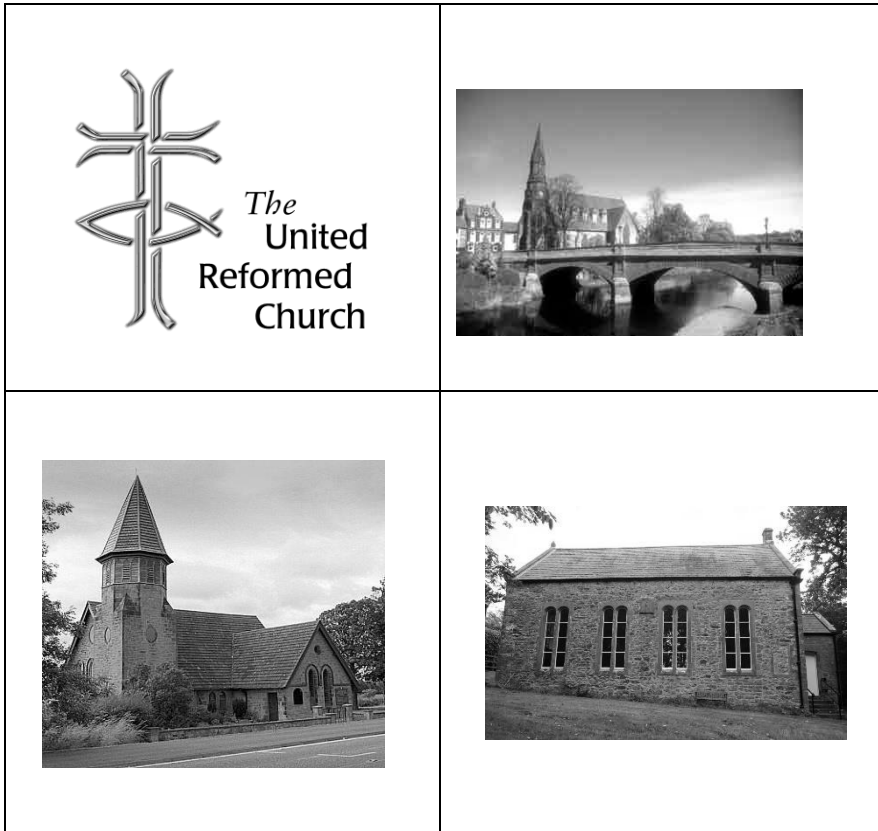


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



May
2026

Website: www.stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org
www.facebook.com/StGeorgesUrcMorpeth

St George's Diary Dates for May

Sat 2nd	10.00am	Coffee Morning for Ukrainian Friends
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 6th	12.30pm 7.00pm	WoW Midweek Service Conversations About
Sat 9th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club in the Hall
Sun 10th	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship Christian Aid Service at St James
10-16th		Christian Aid Week
Wed 13th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WoW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Sat 16th	10.00am	Open Doors -Christian Aid Coffee Mng.
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 20th	12.30pm 7.00pm	WoW Midweek Service Conversations About
Sat 23rd	2-4pm	Morpeth Allstars Entertainment
Sun 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Orchestra
Wed 27th	12.30pm 6.30pm	WoW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 31st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Service

Worship on Wednesdays – doors open at noon for coffee

Stewards Duties for May

3	Ken & Sally Davidson
10	Susan Sanderson & Christine Oakes
17	Shirley & Ron Forster
24	Christine Hawkins & Gillian Irvine
31	Sarah & Madeline Cleverley

Flower Rota for May

3	Lynden Jobson
10	Katherine Smails
17	Janet Hall
24	
31	
Rep	Dorothy Luke 514918

WHAT'S ON AT ST GEORGE'S
SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH 10.30 am

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

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



A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders

Dear friends,

I have watched with interest as public disagreements have grown between the Trump administration and Pope Leo XIV, particularly following comments from political leaders about the Pope's theological statements. One widely reported remark came from J.D. Vance, who said that "if you're going to opine on matters of theology, you've got to be careful. You've got to make sure it's anchored in the truth."

Whatever one makes of the political dynamics, these exchanges remind us of something deeper: the world is always tempted toward division. But the Church is called—by the Spirit—to something profoundly different.

As we approach the season of Pentecost, we are reminded that God poured out **one** Spirit upon **all** believers. This was the birth of a new kind of community held together by one Spirit that was not given to create factions, but to draw people together across languages, cultures, and backgrounds. As Paul writes, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).

