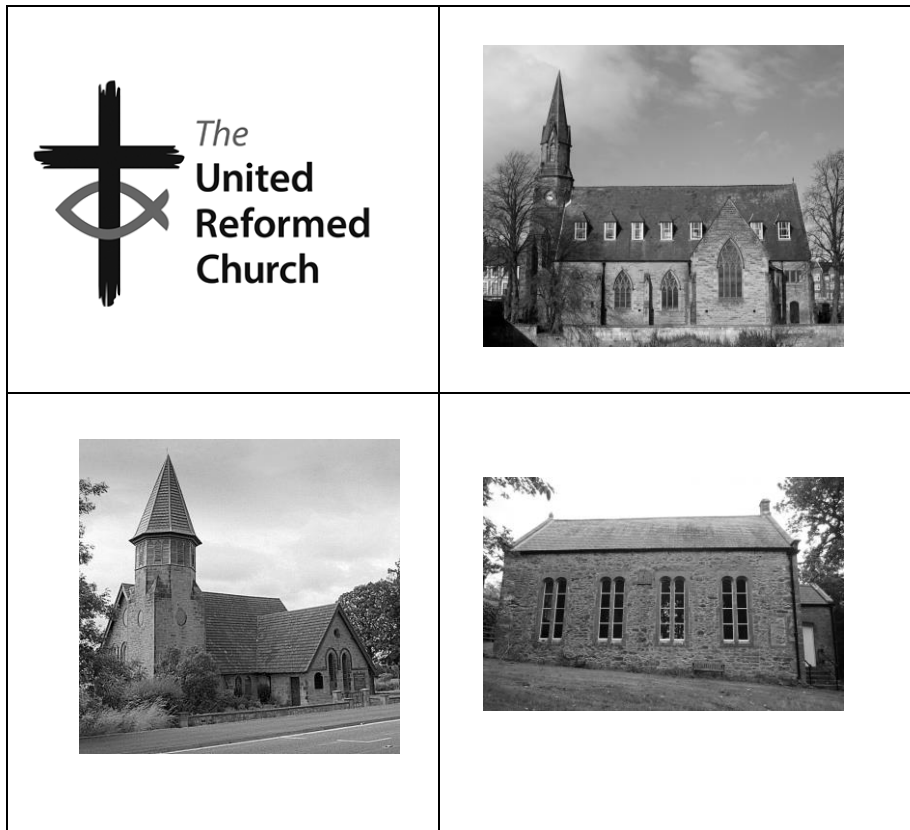


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



May
2025

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

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

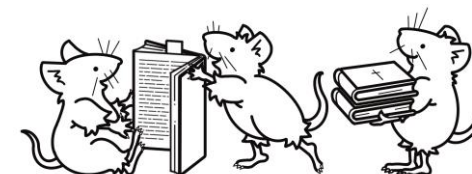
Sat 3rd	10.00am	Coffee Morning for Ukranian Friends
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 7th	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Sat 10th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club in the Hall
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 15th	12.30 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 22nd	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 25th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship with Orchestra Evening Service
Wed 29th	12.30pm 7.00pm 6.30pm	WOW Midweek Service Conversations About CT Prayer Meeting

Stewards Rota for May

4	Shirley Forster & Karen Howe
11	Christine Oliver & Christine Oakes
18	Linda Glascott & Susan Sanderson
25	Christine Hawkins & Maddy Cleverley

Flower Rota for May

4	Lynden Jobson	Rep	Dorothy Luke 514918
11	Janet Hall		
18	Janet Robertson		
25			



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	
	St. George's Coffee Club: 2.00pm (3 rd Tues) Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
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 Crafts & Chatter 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	513913
	Country Dance Club: (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	
SUN	Orchestra: Norm. 4 th Sunday Andrew Hamnett (not August) Christine Oakes	518485 518608

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

The deadline is Sunday 25th May

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



A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the events of the Easter story, we consider what it might mean that Jesus is resurrected and what the apostle Paul means when he says that we, as the church, are the body of Christ today (*1 Corinthians 12:12-14*). We are told in the gospels that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead and that he spent time with his friends and disciples after his death. Quite often the disciples do not recognise this person among them as Jesus - but they are convicted in their belief it was him.

