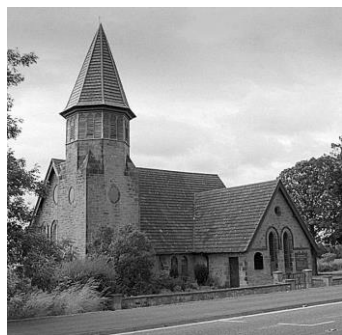


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



The
United
Reformed
Church



November
2020

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

St George's Diary Dates for November

Sun 1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 4 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 11 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 15 th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 18 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 25 th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 29 th	10.30am	Morning Worship

St George's Steward's Duty Rota November 2020

Sun 1 st	Gillian Irvine and Gordon Slack
Sun 8 th	Helen Muckle and Sarah Cleverley
Sun 15 th	Andy Cleverley and Karen Howe
Sun 22 nd	Christine Oakes and Joann Evans
Sun 29 th	Sarah Cleverley and Madeline Cleverley

Flower Rota for November

Sun 1 st	Gillian Irvine
Sun 8 th	Teresa Benkhaleb-House
Sun 15 th	Margaret Brock
Sun 22 nd	See Notice Board
Sun 29 th	See Notice Board
Rep	Linda Glascott 515582



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in December 2020 & January 2021. **The deadline is Sunday 22nd November.**
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

A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders

Dear friends,

By the time you read this letter we will have turned our clocks back an hour as part of our biannual tradition of adjusting time to suit our own purposes. We are reminded, by this very simple act, of the very complex enormity of the fact that time is relative.

It was Albert Einstein who predicted that time was indeed relative, and explained how time passes more quickly the higher up you are, the further you are away from the earth. So much so that if a man who has lived at sea level, meets up with his twin who has lived in the mountains, he will find that his sibling is slightly older than him. Meaning that time has passed quicker for one than the other.

When one of Einstein's friends, Michele Besso died, he wrote to his sister with these words: *"Michele has left this strange world a little before me. This means nothing. People like us, who believe in physics, know that the distinction between past, present and future is nothing more than a persistent, stubborn illusion."* Physicists today continue to explore this stubborn illusion and are slowly beginning to understand that time is not a fixed constant that is the same for everything, but varies and changes and fluctuates.

How great that Peter, writing nearly 2000 years ago, had the insight to write:

"Don't forget that to the Lord one day is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years is the same as one day"

2 Peter 3:8

It has seemed that time has been put on hold for the majority of this year. With those weeks of lockdown being in place, the relative nature of time was even more evident. For many, time will have seemed to have slowed down, for some the time will have seemed to have passed in a flash. As we face further restrictions, and life is threatened with being put on hold once more, we may feel that once again time is slowed as our own lives are once again suspended. During those weeks in March and April, there was a great surge in activity as people committed to make the most of this time that became available to them: starting projects, turning their gardens into vegetable plots, decorating the house, learning new skills.

We cannot waste the time we have been given.

After explaining the difference in earthly and spiritual time lines, Peter goes on in his letter to remind his readers that they should not waste the time they have. He says: ***"So you should serve and honour God by the way you live."*** We have been given in our life here on earth, which consists of 86,400 seconds every day (presumably if you live up a mountain you might have a little less than that!). We can't accumulate it. We can't save it for the future. We can't just turn our clocks back and live that time again. So, we should use the time we have wisely, recognising each day just how precious the time we have is, and to use it in glorifying God by the way we live.

With every blessing, **Julian**

Hi there!

My name is Cam and I am 17 years old. I am relatively new to the North East, only having been here for a year.

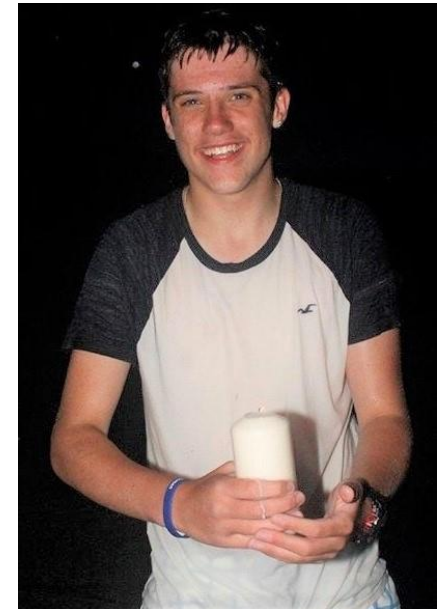
I was born in Birmingham and came to faith 5 years ago.