In our statement of Faith and Order in the United Reformed Church we confess: "Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction." This I believe. But we cannot allow anyone to proclaim that their idea of Christianity is true when another person's is not. We should be 'opining on matters of theology' in the public sphere in order that we might discern together what the truth is. The Spirit will lead us into truth, a truth that brings unity and not division.

Paul continues in 1 Corinthians, "All these [gifts] are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses" (12:11).

Notice the emphasis: **one and the same Spirit**. The diversity of gifts, perspectives, and even traditions within

the global Church is not a threat to unity but a sign of the Spirit's creativity.

This is why the disagreements we see in the public sphere—whether between governments and church leaders, or between Christians of different traditions—must be approached with spiritual discernment. The question is not, "Who wins the argument?" but "How is the Spirit leading us toward the common good?".

Ephesians 4:3 urges us to "make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Unity is not automatic. It requires effort, intentionality, and grace. It means listening before speaking, praying before reacting, and remembering that our first allegiance is not to any earthly leader but to Christ.

The early Church faced enormous pressures—political, cultural, and theological. Yet what astonished the world was not their uniformity of opinion but their unity of heart. They broke bread together, prayed together, and cared for one another across every imaginable boundary. Their unity was not the product of clever diplomacy but the fruit of the Spirit.

The Spirit who descended at Pentecost has not changed. The Spirit still gathers, still reconciles, still heals. And the Spirit is still given "for the common good"—not for the triumph of one group over another, but for the flourishing of all God's people.

So let us be people who breathe unity into our conversations, our churches, and our communities. Let us be people who refuse to mirror the world's divisions. Let us be Pentecost people who trust that the Spirit is at work even when headlines suggest otherwise.

With every blessing,

Julian

7 days to make a difference

Join us this **Christian Aid Week** 10-16 May

Together, we can beat extreme poverty.

envelope collections in some streets + Special Activities to look out for

christian aid

Sign up at caid.org.uk/Give or scan this QR code: 

#7DaysToMakeADifference

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Christian Aid Week – 10th to 16th May

It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

Christian Aid welcomes anyone who would like to be involved this year in raising support. And there are various ways to take part:

- Give online or through collections.
- Fundraise with friends, family, colleagues or your community.
- Take part through your church with worship, prayer and events.
- Volunteer locally to support Christian Aid Week activities.

Morpeth for Ukraine Update

Several events were discussed at our latest committee meeting so this is just to keep you updated as to what is happening and what money raising events we are going to be involved in this summer.

There is to be a biker's ride on Sunday May 24th which starts at the Dyke Neuk and this year they are riding to raise funds for Ukraine. More details will follow later as and when it is all finalised.

Morpeth for Ukraine will have a stand on 14th June at Fair Day. There will be a raffle for a barrel load of booze so look out for us there and join in the fun. If you'd like to help let me know. All volunteers welcome!

There is to be an afternoon tea at Newbiggin Maritime Centre on 10th September at 2pm organised by Bob Bruce in aid of our Ukrainian funds. Tickets are £22.50 and include prosecco and a raffle. Tickets can be bought from bob.bruce@btinternet.com or by telephone 07904355502. Transport will be available for anyone wishing to go.

We also had an update from Marina in Ukraine who tells us that the vehicle which Kevin and Graeme took out recently is now being used to take elderly people to and from medical appointments. She was also updating us on what is now needed there and it seems that water filters are being asked for. All the breakdown of infrastructure cause by the bombs and drones has fractured pipework so the water has been affected.

Suzanne is going to contact water-aid and look into what there is available that we might contribute to. There's always something to do!

We thank you wholeheartedly for supporting all our efforts.

Morag Stead

West End Refugees

I have recently received information from WERS about a significant change in how it operates. It came in the form of a letter from the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive. I have picked out the salient points below: - **"Join us in shaping a better future for WERS – renewed through the unique way we work together in service of others.**

Over twenty-five years ago, West End Refugee Service (WERS) opened its doors in the West End of Newcastle because that is where people seeking asylum were housed, and being rooted in the neighbourhood was central to who we were from the very beginning. People could walk to us. We became part of daily life in the area, and our house stood as a symbol of welcome and hope for thousands of people rebuilding their lives.

Since then, the context in which WERS operates has changed significantly – in where people are housed, how support is accessed and in the wider pressures facing charities like ours.

In response, for the past two years the Board of WERS has been carefully reviewing and reassessing how the organisation works, to ensure it can continue to offer meaningful, sustainable support in a changing environment....