I am sure that you have seen those pictures that are made up of many other tiny pictures – where a mosaic of peoples faces makes up the image of one particular face. You may even have seen one of these which is face of Jesus that are made up of many other images of Jesus. It appears at first to be a picture of the face of Jesus, but when looked closer it is in fact hundreds of images of Jesus brought together in a kind of mosaic to form this overall image.

Many of us have our own individual images of who Jesus is but fail to see how this fits with all the other images that we and others may hold dear. We might remember the Easter story of Jesus who died on the cross, but fail to see how this can be the same Jesus who was with God in the opening chapter of Genesis and who brings about a new heaven and earth in the closing chapters of Revelation.

I am reminded that each of us has an incomplete picture of who Jesus really is, and it is only together, when all the different views of Jesus are held together, that we can then only really understand who he is.

Many divisions have been brought about in the Christian Church because of the failure to recognise this simple fact that each person has their own individual image of who Jesus is. Divisions are caused because the Jesus 'I' worship is not the same as the Jesus 'you' worship. Even as congregations (and denominations) bring together all their images of Jesus, still the image they represent is incomplete. Divisions occur between us because the Jesus who 'they' worship is in some way not the Jesus 'we' worship.

Even when we do come together as church, when we bring together our individual images of Jesus, we need to recognise that the picture is still incomplete. We need to be reminded that we, as a church, cannot ever have a complete image of who Jesus is.

It is important that we continue to engage with a whole range of different sections of our community in talking about our faith. We need to talk to Muslims and Sikhs, the homeless and the refugees, the rich and those on benefits, the single mothers and the lonely pensioners. We should welcome such diversity in our churches saying to people **"we need your image of Jesus to make our image complete."**

I pray this Easter season that each of us may encounter and recognise the risen Jesus who is among us and that we make him known through the church. So that together we can become the body of Christ alive in the world today.

With every blessing
Julian

FUTURE PROVISION OF MUSIC FOR CHURCH SERVICES

Over the coming months there will be some changes to the usual provision of music within church services. During this time Ken will become responsible for all organ playing and hymn accompaniment. In order to facilitate this and ease the amount of work entailed, it will be necessary on occasion to use some pre-recorded music which may not necessarily be organ music. For example on Sunday 4th May all music will be pre-recorded as Ken is away from Morpeth on holiday.

It is hoped that the congregation will be comfortable with this provision.

A gentle reminder for anyone using the church car park.

It is extremely difficult to find car parking space in Morpeth. As more people visit the town during the coming months the church car park is an attractive solution to this problem. The fact that it is a private space is not always obvious if the gates are open. Please would those who attend church functions or need to use the car park for any reason connected to church activities, remember to close the gates if you are the last person leaving. Many thanks.



Christian aid week 11 to 18th May

Christian aid week is changing Old ways and new ways to raise money.

In the old days everyone knew it was Christian Aid week because the red envelope came through the door, followed a few days later by a cheerful volunteer coming to collect your donations.

This year Morpeth Christian aid will deliver envelopes to some areas because we know how generous people are in some streets. Your envelope will give you a local address to pop into.

However we will **not** deliver to every Morpeth house because, like many charities, we are finding new and more effective ways to raise money. Many people want to give but don't carry a pocketful of change these days. So if you don't get an envelope through the door look out for another way to make a donation.

You might well get an email from an acquaintance inviting you to give on line via the Christian Aid website, just Google Christian aid donate. Volunteers from the Morpeth Christian Aid Group, representatives from each church, each have an app so that you can pay with your card securely just by tapping on their phone. Find out who has this in your church! These ways enable you to gift aid your donations.

Smart phone users may also see a face book posts and tik tok videos explaining what CA does and inviting you to give on line.

You might well see the 'new Morpeth Gadgy' aka 'the old Rev. Ron Forster' and friends walking round Morpeth in Christian Aid week in red t shirts.. We are aiming to cover 70k that week and reach most of the villages round Morpeth. Please sponsor us – cash in our bucket and donations to our **just giving page! morpethchristianaidgroup's fundraiser for Christian Aid**

https://www.justgiving.com/page/morpethchristianaidgroup-morpethchurches-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Old fashioned cash is also great! Empty that penny jar into one of our buckets at the special coffee mornings, special church services, sponsored events and sales you will see advertised during Christian Aid week. It all adds up!