I am going to be doing some youth work over the next year, developing and growing youth groups/sessions and services.

I look forward to meeting you all and hopefully you feel the same as me.

I am excited to see what happens in my learning and teaching. I hope we can help each other grow in faith and the work we do with each other.

Stay safe and hope to get to know each other soon. **Cam**



Refugees and Asylum Seeker November 2020

West End Refugee Service

WERS reported at the beginning of October that it had received money from the National Lottery Community Fund and Barrow Cadbury Trust for #Covid19 funding for a new worker to support refugees and asylum seekers through the pandemic. This post is focusing on supporting destitute clients and those experiencing increased food poverty.

WERS has also been reporting recently on work through their Skillsmatch project with refugees and asylum seekers volunteering at both Lanchester Community Orchard and Scotswood Natural Community Garden. They are also continuing to have drop in advice sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays and telephone support is available Monday – Thursday.

The WERS AGM is due to be held this year on **10th November 2020 at 7pm**. This will be a Zoom meeting. Details of the AGM, agenda and reports and how to register to attend can be found on WERS' website <http://www.wers.org.uk/welcome/news-and-events/> See details opposite.

Justice and Peace Project

The Justice and Peace Project is delighted to announce that it has appointed a new Project Co-ordinator, Sara Harris. They report that she has a wealth of experience in the voluntary sector and is now in post and has begun using her skills supporting their clients. She can be contacted by email at sara.harris@diocesehn.org.uk or by telephone on 07407 091184.

The Justice and Peace Project also reports that although their premises are physically closed it is continuing to provide much needed support to hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers and their families.

Please continue to remember these two projects through the difficult times ahead.

Margaret Brock



West End Refugee Service
strength through support

Our Annual Report 2019-2020 and corresponding Accounts are now available by clicking on the following links:

[Annual Report 2019-2020](#)

[Annual Accounts 2019-2020](#)

As a supporter of WERS you are invited to attend WERS' 2020 Annual General Meeting on 10th November 2020 at 7pm on zoom, where we will consider the annual report and accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, and elect trustees and officers to the board of WERS for the coming year.

If you would like to attend our AGM on zoom, please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJElduyppj4rHd3TVum8e1Jkwr0Nn6XAgHNC>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The agenda and minutes of our previous AGM are available below:

[Notice and agenda](#)

[Minutes of AGM 2018-2019](#)

We hope you will join us from the comfort of your own home to help us carry out the business of the AGM and hear about how WERS has helped refugees and asylum seekers in the North East over the past year.

GIFT AID – TAX REBATE
Year ended 5th April 2020

The church received the tax repayment for the fiscal year ended 5th April 2020 last month

The amount totals £12,706.40, this is slightly more than year and is made up as follows:

Tax rebate on donations made under the gift aid scheme	£11,017.65
Tax rebate made under the Gift Aid Small donation Scheme (GASDS)	£1,688.75

(This is a recent scheme allowing us to claim on cash donations of £30 or less that have not been included in the Gift Aid Scheme)

Total **£ 12,706.40**

Each year the Inland Revenue requires more information, could I please ask members who have signed a gift aid form that you let me know if you move house or if your personal circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient income tax.

You will agree that this is a valuable source of income for our church, many thanks to everyone who has donated. If you require further information please contact me.

Linda Glascott Tel: 01670 51558

One out of Ten...

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

Food...

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.

Medical name...

The curate told his doctor that he was worried because he just wasn't able to do all the things around the parish that his vicar expected him to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "I'm prepared for the worst, doctor. Just tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the curate. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my vicar."

Hi!