The next phase of this work will involve transitioning to a more flexible model that allows us to travel and work across the region, partner with local organisations, and deliver support closer to where people are temporarily housed. That means we will move away from our current building so that we can better support people across the region. This change is about how we work, not whether we continue our work....

Alongside these changes, we are taking a disciplined and deliberate approach to our resources. Every pound entrusted to WERS must be directed towards the work that matters most and our long-term impact. This requires careful decisions about our operating model and how we organise ourselves to deliver impact, guided by our values and by the voices of those with lived experience who help shape our direction.

These decisions are being taken against a backdrop of wider changes that have reshaped how people seeking asylum are supported across the region....

Every act of support helps sustain this work."

Further information can be found at www.wers.org.uk

Margaret Brock

Julian gets quoted in Sunday times magazine March 22 2026

The Best Places to Live in the Uk:

Morpeth, Northumberland –

'There's a good feeling of community spirit in Morpeth,' Julian Sanders, 54, says. As the town's United Reformed Church Minister, Sanders would know: since he took charge of the congregation six years ago, the ecclesiastical buildings have hummed with worshipful and secular activities alike. There's a music society, as well as memory cafes, a men's breakfast, and a baby singalong.

Morpeth itself is the ultimate comeback queen. After floods in 2008 and again in 2012, neighbours galvanised. 'In times of need people pulled together and it created a ripple effect,' Sanders says. 'There is always a certain buzz about the place,' The new £21 million leisure centre on Gas House Lane includes a spa and a four-court sports hall, as well as a café and rejuvenated library. Morpeth's choir groups and book festival are thriving. The community cinemas screen feelgood classics and the Sanderson Arcade has retained its Marks & Spencer. There are also crafting groups, dance and basketball clubs, a bouldering centre, a panto society, and a sober bar. And the Saturday Farmers' and Makers' markets are busier than ever since banners and branding received a design-led makeover.

Parents are drawn to the many housing developments popping up on Morpeth's fringes, where they get more for their money compared with the Victorian brick terraces and villas in the town and the stone semis that snake along the banks of the Wansbeck. Some say that there are too many – with businesses keeping pace – but construction continues. It helps that Newcastle city centre is 20 minutes by train, half an hour in the car. Even better, you are not far from some of Northumberland's best beaches.

Best place to live if...You want and A1 lifestyle.

Who's been good?...

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present.

"Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother?"

Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

St Georges Church hall (lift) NE61 1PD

Morpeth Country Dance Club

+maypole+
May 9th
Band 6.30 Dancers 7.30
Saturday
June 14th & July 12th



**No experience needed – dances are explained ,
no need to bring a partners – we all mix up.
Bring own drinks, and some nibbles to share.
More info shirlsgurc@gmail.com or text 07749525269**

ALLSTAR
CHOIRS

St George's UR Church
Bridge Street, Morpeth

An afternoon of entertainment
with
Morpeth Allstars

**Nostalgic Pop music from the
50's, 60's, 70's & 80's**

Why not come along for a singalong!

Saturday 23rd May
2.00 – 4.00pm

Entry £5.00
Refreshments available
All are welcome

For the Allstars Coffee morning we would like to include a small pop memorabilia stand. Evoking nostalgia from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's. We need help to gather items for the stand please. These items can be loaned for the day, such as personal photographs or album covers, or items can be donated with the aim of selling. LP's, Cassettes, CD's, anything with a nostalgic theme would be most welcome.

Tickets can be obtained on the door

If you could contact Mary, Shirley or Steph it would be great. We can arrange for Items could be picked up, if that helps.

Thanks in advance. The Social Events Team

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 4th July

Our Annual Strawberry Event

2.15pm until 4.00pm.

with entertainment by

The Grainger Singers

Cafe style in the Church.

Strawberries, cream, & shortbread with
tea or coffee served from 2.15pm to 3.00 pm.

Entertainment commences at 3.00pm.

There will also be a Raffle.

Tickets **£8** available from early June by contacting

kdirvine@solveit.org.uk

Can anybody fill in the gaps?

A for orses. B for mutton. C for thilanders. D for dumb.
 E for this or that. F for vessence.
 G
 H
 I for Novello. J for oranges. K for breezes. L for leather.
 M for sis. N for eggs. O for a cuppa.
 P
 Q for bananas. R for Askey.
 S
 T for two. U for mism. V for La France.
 W
 X for breakfast. Y for usband. Z for breezes.

