £39.63 a week), many then live below the poverty line, unable to buy essentials and feed their families.

**Prejudice & safety:** Individuals also often suffer prejudice, racism and feel unsafe in our communities.

**Accessing Support:** Many find it difficult to access the support they are entitled to. Language barriers are significant as well as knowledge of how our systems work in the UK. There are often issues with their accommodation, difficulties in accessing healthcare provision, education for families with children, which mean people need extra support to see their needs are met and their rights are protected.

**Isolation:** People seeking asylum have left their lives, their homes, friends and family members behind. Many do not know where their family are. Arriving in the UK and awaiting a decision on their asylum claim can be an incredibly lonely and isolating experience.

**Positive decisions on asylum claims:** The challenges do not stop if an individual is granted refugee status. People have just 28 days to find accommodation and access Universal Credit. Many can find themselves homeless at this stage. It can be a period of huge upheaval and stress for individuals who may have been waiting months and sometimes years for a decision on their asylum claim.

**Negative decisions on asylum claims/ destitution:** If an individual receives a negative decision on their asylum claim, their financial support stops and they are evicted from their accommodation after 21 days. They have no access to statutory support. Access to healthcare is very limited, and many who have complex health problems are issued with significant fines for treatment and care. Many people are unable to leave the UK through no fault of their own. Some are stateless and have no country to return to, some cannot obtain travel documents from their government to allow them to return, some are too sick to travel or there is no viable route home. Many asylum seekers have been destitute for many years and have strong ties in the UK with family, friends and children born here.”

## **WERS**

WERS has been publicising some of their recent activities. They have planted a native wildlife friendly beech and hawthorn hedge in their garden and had a meal of Kurdish rice and flatbreads there. They also had a Spring Fun Day at the Scotswood Garden and the families planted seeds, played in flour and crafted birds. The North East Ambulance Service put on a session on lifesaving skills for a group of Skillsmatch volunteers.

## **Justice and Peace**

Justice and Peace reports that their services are in great demand and this is growing increasingly. In the month of March they registered 52 new clients who came from 14 different countries, with the largest numbers coming from Iraq, Syria, Eritrea, El Salvador, Sudan and Iran. In February they distributed £4300 worth of food bags and in March £5790. They also gave vouchers to the value of £1680 and £2240 in February and March respectively.

They report that they have re-started their informal English lessons. These begin with the absolute basics to help them integrate into their new communities.

Many face the challenge of needing to learn complex new languages with an unfamiliar alphabet. They give an example of a volunteer searching charity shops for children’s dictionaries and children’s books in other languages and the joy that this has given families. They are also encouraging people to socialise and they provide games which do not rely on a common language, e.g. playing cards, dominoes, puzzles, chess, Connect four etc. Any donations of this nature would be welcomed.

**Margaret Brock**

## Christian Aid Week is 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May.

As with many charities Christian Aid has seen many of its fundraising activities cancelled over the past two years. However, the needs of the people they support have not gone away. I am aware of the demands on people at the moment with rising prices etc but I would ask people to consider making a donation to Christian Aid this year if at all possible. Small amounts from a lot of people add up and can make a difference.

Envelopes will be delivered to most houses within Morpeth. 'Collectors' will be responsible for delivering envelopes to set streets as usual, but the envelopes will **not** be collected back in. Each envelope should have an address label on it providing details of where donations can be dropped off. This will be local to each house. These filled envelopes will then be counted by the church reps. Alternatively the envelopes can be posted back to Christian Aid, if simpler. I will also arrange for extra envelopes to be available in church and any filled envelopes can be put in the church collection or handed direct to me.