My name is Andrew, Ted Le Grice's son, and I'm living out in Jerusalem with Kirsty and the two little ones; Finlay and Amelie. I came out here last year with the Department for International Development to work advising the Palestinian government. It's a pretty complicated, but fascinating place to live, steeped in so many layers of history, religion, and conflict. Our flat is a stone's throw from an invisible dividing line between the Palestinian East of the city (where we live) and the Israeli West on the other side of a highway, which is home to a large ultra-orthodox community. Covid-19 is pretty rampant here, just as it is in the UK. One advantage of the lockdown here has been a fall in noise pollution – it has given us the familiar sound of nearby church bells to go with the five daily calls to prayer and the Friday siren announcing the onset of Jewish Shabbat.

During the recent lockdown we've been allowed to exercise freely. We like to walk or run from the flat when we get the chance, sometimes delving into the nooks and crannies of the Old City. It's been terrible to see the shops that rely on tourism struggle this year, but it is somehow easier to soak up the spirituality of places like the Church of the Sepulchre without all the visitors, and to take in the sight of each denomination's monks and nuns going about their rituals.

At other times we'll run as far as the garden of Gethsemane and then climb through a peaceful Mormon park up the steep hill to the Mount of Olives and Mount Scopus. The views here are fantastic. A bunch of golden onion domes crown the Russian Church of Mary Magdalene on one side of the valley and the single majestic golden roof of the Dome of the Rock is sublime on the other. It crowns the drab grey rock of Mt Moriah where Abraham/Ibrahim was asked by God to do his worst. Together they are flashy showpieces for the two Palestinian religions of Islam and Christianity.

Jesus was of course a Jewish Palestinian and the language he spoke is still used in the liturgy of the Syriac church here. It would be interesting to think how he would have reacted to what Israel has done to his home country 2,000 years on. There would certainly be lots for him to rail against. His Nazarene family would be considered Arab Israeli citizens by now, and the Arabs of Israel do not enjoy the same rights as their Jewish-Israeli neighbours. The already arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem just got tougher too.

Mary and Joseph would have to pass through five or so Israeli checkpoints to get there. Jesus would be free to visit Jerusalem at least, heading up from Jericho and through the separation wall, unlike Palestinians who live in the West Bank who need to be able to get hold of permits to cross over.

The Palestinian Christian community has shrunk over the years, from around 11% of the population when the Brits took over in 1922 to around 1% in 2017. The Christian population of Bethlehem is a third of what it used to be. They are having fewer kids and many emigrate abroad to escape the Israeli military occupation, attacks by settlers and theft of their land, the lack of opportunity, and the lack of safety and security. It's a bit relentless.

A colleague Michael had armed settlers appear in his family shop in Bethlehem who had just forced themselves onto a neighbour's land of fruit orchards and olive trees, and took over the ruins of a restaurant we had recently eaten in and which the Israeli government demolished. Michael knows his ancestral family's land will be taken next. They get a bit of a double whammy because they do not get the same job opportunities as Muslims do in the Palestinian West Bank, especially in government, and I saw last Christmas at an orphanage in Bethlehem that shariah law makes it very difficult to give abandoned children a future.

We still have a lot to learn and so much to see. But we are very lucky to be able to live in such an incredible place that somehow rewards you every time you venture outside with your mask on. Being able to visit the birthplace of the three monotheistic faiths is an incredible privilege. I hope that the Christians of Palestine will have a free and more prosperous future ahead of them. In the meantime Kirsty writes a wee blog about life here which is a worth a shuft: <https://eastjerusalemidiaries.com>.