Submitted by Helen Brown

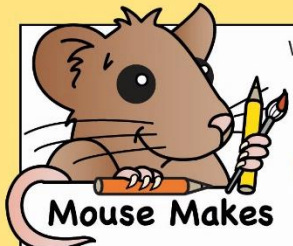
Seize the day ...Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts

.I know...I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing.

Money...There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...!'"



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of _____
Genesis 1:2

The _____
of the Father.
Acts 1:4

The Spirit of _____
Romans 8:15

The Spirit of _____
John 14:26

The Spirit of _____
John 16:13

The Spirit of _____
Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

____O____
____Y____
____C____
____T____
____I____
____N____
____S____
____N____

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?
read Acts 2:1-41
How many believers were baptised that day?

Mouse Makes

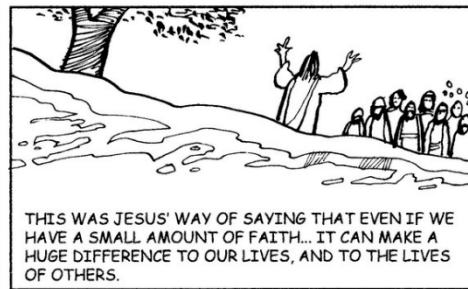
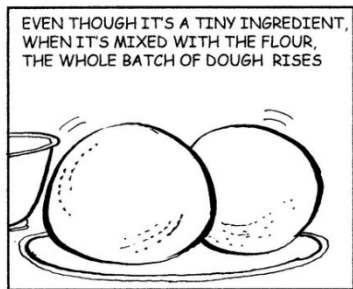
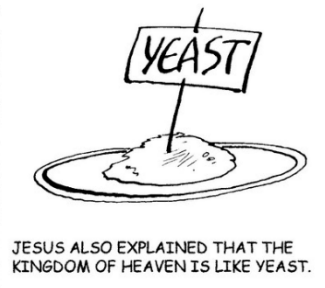
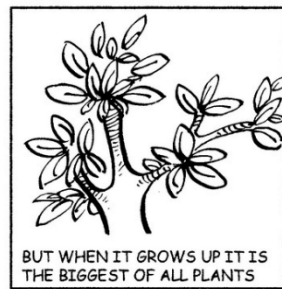
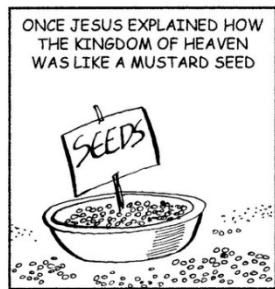
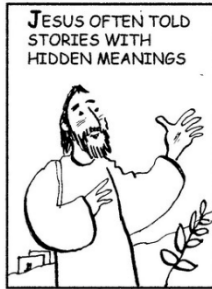
D G C O M F O R T E R L C
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 S E L F C O N T R O L J O
 S N O P E P T E A C H E R
 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K
 K P P R O M I S E R S R
 I D W I N D D O V E W

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

May26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

The tale of
the
Mustard
Seed
& the tale of the
Yeast



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' (Exodus 32:27) (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 (Acts 13:50) (6) 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (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 (Luke 23:38) (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)

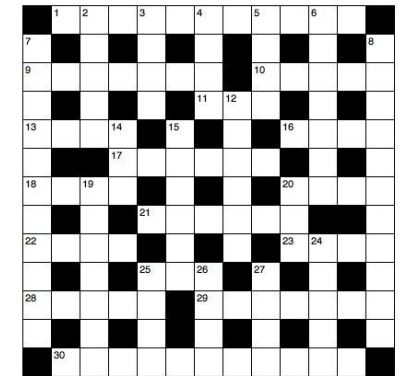
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4) 5 Slip (anag.) (4) 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4) 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11) 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)

12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6) 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)

15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5) 19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7) 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3) 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)

25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (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 19



Sudoku for May Solution on page19

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

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy." His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean? "It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly , "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

Nine...I was meeting a friend in a restaurant and as I went in, I noticed two pretty girls looking at me. "Nine," I heard one whisper as I passed. Feeling pleased with myself, I swaggered over to my buddy and told him a girl had just rated me a nine out of ten.

"I don't want to ruin it for you," he said, "but when I walked in, they were speaking German."