***Thank you, Margaret Brock***

## Memories of Lis.

Elisabeth Elders died peacefully on Thursday 7th April this year. She was a real St George's Character. For many years she led our Church catering team, putting on some spectacular productions. Her little band of helpers would receive ingredients and instructions on how to cook whatever was required. These were sometimes left on your door step if you were out when she called. I still have her recipe for lemon soufflé, written in pencil in her very neat handwriting. No Church meeting was complete without a searching question from Lis. When she gave up her car recently she had her carport transformed into a sitooterie with a tiger and giraffe painted on the walls and comfortable furniture to sit on. How she loved to entertain her friends out there even in the rain. Lis will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

***Patricia***

## St George's Ladies Coffee Club



This month we meet on **Tuesday 17th May** at 2pm in the church hall.

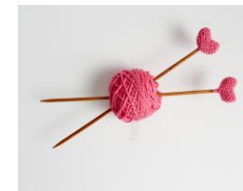
It will be our last meeting before the summer break.

This will be a social afternoon with tea, coffee and cake and an opportunity to discuss the programme for the club for 2022/2023.

For more information contact **Sarah Cleverley Tel: 515257**  
**or Linda Glascott Tel: 515582**

## Knitter Natter Coffee group

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Knitter natter stall at our coffee morning, we sent about 60 chickens and rabbits to the child's wish Easter egg hunt.



We will continue to meet every Wednesday in the Drysdale Room from 2.00pm – 4.00pm until and including 13th July with one exception, the 1<sup>st</sup> June, the day before the Queens Jubilee weekend. All newcomers are welcome. Please enter by the front door  
We start our autumn meetings on 7th September. ***Joan Cooper***

## Longest overdue library book has been returned – 313 years late...

If you have ever been late in returning a library book, take heart: the 1704 copy of *The Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man* was recently handed back to Sheffield Cathedral. A handwritten inscription inside reads: "This Book belongs to ye Lending Library in Sheffield Church 1709." It left the library just over 300 years ago. Sheffield Cathedral's Reverend Canon Keith Farrow said that the family of a deceased woman who lived locally had asked in her will for it to be returned. "Now it's come back home. It's a joy to have this little jewel back in the cathedral. With overdue fines of 50p a day, librarians could have charged the family more than £54,000 for the book — which itself is worth about £300. The canon joked: "We might have got a new roof or something."





## Grand Raffle

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Two 1<sup>st</sup> Class Return Tickets on any LNER Route

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Afternoon Tea for 2 at Pleased to Meet You

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Facial from Lady H Apothecary

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** £30 voucher from Lollo Rosso

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize:** Gardening gift set from Rutherford's

Vouchers from: Great British Interiors, Made of Crumbs,  
Cafe Vault, Cafe des Amis and Carlos.

Wine from The Office Pub, and other prizes.

Tickets only £1.00 each

The money raised is to be used towards the installation of audio visual equipment in the church, which will involve the purchase and installation of video screens, which can be made available to groups who hire the sanctuary for events and concerts, as well as for use during worship.

The raffle will be drawn on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.00 noon in the church hall at the end of a coffee morning.

Please try to sell the raffle tickets to your friends and family  
Contact: Lorna Anderson 519084

**Those memorable school reports...** *What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago....*

~ One of my French reports simply said: 'Sheila attended the lessons'.

~ My housemaster wrote: 'He has an overdeveloped unawareness.'

~ My teacher observed: 'The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.'

~ My teacher was a realist: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best.'



## St George's Country Dance Club

**7.30-9.30**

**Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**(Easter Saturday)**

**Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**With our very own live band SGURC**

**'Distanced Dancing'**

variations on familiar dances to create covid safe

dances for those who wish.

Bring a small contribution to St George's Funds

eg £2 and your own refreshments. You don't need a partner.

You don't need to know how to dance, or be super fit. The dances are explained and there is plenty time for a rest and a chat.

More information from Shirley Forster

07749525269 shirlsgurc@gmail.com

**Fly that Scotsman**

**Party that Boston**



**Reel that Virginian**

**Phew!**

**Have**

**that**

**chat!**

**Waftz that circle**

### **FORTHCOMING PLANT SALE**

On Saturday 21st May St George's will be holding our Annual Plant Sale. This requires a lot of preparation in advance and some of our members are already sowing seeds and planting plugs!