About half the money raised by Christian Aid goes to help the poorest and most left out people in the world. They can use small amounts of help to develop local projects in farming, employment, healthcare, education to make a huge difference to their lives.

This year's campaign features farmer Aurelia from Guatemala. She says 'Climate change is killing our crops – our food'. While many people in the world have become richer and more healthy, educated and comfortable – many others like Aurelia are left behind and left out, hungry, thirsty, living in dreadful conditions and struggling for recognition and help, even from their own governments. The other half of donations to Christian Aid top up the emergency 'pot' so that when floods, or earthquakes like Myanmar strike immediate help can be given from the disasters fund which coordinates help with other major charities through the Disasters emergency Committee (DEC). When events like this are in the news the public are usually very generous and give willingly to the appeals. People needing long term help are rarely in the headlines, and it is more challenging to raise money for these projects so during Christian Aid week focuses on this long term help. Search 'Christian Aid' for much more detailed information.



**Sunday 11th May at 4.00 pm
at St Roberts
Churches Together worship for Christian Aid week.
Informal service with teas coffee & cake!**

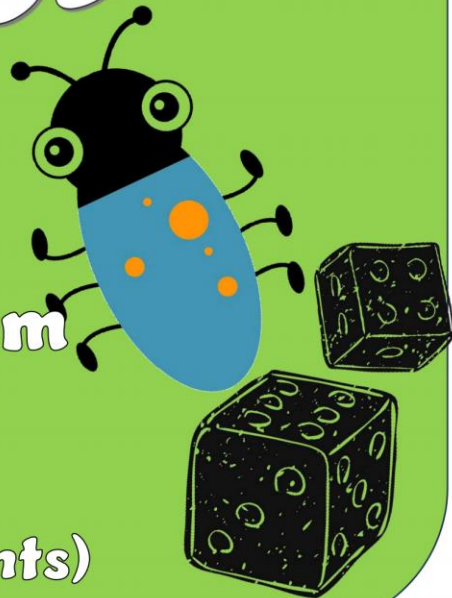
ST GEORGE'S URC

BEE TLE DRIVE

FRIDAY
9 MAY

7-8:30pm

£3 entry
(includes
refreshments)



ST GEORGE'S URC

Quiz Night

FRIDAY

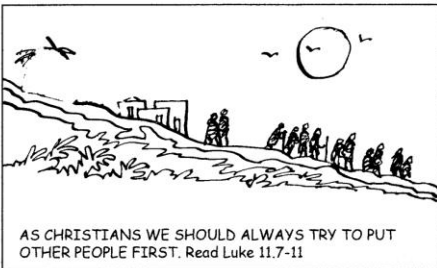
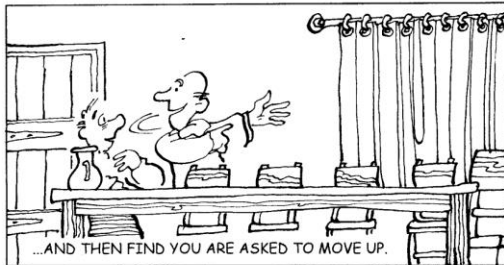
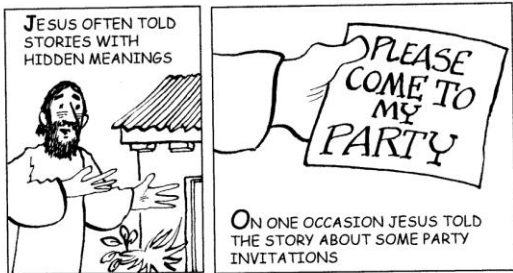
13 June

7-8:30pm

Come on
your own
or as a team

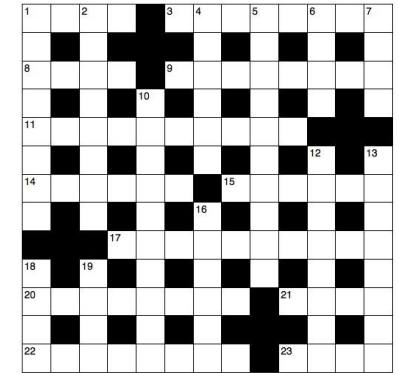
£3 or £10 for team up to 4
(includes refreshments)





Crossword for May

- Across;** **1** Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4) **9** 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
11 Anglican form of church government (10) **14** 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
15 Ministers of religion (6)
17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10) **20** Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8) **21** The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4) **22** Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4).
- Down:** **1** Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8) **2** One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8) **4** Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10) **12** Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3) **16** 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6) **18** He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4).