Geraniums....A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. 'No,' said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

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Wordsearch for May 2026. A prayer for the Middle East

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to 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. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

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

Middle East Conflict Pray Damage War Cease Earth Break Bows Shatter Spears Burn Shields Fire crisis many Lives millions Lord Our Rock Fortress Deliverer Hope Kyrie in You mercy. Solution on p 19

Knitter Natter Group

St George's Knitter Natterers would like to invite any knitters in the church to join us to teach the scouts to knit. Their aim is 100 angels for their 100th anniversary.

We have arranged to go to the scout hut (next to Morrisons at the bottom of Staithes Lane) on Mondays 11th and 18th May from 8pm to 9pm.

Please would you tell me if you are coming.

Joan Cooper

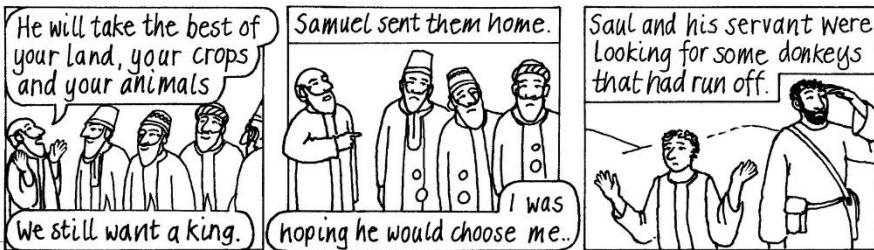
What God is like... A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand. "He is an artist!" said the little boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know – Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



Solutions:



Crossword: 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.

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

Short-staffed...

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?" The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news for May:

Services

Rogationtide service, Sunday 3 May, 6.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Sunday 17 May, 6.30pm, led by Rev Julian Sanders

Rogationtide tea, Sunday 3 May

This year we won't be doing a Rogationtide Walk, but we will be having tea and cake at 5.30pm, before the service starts at 6.30pm.

History Night

Tuesday 26 May, 7.00pm

An informal evening of local history discussion. Do bring along any local history material of interest.

Bavington Parish Council meeting

Thursday 7 May, 7.00pm. Parish Clerk: clairemillerparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

The church is open

The church is open during the daytime for visitors and walkers. Many sign the visitors' book and comment on how much they appreciate the facilities the church provides for a break on their walk. There are overseas visitors too, most recently from Italy and the USA.

Keep in touch

Please see www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for updates on services, events, etc, or email 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 May, please continue to pray for:

All war zones - especially those which have dropped out of the forefront of the news, but still continue

Peace negotiations, and that any peace agreements will hold.

Refugees

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution, particularly our Christian brothers and sisters

Victims of genocide

Victims of natural disasters

The work of relief agencies

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

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

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the second last Sunday of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

Flowers: Flowers for May by Kathleen and for June by Fiona. Donations, either of cash or flowers/greenery always welcome.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at easyfundraising.org.uk and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. This can range from a penny for a Kindle 99p short to several pounds for a major purchase. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me, as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £800. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. Latest payment in February was £95.47! (I'm not quite sure how!). Thank you for spending!

Fund raising: Coffee Club on April 1st raised £100.00. The Easter Monday Coffee Morning raised £300.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Worship:

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

You are invited to join us for coffee/tea and biscuits (sometimes cake!) after the service.

Social:

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!)

In May there are two Bank Holidays which means two Bank Holiday Coffee Mornings: Monday 4th and Monday 25th. Additionally on Saturday 16th we are having one of our 'pop-up' Coffee Mornings in the Church for Christian Aid Week. All Coffee Mornings run from 10am to 12noon.

Regular events:

1st Wednesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area, or in the Sunday School Room at 10.30am. May's event will be advertised in the notices.

(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 Ena Whinham about it.)

Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.30am. We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer. (If you are interested in joining us, please speak to one of the Elders, as we occasionally alter the date without notice.

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

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

The **website** is at: www.widdringtonurc.org

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

WhatsApp: A WhatsApp group has been set up. To join please give one of the Elders your mobile number, and accept your invitation. Please note: as I have now joined the group, information from me will increasingly appear there!

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The community choir continues to meet in church, on alternate Thursdays at 6.30. We are intending to meet weekly, but the alternate week meetings may be at Holy Trinity on a different day and time. This would be a good time for anyone who would like to consider joining us. Please note that we have adopted the name One Achord. See above for information about Christian Aid Week.

FEM

May Rota

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
3rd	Maureen Baker	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
10th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves
17th	Carol Dixon	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Diane Cooke
24th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Diana Hogg	Elizabeth Barber Susan Hampton
31st	Worship Team	Kathleen Bailey	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon