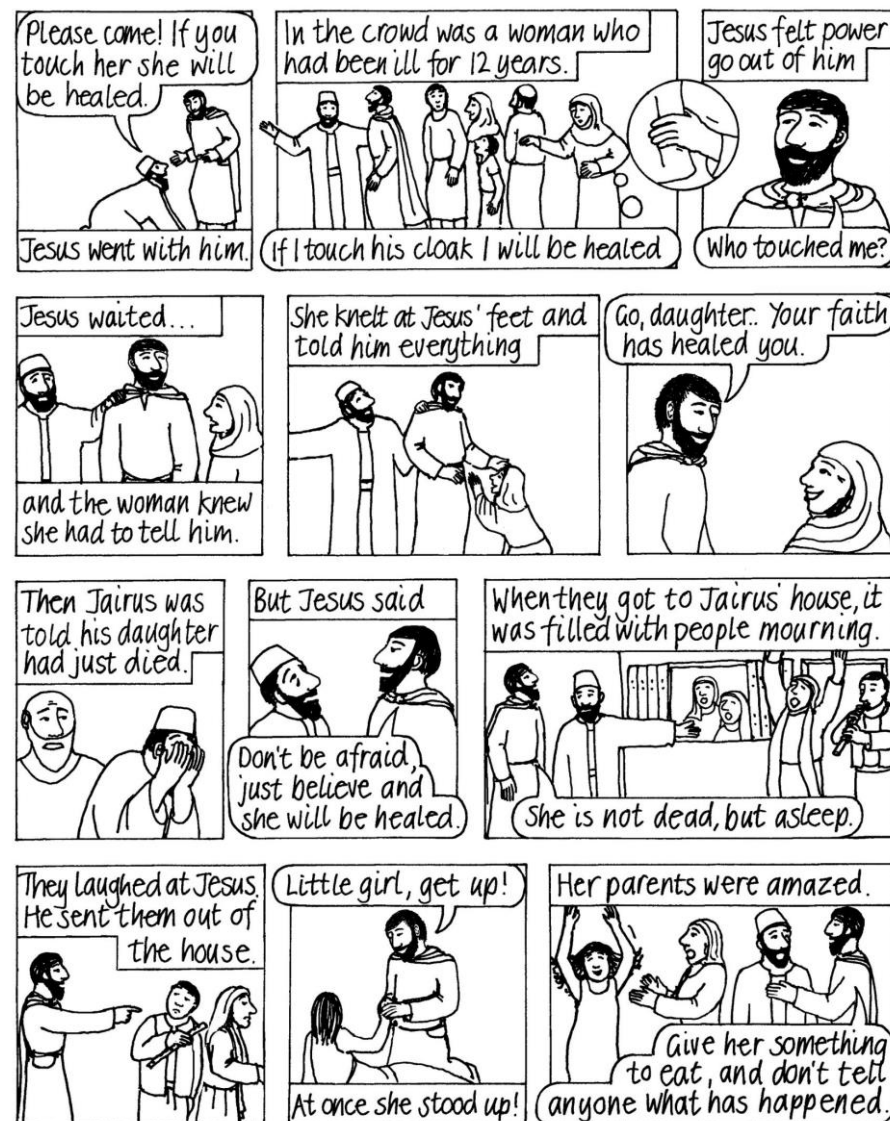


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

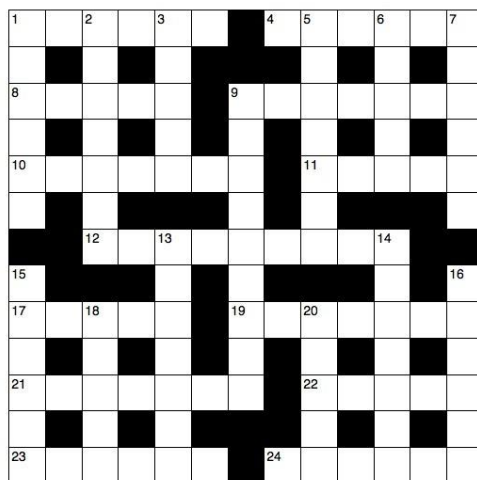
It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



Crossword for November

Across: 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6). 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6) 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5) 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7) 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7) 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)



12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9) 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5) 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7) 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7) 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5) 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6) 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down: 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6) 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7) 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5) 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7) 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6) 7 A three (anag.) (6) 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9) 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7) 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7) 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6) 16 See 6 Down (6) 18 Paste (anag.) (5) 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5). Solutions on page 19

A little boy was told that he should try and be good, and that he could ask God for help with this. So he prayed: "Lord, please make me good, if you can. But if you can't, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

St George's URC on the 'Hit List'!