Last years Tombola raised over £100 and was expertly run by Team Vermaas. However it takes over 100 small, new items to make this a success. Please would you help by donating to this and leave items in the cupboard in the vestibule marked "for Gillian". These are required in advance in order to prepare the Tombola and number the items. I will check the cupboard regularly and pick them up.

Also please don't forget to donate your spare plants, both annual and perennial, and also any garden items which you may wish to hand on to be sold.

Many thanks for your help.

***Gillian***

### **A COUPLE OF RECENT FUND RAISING EVENTS**

We have recently held two very successful events, one for St George's and the second for Henry Dancer Days Children's Cancer Charity. The amounts raised on each occasion pay tribute to the generosity of our friends and supporters.

The Pre Easter Coffee Morning was a well attended event with a lovely atmosphere. A variety of stalls including a much appreciated home bake table helped to raise in excess of £880 for Church funds.

The April Lunchtime Concert was a Charity event in aid of Henry Dancer Days. Iona Brown, principal violin with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, accompanied by David Murray played to a full house and donated their fee to the charity. A further £500 was raised in donations which was matched by the Lunchtime Concerts. To date the total that has been sent to the charity is £1500. This is a magnificent effort by generous members of St George's plus friends and supporters of the Concerts.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped at or supported both events.

***Gillian and Ken***

St George's United Reformed Church  
Bridge Street,  
Morpeth

# Annual Plant Sale

**& Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 21st May**

**10 am to 12 noon**

A large selection of perennials & bedding plants.

Garden Related Stall & Tombola

Also books, hand crafted greetings cards, raffle and more.

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and Home made-scones



Free Admission – In aid of church funds.  
Lift Access

## **A Fond Farewell to St George's Lunchtime Concerts**

It is always difficult to give people news which is perhaps not altogether unexpected but none the less upsetting. However it is with great regret that Ken and I have decided that there will be no more Lunchtime Concerts after the present series ends in May.

We have been organising these concerts for sixteen years and during that time we have seen them go from strength to strength. Originally we inherited the events from Greater Morpeth Development Trust with a regular attendance of 30 and a bank balance in the red due to the charges made by an outside organisation for overseeing them. We volunteered to run the concerts independently and free of charge. After one year we left GMDT's umbrella and we now average audiences of 120 peaking at over 180 for the very popular KEVI concerts. We have also maintained a healthy bank balance which has enabled us to invite quality musicians to perform and we have been able to keep admission charges to a minimum. Even the pandemic has not stopped our supporters rapidly returning to us and we now have 100 people coming to enjoy them. It has been a real success story and we have treasured every minute of it. We have called it 'our baby' and I can assure you that this decision has not been made lightly. These events based at St George's have been run totally independently whilst at the same time supporting both the Church and its place within the Community.

We have been able to attract musicians from the Royal Northern Sinfonia, English National Opera, Northern Opera, Sadlers Wells and also students from the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the Scottish Conservatoire. We have listened to amazing performances from international Jazz and Folk musicians and we have been delighted by young music makers and local school choirs. The Lunchtime Concerts have also raised funds to support the purchase of instruments by for music students and to finance their expenses whilst at Music College

This year Ken will be 90 and I will be 80 and we feel that as the organisation and provision of these events becomes more onerous we would like to 'quit whilst we are winning'. I'm sure you could consider this as being somewhat selfish but we feel that we need to reassess how we spend our time. As many of us know, with age there come certain restrictions and we have both been advised to slow down and enjoy life without taking on so many responsibilities.

We still intend where possible to organise one off evening concerts at St Georges an example of which is the forthcoming Jubilee Concert with Bradley Creswick on June 10th.

We feel we have been privileged to have had the opportunity to provide these lunchtime entertainments and to have gained so many friends through them. We couldn't have done it without Ken's pianistic skills and, as many of you have experienced, my organising 'skills' and the connections I have had with quality musicians who have loved coming and performing to such a friendly audience in a building with fantastic acoustics.