When Smail's shop was open, a man came in to ask Isobel Smail whether she had any picnic hampers. He had scoured Newcastle and couldn't find anything under £100. Isobel disappeared and emerged some time later, triumphant, with exactly the hamper the man was seeking.

He asked for the price and Isobel looked at the ticket. She said "The price ticket says £12 19s 6d, so you'd better have it for £12.95".

Submitted by Janet Brown

When I came Morpeth in 1998 to be the minister of St George's, I thought I may have to conduct myself in a dignified manner. Totally parsonical at all times. Be able to display gravitas* in performing the clerical duties. Once ensconced it quickly became apparent my fears were unfounded. I can do the human bit, relaxed, easy going, sometimes flippant even! Gravitas when it's needed, but not in large doses. Fortunately that fitted in with what most of the congregation expected of their minister. And when it came to the looking after the church buildings, finances and fabrics, there are people at St George's who have such expertise and knowledge- more than I had. I was given space and encouragement to be involved in the life of the town and its organisations. I was even elected to the Town Council. Of course, not everyone would agree with my political allegiance. Thank God for that.



When I retired in 2017, Shirley and I moved down the A1 to Seaton Burn to offer close at hand support to a vulnerable relative. Sadly within a couple of years our relative died. Meanwhile we had continued our involvement with groups in Morpeth. The town and its people still had a pull for us. When Julian had settled in as the minister I asked if we may return to St George's as members. Julian graciously welcomed us back. In December of last year we moved house back into Morpeth.

In the meantime I had continued to be involved with the Morpeth Gathering. For several years I had re-enacted the part of Lord Greystoke returning from the battle of Otterburn in 1388. It meant marching down Newgate Street at the head of the Gathering procession on the Saturday morning to be greeted by the Morpeth Gadgy, as was Alex Swailes, outside the Town Hall.

The Gadgy is a symbol of the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. So who/what is the Gadgy? Well, for a start, the word 'gadgy' is Romany for a man, and his historic connection with Morpeth is thought to date back to around 1388 when as the Town Bailiff, he was recorded as welcoming back Lord Greystoke and what remained of his soldiers, after their defeat by the Scots at Otterburn.

There is, of course, a more romantic story behind the myth of the Morpeth Gadgy as told in a dialect poem by Janet Brown. You may have noticed that two small stone figures stand at the top of the Clock Tower that guards the entrance into Oldgate from Morpeth's Market Place, who are reputedly called Clarence and Cuthbert. The story goes that on the first weekend after Easter, Clarence magically comes to life to 'spiel' – climb – down from his lofty perch, to walk around town to be part of a pageant welcoming back the good Lord Greystoke. Afterwards, Clarence, scrambles back up the tower to resume his vigil alongside his pal Cuthbert. So, when Roland Bibby, the inspiration behind

the launch of the Gathering in 1968, decided it needed a figurehead, who better to turn to than Clarence. George Green

Last year at the age of 92, Alex decided it was time to retire as Gadgy, so he appointed [anointed?] me as his successor. It was an honour. Alex was an inspiration, he had a great rapport with people. A great story teller. He touched folk with his cheerful [slightly mischievous looking] smile.

Sadly, Alex died in February of this year. I was asked to conduct his funeral service. An honour, but with some trepidation, as I was out of 'practice' and the congregation was one of the largest funerals I had ever conducted. Previously I had appeared on stage with Alex and others in the Morpeth Operatic Society shows. On one occasion I was standing right in front of Alex on the stage blocking him [I shouldn't have been there!]. So he kicked my backside. I shared that as part of the eulogy. Not many funeral celebrants can say that the deceased had kicked their backside!!