It all started as a bit of fun.

Harvest Time, the tune to 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' and the wearing of masks at church led, in one of my quieter moments, to my penning 'The Mask Song'. Ken and I enjoyed singing it through then thought it may be fun to send it to Julian and Louise. What followed was certainly not expected. Julian tweaked our amateur video and put it on Facebook. One week later we had over 600 viewings, or 'hits' as I believe they are called, plus requests from a number of churches to put the video on their websites. As well as the British Isles it has also been viewed in Canada, America, Australia and New Zealand. St George's is certainly on the map although perhaps not as we had anticipated.

You can also view it

at https://youtu.be/sfXNb_vxpho

For those not able to access the video here are the words:



Sung to "Plough the fields and scatter"

We go to Sunday worship but it is not the same,
We distance very safely, we don't want any blame.
We sanitise our hands and conduct ourselves with care,
We use pre printed hymn sheets and nothing can we share

We're not supposed to sing and should cover up the face
So wear the mask, please wear the mask
And do it with good grace

Our services are shorter, we follow guidance lines,
There's no physical contact, we don't want any fines.
The preacher gives the message behind a plastic screen
And we are very pleased that he's heard and also seen

We remain very friendly to all who enter in
Unseen the smile, the greeting, the welcome with a grin
St George's flag's still flying, we will not be 'down trod',
We retain human contact whilst meeting with our God.

Ken & Gillian Irvine

CHURCH FOR ME...

SPIRITUAL

PEACE

STILLNESS

WISDOM

REFLECTION

what could it be
for you?



Available as posters up to A0 size from cpo.org.uk
For more resources visit cpo.org.uk or call us on 01903 263354

Knitter Natter Coffee Group

Our group managed to have one meeting before we went back into lockdown again. It was lovely to see everyone and prove our plans for meeting safely worked; it felt a little strange not having coffee and not moving around to speak to people at other tables.

Lots of our projects are on hold but we are just about to start knitting Angels again. Different plans for their flight are in the pipeline so please knit some for us.

I would also like some brightly coloured crocheted 6 inch squares in double knitting wool, any design for another project, we need lots!

Following the last lockdown I received lots of blankets, shawls, pram and cot blankets, also cardigans and jumpers for babies, boys and girls, they have all gone on to needy families in the local area.

Thank-you to everyone for their beautiful donations which will be lovely and warm this winter.

Stay Safe. **Joan Cooper**

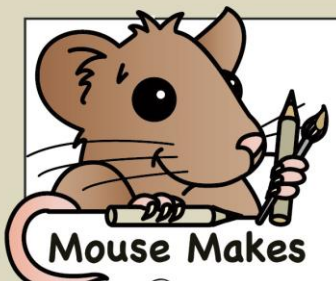
MUMS COFFEE TIME

Here I am Lord; the breakfast rush is over, the lost gym shoes found, the children safely delivered to school and the shopping done. I simply want to be with you for a while, to enjoy your company and to have a little chat. It's good to know that you are always here, waiting for me; you are the one friend I can truly depend upon; you never make any excuse to miss our little daily get together. I'm not surprised that you often wandered off on your own. Children and, dare I say it, husbands can be pretty exhausting, especially first thing in the morning, and yet I wouldn't be without them and I thank you for the love we share and the support which we are able to give to one another. Instructing your disciples and coping with the constant demands of the crowds must have been exhausting, so I know you understand how I feel. I love my family, Lord, and I love you. I want to get things right in this lovely place that you and my dear ones are happy to call home.

I must bring our conversation to an end and start preparing the lunch. My coffee has refreshed me but you have revived every part of me and I am ready to face all that the day has in store for me.

Thank you Lord.

Submitted by Neil Robson



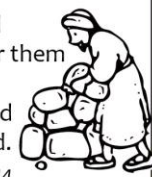
REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything you would like to thank God for?