We would also like to thank everyone who has so generously supported our family charity Henry Dancer Days making it possible for us to continue the Storytelling and Pottery Projects which now take place in seven children's cancer hospitals through out Britain and to fund the grants we give to families whose children have bone cancer. We continue to work to expand into further hospitals.

Finally we must pay tribute to all those reliable helpers from St. George's who have voluntarily given their time to serve tea and coffee, organise admissions and set up the church before and tidy up after each concert. They are seldom acknowledged but we could not have done without them.

So here's to a slightly more relaxed future, but as they say, "You can't keep a good man down" as we continue with our other church commitments.

***Gillian and Ken Irvine***

### **Future Lunchtime Concerts**

#### **Winter – Spring Series 2022.**

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**Rachel Jeffers (Flute), Jessica Graham (Violin)  
and David Murray (Piano)**

A programme of entertaining trio's.

Please note that Admission for this concert is **£4**



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm**

**Special Diamond Jubilee Evening Concert**

given by Former Leader of Royal Northern Sinfonia –

**Bradley Creswick (Violin)**

**&**

**David Murray (Piano)**

In a programme of Violin Showstoppers



**Tickets for this event are selling extremely well, so be  
Sure to get your orders in as soon as possible**

Tickets £10 (Adult) £5 (Schoolchildren) to include interval tea,  
coffee & biscuits are now available from Gillian Irvine Tel. 01670 515870

or

**Email [kdirvine@sky.com](mailto:kdirvine@sky.com)**

**Subject: Murphy's Lesser Known Laws**

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

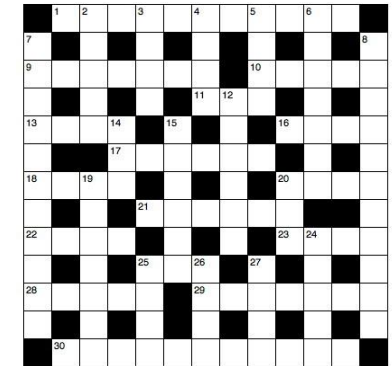
Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

8. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.

Flashlight: A metal tube used to store dead batteries.

**Crossword for May**



Across: 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11) 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7) 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5) 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3) 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4) 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2) 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6) 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4) 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4) 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6) 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4) 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4) 25 Has(anag.)(3) 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5) 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3) 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11).

Down: 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5) 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4) 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4) 5 Slip (anag.) (4) 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4) 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11) 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11) 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6) 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3) 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5) 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7) 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3) 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5) 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke6:30)(4) 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4) 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4) *Solution on page 20*

**The cost of petrol...**

Here is a sobering thought: petrol selling at 1.649p per litre in the UK is equivalent to £7.50 a gallon!

**Mouse Makes**

Jesus said,  
"This, then, is how  
you should pray:  
Our \_\_\_\_\_  
in \_\_\_\_\_  
hallowed be your  
\_\_\_\_\_ your  
\_\_\_\_\_ come,  
your \_\_\_\_\_ be  
done, on  
\_\_\_\_\_ as it  
is in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Give us this day our  
daily \_\_\_\_\_.  
And \_\_\_\_\_  
us our \_\_\_\_\_,  
as we also have  
forgiven our debtors.  
And \_\_\_\_\_  
us not into  
temptation, but  
\_\_\_\_\_ us from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ one."

**Read Matthew 6:9-13**  
to fill in the words.

**I praise you Lord for...**  
"Give thanks to the  
Lord for He is good,  
His love endures  
forever"  
Psalm 136:1

**I thank you Lord for...**

**I pray for the Church and world**  
"Never stop praying."  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

**I pray for my family and friends**

**I am sorry for...**  
"Do not be anxious about  
anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God."  
Philippians 4:6

**I ask for...**

## Wordsearch for May

### A prayer for Ukraine

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian.