Morpeth is special and there are lots of special people. Thank you to those who made us welcome in 1997 and thank you to those who welcomed us back home in 2024.

Revd Ron Forster

PS I can just about squeeze into the Gadgy's costume and will be wearing it on the weekend of 26th April. The Gathering always takes place on the weekend after Easter. As Easter moves from year to year so does the Gathering.

*Gravitas definition

'seriousness and importance of manner, causing feelings of respect and trust in others'

Legend of the Morpeth Gadgy Janet Brown

There's a canny old clock tower in the heart of Morpeth town
With two canny little gadgies on its roof.
The thing that makes it special's this – that one of them climbs down
And can walk about unknown to all, yon's truth.
It's the one that they call Clarence who makes the annual trip,
Not the other, Cuddy, (Cuthbert's his real name),
And the reason for his wandering's pretty clear for all to see,
He's indulging in his annual bid for fame.
It's the weekend after Easter when he comes down from his perch
When the Morpeth Gathering's getting into swing,
When the exhibition's open, and the Morris Dancers prance,
When pipers pipe and bold folk singers sing.
A cavalcade trots in with riders dressed in woolly tights
And bright armour made from aluminium foil,
With a lone Northumbrian piper leading to the Market Place,
All the lot sore weary from their fight and toil.
Why, it's all pretend you know, they're pipers making out to be
The great Lord Greystock making his return
Back to his home in Morpeth with the soldiers he's got left
From their sad defeat by Scots at Otterburn.
And who is there to greet them with a canny turn of phrase
But our Clarence standing there upon the stage.
By! He makes his speech so proudly as he welcomes back the troops
From the battle written large on annal's page.
And when the pageant's over, Clarence climbs back on his roof
And he watches all the goings on below
While he tells his tale to Cuddy, who's been watching it himself,
Though you'd never think that they could talk at all!
So the next time you're in Morpeth just you keep a sharp look-out
For our Clarence – no, you needn't think I'm blethering.
Don't take my word for truth, just watch yon clock tower roof
When you're out supporting Morpeth's Annual Gathering.

An attempt to put it into Northumbrian follows:

Theor's a canny aad clock tooer in the heort of Morpeth toon
Wi' twa canny little gadgies on its roof.
The thing that meks it speshal's this – that yin of them climbs doon
An can waak iboot unkent tiv aal, yon's truth.
It's the yin that they caal Clarence whi meks the anyul trip,
Not the t'other, Cuddy, (Cuthbert's ees real nyem),
An' the reason for his waandrin's pretty cleor for aal ti see,
He's indoolgin in his anyal bid for fame.
It's the weekend eftor Eastor when he cums doon fram ees porch
When the Morpeth Gatherin's getting inti swing,
When the exhibition's oppen, and the Morris Dancers prance,
When peypers peyp and bold folk singers sing.
A cavalcade trots in with reyders dressed in woolly tights
An' bright armor med fram aluminium foil,
With a lern Northumbrian peyper leadin ti the Maarket Place,
Aal the lot sair weary fram theor fight and toil.
Whey, it's aal pretend ye knaa, they're peypers mekkin oot ti be
The great Lord Greystock mekkin ees return
Back to his hyem in Morpeth wi' the sowjers ee's got left
From their sad defeat by Scots at Otterburn.
And whee is theor ti greet 'em wi' a canny torn o' phrase
But wor Clarence standing theor upon the stage.
By! He meks ees speech si proodly as he welcums back the troops
Fram the battle which's writ large on annal's page.
An' when the pageant's o'er, Clarence climbs back on his roof
An' ee watches all the gannins on belaa
While ee tells ees tale ti Cuddy, whe's bin waatchin it hissell,
Though you'd nivvor think that they could taak at all!
So the next time you're in Morpeth jist ye keep a sharp look-oot
For wor Clarence – naa, you needn't think Aa'm blethorin.
Divvn't tek ma word for truth, jist watch yon clock tooer roof
When you're oot supportin Morpeth's Annual Gatherin.