RECALL
CELEBRATE
OFFERING
MVSPILEOOI
RMIA ROCKBNUDC
MEECADAYSOMEH
OJMT RIBUTEUPBR
NOOOISDEBR RHEI
UIRRFESTIVALAS
MCAYIPENTECOST
EETLCNHARVESTM
NREMEMBRANCEEA
THANKSGIVINGRS

REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

Nov20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Wordsearch for November

This month Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland disciples Jesus
Andrew honoured Peter
Nathanael Bartholomew
Messiah Saviour

Patras Archaia eighth
Remains translation
Fife pilgrimage tenth
Pious patron saint love
Introducing place

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

Solution on page 19

Champagne...

My husband and I were delighted the day we finally bought our first house. After years of renting, it was wonderful to own our own home. Our minister even gave us a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion. But in the hustle and bustle of getting moved in, his champagne was put in a cupboard and forgotten. Months later, we held a Baptism party for our third child. Wine flowed until, running short; we suddenly remembered the housewarming gift of champagne. So, in front of our guests, I opened the attached card from the minister and read it aloud: "Dave, take good care of it – this one is really yours!"

Angels

To all Angel knitters....

In order to ensure safety, the deadline for Angels this year is 29th November. They can be left in Church vestibule or my porch (14 Swansfield). I am also happy to pick them up if needed.

We plan to give an Angel to all residents of care and nursing homes in Morpeth as well as hanging them around the town as before, so we need a few extra this year.

They are fun to knit, hide and even more fun to find.

Thank you for your continued support of this project, which is needed even more this year.

Patricia Gatherum.

Thanksgiving (Gift Day)

It has been decided to hold a Thanksgiving/Gift Day to give thanks for St George's, its buildings and people and our ability to be worshipping again together. I have estimated that the Church will lose about £21,000 this year, mainly due to loss of income from hall lettings, fundraising, etc., so any money raised will be very welcome.

Thanksgiving Day will be November 15 when an additional collection plate will be available for your donations. You can make donations at the remaining services in November or, if you are not attending services at the moment, you can get in touch with me or your Elder or make a direct bank payment, identifying it as a Thanksgiving donation. Please try to identify your donation so that we can claim Gift Aid where appropriate.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

David Calcraft (Treasurer)

Harvest Festival

The retiring collection for the work of the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank at our Harvest Festival service raised the brilliant sum of £772.

Thank you to everybody who contributed so generously. I have added the money collected in the charity bucket so far this year, so have sent them cheques to the value of £825.20.

David Calcraft (Treasurer)

Sudoku Solution on page 19

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."


P.R.E.S.S
TOTAL ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS


- » Part & Full Rewires
- » Extra Sockets & Lights
- » Intruder Alarms
- » Security Lighting
- » Electrical Repairs-
- » Fault finding -Maintenance
- » Testing & Inspection
- » CAT 5E Data Installtions
- » CCTV Systems
- » Intruder Alarms

24hr CALL OUT
No Job to Small from Extra Socket to Rewire

MORPETH
All Areas Covered

Tel Office 01670 510240 Fax 01670 513158
www.press-electrical.co.uk E-mail sales@press-electrical.co.uk

 **NICEIC**
APPROVED
CONTRACTOR

 **TRUST MARK**
Registered through:
NICEIC

This year of 2020 saw the 75th anniversaries of "Victory in Europe" and "Victory in Japan" days which finally brought the end to the War to End All Wars and the even worse one which followed it.

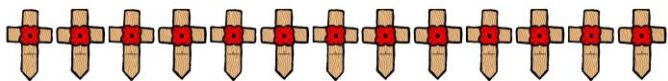
The North East War Memorials Project website, www.newmp.org.uk, records all the war memorials in the area covering Northumberland, Newcastle and Co. Durham, of which there are well over 5,000. We have also been recording the stories of people caught up in those massive wars and the smaller ones which have followed since. In Morpeth alone we have recorded 33 memorials, ranging from the Cenotaph to a KEVI School prize. We have individual pages on 256 people from Morpeth, 3 from Great Bavington and 16 from Widdrington.