You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10].  
*Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

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

Ukraine War Cease Earth Break Bows Shatter Spears Burn Shields Fire Save  
Many Lives Crisis Lord Our Rock Fortress Deliverer Hope In You Be Still  
*Solution on page 20*

**New dog breeds....**With all the new crossbreeds appearing, would you fancy one of the following?

- Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso: a dog that folds up for easy transport
- Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow: a dog that throws up a lot
- Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter: a traditional Christmas pet
- Great Pyrenees + Dachshund = Pyradachs: a puzzling breed
- Pekingese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso: an abstract dog
- Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever: the choice of research scientists
- Newfoundland + Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound: a dog for financial advisors
- Collie + Malamute = Commute: a dog that travels to work

## From Worship On Wednesday 20th April

I want to share what happened this morning at our WOW service. It was around 20 to 25 past 12, just before we were due to start our service when a small family group walking into Church. This group comprised Mum, Dad and their little boy Logan.

I think he's about 4 years old. The family were just visiting Morpeth for the day, Logan saw the Church building and asked to go inside. He said he had been learning about Jesus at school. He attends St. Bede's school, Bedlington. I guess that Logan is either in Nursery or Reception class. He was interested in the sanctuary; he loved our Easter flowers, his Mum held him up so he could smell the lilies. He recognised the cross on the wall behind the pulpit as being like the one Jesus died on, we pointed out the shapes the lily arrangements were in, that they were the same shape as the cross. We also talked about the pulpit fall, he chatted about the fish, he obviously knew that there is a link with Jesus.

His parents declined a cuppa; they only stayed a few minutes. Morag, fortunately, had some little chocolate Easter eggs; Logan happily accepted one of those, with parental permission of course.

This was just a lovely, short encounter with a small boy and his parents, initiated by him which we hope he will remember, Eve if just for a few days.

I just wanted to share this with everyone, it shows what can happen when we are open to the community around us.

**Sue Rutherford**

**Mistake...**A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.

**Found...***On the church notice board:* Contact lens found in church. See vicar. If you can.

**Encyclopaedias...** Sorting out books for the local fete, a parishioner came across some well-worn and dusty illustrated encyclopaedias, treasured from his childhood. Unwilling to part with them, he put them on a shelf in the garage where his small grandchildren found them and spent many happy hours looking at the pictures. These books, however, caused him great embarrassment the day the minister came to visit. One of his grandchildren suddenly said: "Grandad, can we go look at those dirty books you keep in the garage?"

## Mays Sudoku *Solution on page 20*

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

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**Not expecting this...**The young minister took his wife to the Maternity Hospital and was told it would be a long labour. So, he agreed to ring at lunchtime for news. But when he phoned, he dialled the wrong number and got the County Cricket Ground. He said: "I brought my wife to your place early this morning. Is there any news?" He was surprised to be told: "Yes, there are seven out and the last two were ducks."

**Pillar...**After a certain Dean retired, a number of years ago, from his cathedral; he began writing for the press. Soon a rival paper declared that he was no longer a pillar of the Church of England, but now only two columns in the Evening Standard.

### Parking space...

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

# P.R.E.S.S

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**ACROSS:** 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

**DOWN:** 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

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

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



Mrs Logan went for her atmoiser and  
Mrs Pugh went for hers...



...if you have been affected by any  
of the issues raised in this sermon...

**When children pray (they did their best!)....**

- ~ Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses.
- ~ Hail, Mary, full of grapes.
- ~ He suffered under a bunch of violets. (Pontius Pilate)

## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news for May (and early June):

### Services

Sunday 1 May, 6.30pm, with refreshments afterwards

Sunday 15 May, 6.30pm

Sunday 5 June, 6.30pm following the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea



### History Night

The next History Night will be on Tuesday 31 May (the last Tuesday in the month) at 7.00pm in the church meeting room. The current topic is Roads and Paths around Bavington, when they were created and why some fell into disuse and some became important routes.