**ST. GEORGE'S
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH
MORPETH**



Saturday 28th June 2025

“Strawberry Event”

With a variety of music presented by
THE GRAINGER SINGERS

**Strawberries or Fruit Salad and
Cream with Tea or Coffee
Served from 2.15 pm.**

**Followed by Entertainment
At 3.00 pm**

**Admission £8 includes refreshments.
Accompanied Children £5.**

For further details and to reserve or buy tickets please
contact Gillian 01670 220853
or Email kdirvine@solveit.org.uk

Sudoku for May.

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

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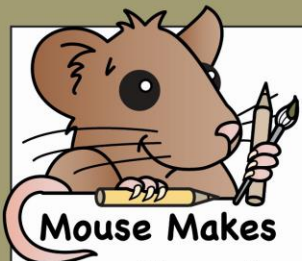
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Sharing your faith at work...

After his local church had done a week of outreach training, the local barber felt guilty. When had he last shared his faith with anyone? So, the next morning he prayed: "Lord, today I promise to witness to the first man that walks through my door." Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a haircut and a shave, please." The barber said nervously, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber rushed

into the back of his shop and sent up a desperate prayer: "Dear God, give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen." Then slowly the barber came back to his customer with his razor knife in one hand. He laid a shaking hand on the man's shoulder, stared at him in the mirror, and said: "I am glad you came to see me this morning...are you ready to die?"

"Why you should be careful..."The owner of a new sports car was reluctant to allow his wife drive it, even to the local shops. After she insisted, he finally relented, cautioning her as she departed, Remember, if you have an accident,the newspaper will print your age!"



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into the streets so that when Peter came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas been paralysed for?

----- years
Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid? in the -----

Acts 9:36-42



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

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and Peter was able to perform many miracles in Jesus' name.

See the book of ACTS



"And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly."
Acts 6:7

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

May25©deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Wordsearch for May

Editor: The Nicene Creed is one of the most important documents in the world. It has shaped Christian belief for the past 1700 years, affecting hundreds of millions of lives. So here is a bigger Wordsearch than normal, in honour of the brave man who gave it to the Church!

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Athanasius is the theologian behind that creed, and his feast day falls on 2nd May.

Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first great ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. There he saw the Council debate the Person of Christ. How was He the Son of God and also Man? Did

He really exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

When the heresy of Arius, which taught that Christ was not divine, and not eternal, later threatened the church, Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding.

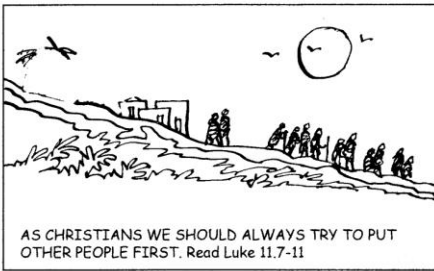
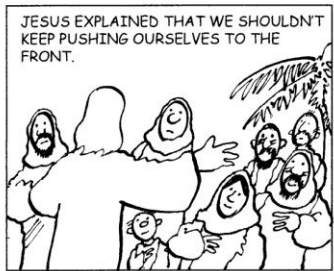
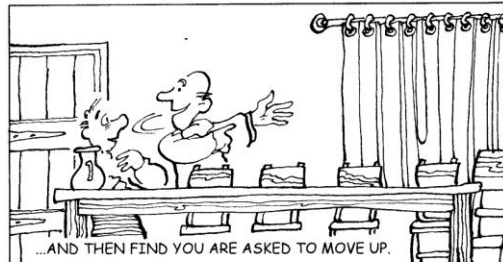
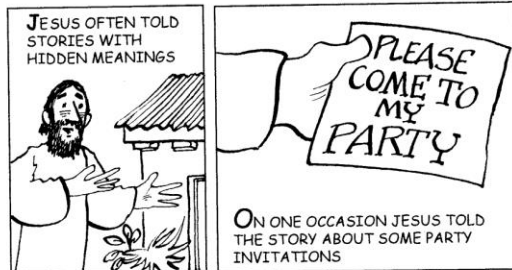
Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism (lessening of the Person of Christ.)
Athanasius Nicene Creed Theologian Egypt Council Bishop Debate
Christ Person Worship Divine Eternal Begotten God From Light True
One Substance Devotion Scholarship Church State Exiled Flight
Hiding Triumph Christology Alexandria Christology.