Everyone is very welcome to join in History Night - it is very informal. If you would like to be added to the History Night email list, please

email [bavingtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bavingtonchurch@gmail.com)

Please check the church's Facebook

page [www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC) in case there is a change of date for History Night.

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea on the Lawn

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there will be tea on the church lawn on Sunday 5 June at 5.00pm with music and cake, followed by a service at 6.30pm. All welcome, more details to follow - see the church's Facebook page.

### The URC's 50th Anniversary

2022 marks 50 years since the URC was created when the Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches joined together. The URC is planning various celebratory events, and Great Bavington URC will be marking the occasion in October with a look back to what life was like in this area in 1972. More to follow, but if you have any photos, memories, etc please get in touch.

### The church is open for visitors

The church is open during the daytimes for visitors. If you call in, please sign the visitors' book as it's really helpful to know how many people are visiting and where they are from.

**Nicola**

## Widdrington United Reformed Church

### PRAYING TOGETHER

Dear Friends: this month's Prayer List is almost identical with last: because the same problems require our concern. If there is anything you feel should be in future lists, please contact me.

During May please pray for:

Ukraine

Other people in war zones and refugees. The people of Afghanistan, especially women.

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters. Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

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

Health workers

Workers in essential industries and services

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

Vaccine delivery in third world countries.

Those whose mental health has suffered during the pandemic

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).

The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the Sunday prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

**Flowers:** Flowers for May by Kathleen and for June by Fiona. Donations to appropriate arranger please. If you have suitable flowers in your garden which you would like to donate we would also be grateful.

**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 £380 so far with just nine members. We get payouts in arrears every time we reach £15.00 in any quarter. Every little helps!

**Fund raising:** The Easter Monday Coffee Morning, as well as being an enjoyable event raised £271

### Worship:

Please join us when you feel able. Mask wearing is voluntary. You will still be asked to sanitize your hands.

We will be serving coffee/tea after the service for those who feel able to partake. Don't worry if you don't feel able to stay yet.

Preachers for May, along with duty rotas are in the table below.

### Social:

May Day Bank Holiday Coffee Morning: May 2nd from 10.00am (including our un-Easter Egg Hunt!)

Christian Aid Quiz: Friday May 13th: 7.00pm in Hall. This is a Churches Together Event. There will be a pooled supper. All donations go to Christian Aid.

### Regular events:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. 10.30am. May's venue is the coffee shop at Heighleygate. This is the one near the checkouts. We will meet in the back room.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Group:** Prayer Group will continue to meet on first Wednesdays at Cook's Hemmel. We gather at 7.00pm.



**Open Church has changed to Wednesday mornings:** this is because of the coffee mornings at Widdy Welcomes, which are on Thursdays.

**Facebook:** If you are on Facebook, have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Search for Widdrington United Reformed Church. Please like us and let me know if you think I've missed anything that should be on. The page now has 186 likes, with another 8 people 'following '! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there.

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 24 (+2 following!) page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!

The website is at: [www.widdringtonurc.org.uk](http://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.

### **Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham.**

The Churches Together Group met on 19th April at 7.30pm in URC hall.

Our next event is the Christian Aid Quiz (see above)

We would like to know if anybody was unable to attend the World Day of Prayer service because it was in the afternoon (or if you prefer the afternoon): please tell Fiona.

**FEM**

### **We are still collecting things!**

\*Empty crisp packets to make blankets for the homeless

\*Medicine blister packs for Cancer Research

\*Green plastic milk bottle tops to make wheelchairs

\*Basic toiletries for the Ukraine appeal

\*And don't forget the hamper for the food bank!

### **Widdrington Rotas: May**

Date	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
1st	Steve Collinson	Diana Hogg	F. Middlemist. R. Gordon
8	Revd Keith Harbour	Live Walden	K. Bailey. J. Hart
15th	Revd Julian Sanders	K. Bailey	D. Hogg. M Scott
22nd	David Rogers	F. Middlemist	L. Walden. A. Grieves
29th	Sue Rutherford	D. Hogg	F. Middlemist. R. Gordon