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

Solution on inside back page



The Best Seat



St George's Church Coffee Club

All members and past members of St George's Church Coffee Club are invited to the final meeting of the club. This will be an Afternoon Tea at Gran Caffé Lollo Rosso, Bridge Street, Morpeth at 2 pm on Tuesday 20th May. Please let Linda Glascott (tel 01670 515582) know if you wish to come. There will be a small charge of £6 towards the cost of the tea.

Sarah Cleverley Co-ordinator

Morpeth Country Dance Club

March

Ceilidh

8

April

12

May

20

7.30

to

9.30

find us on Facebook



SGURC
live band.
new players
welcome

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

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

£2.50 bring own
drinks&nibbles

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington:

Services

Sunday 4 May, 6.30pm, Rev Julian Sanders

Sunday 18 May, 6.30pm, Rev Julian Sanders

Now that the church is connected to B4RN Broadband, we have started to stream services. There have been a few technical issues but we are getting them sorted out, and you can find the services on YouTube if you search for Morpeth and Area URC. You can watch the services live, and soon after the service ends the video will be uploaded to the YouTube channel and you can watch it again, or catch up with it if you weren't able to watch it live.

Bavington Parish Council

The Parish Council will meet on Tuesday 13 May (not Thursday 1 May) at 7.00pm.

Parish Clerk: clairemillerparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

History Night

Tuesday 27 May, 7.00pm

An informal evening of finding out fascinating facts, this time with a focus on World War 2 as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the war.

Anniversaries Tea Party, Saturday 17 May, 4.00pm

This year is the 300th anniversary of the church porch (the church itself was built around 1693), the 50th anniversary of the meeting room, and the 100th anniversary of the Bavington Presbyterian Church Recipe Book. There will be a celebration tea party on Saturday 17 May at 4.00pm, to which St George's and Widdrington are invited, and we would love to see you if you can come along. Please bring some cake, or whatever else you like, for a shared tea. Even better if it is made from a recipe out of the Recipe Book! (Facsimile copies of the recipe book are available for £7.00 each + P&P; please email bavingtonchurch@gmail.com if you would like a copy). Tea and coffee will be provided.

Looking ahead to June

On Sunday 1 June, it will be Tea on the Lawn at 5.30pm, followed by the service at 6.30pm which will be led by Rev Ron Forster. The Band from St George's will provide the music.

Keep in touch

Please check www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC to see if there are any changes to events etc, or ring 01830 540350.

Nicola

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 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

Students as exam season approaches

"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 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, June by Fiona. We appreciate donations both of cash and garden flowers.

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 £600. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised. The last payout was £56.92. We should get more next quarter as I have been informed that in the four weeks following the payout day, we raised over £20!

Fund raising: more than £100 was donated at the April Coffee Club which preceded the Church Meeting. Takings at the Easter Monday Coffee Morning and the May Day bank holiday will be reported in next month's magazine. Do you have an idea for fund raising? Whether a social event, or something else, please speak to the Elders about it.

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 May along with duty rotas are in the table below.

Social:

Coffee Mornings: There are two this month. Early May Bank Holiday on May 5th, and Spring Bank Holiday on May 26th.

Get ready for Saturday morning 'Pop-up Coffee Mornings' throughout the summer and early Autumn.

Christian Aid Week: see below under Churches Together.

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:

1st Wednesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month at various coffee shops in the area. On May 7th we hope to meet at Nelson's in Swarland. (To be confirmed)

We have changed the day of meeting because several of the places we would like to try are closed on a Tuesday.

(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.)

Prayer Group: 1st Friday at 10.00am (please note new time) 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. 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 Kathleen your mobile number, and accept your invitation.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

Christian Aid Week: there will be a service at 12.00 on Friday 16th May followed by a lunch of soup and rolls.

FEM

May Rotas

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
4th	Carol Dixon	Diana Hogg	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
11th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Elizabeth Barber
18th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	Diana Hogg Diane Cooke
25th	Worship Team	Diana Hogg	Kathleen Bailey Audrey Grieves

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we record the death of Sybil Brown. Sybil was a lifelong member of Widdrington United Reformed Church, and served for many years as a Trustee.