If you wish to record your own recollections, we will be only too happy to house these. We are as interested in the lives of those who had to pick up the pieces as well as those who fought and those who died. On our website, each person has a whole page to him or herself, and can be adjusted at any time. We can include photographs, but please send them in jpeg format. If you don't know what this is, simply ask me to scan them for you!

Our present website is bursting at the seams, but we are in the process of creating a new one which will be able to cope with all we can upload.

I can be contacted by e-mail on janet@newmp.org.uk, or by telephone on 01670 790465.

Janet Brown



Also from Janet.....

A father and his young son were sitting in the church waiting for worship to start. The son looked up at a plaque on the wall and asked "What is that?" His father replied "Those are the names of people who died in the services". His son looked nervously over his shoulder and then asked "Was it the morning service or the evening service?"

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory, St James the Least of All



On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive

My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All. You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through 'Onward Christian Soldiers' at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes. Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Where do you store your various food items?

Where do you put your parsnips and eggs, and what about the potatoes and onions? The correct answers, according to new government guidelines, are that the first two below in your fridge and the second two belong in your cupboard. More guidance on storing food safely can now be found on Wrap, the Government's food waste watchdog. The aim is to stop households throwing so much food away. And so Wrap.org.uk offers advice on storing everything from aubergines to onions, bananas to cheese, fizzy drinks to wine. It could be a good refresher course for many of us, and a lifeline for younger people trying to get the most out of their weekly shop.

Lower your hostility...

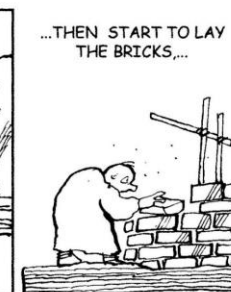
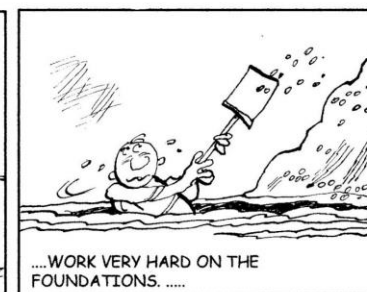
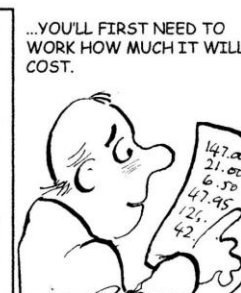
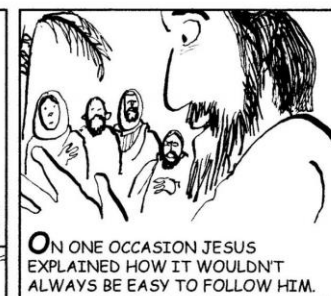
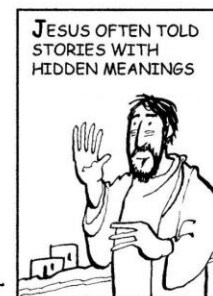
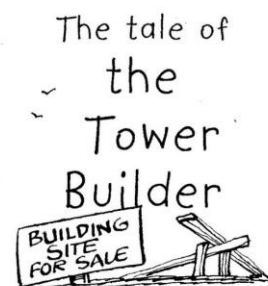
Keep calm, and keep kind, if you want to live longer. It seems that being sarcastic and irritable only makes heart attack victims more likely to die from a second coronary. A recent study in the US on the personality traits of patients who had had heart attacks found that hostile personality traits (sarcasm, cynicism, resentment, impatience, irritability) was a common factor. One doctor at the University of Tennessee said: "We know that taking control of lifestyle habits improved the outlook for heart attack patients, and our study suggests that improving hostile behaviour could also be a positive move."

Solutions:

Crossword: ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop. DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

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

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



Widdrington United Reformed Church

PRAYING TOGETHER

During November, please pray for:

People in war zones

Victims natural and man made disasters

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced

Health workers, shop workers, delivery drivers, postmen and anyone else doing essential work at this time

Farmers and farm workers

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine and treatments

The elderly and those who may be particularly vulnerable to the virus

The homeless

Anyone who is recently bereaved

Your neighbours

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

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). Perhaps you have some reflections on our situation which you'd like to share? The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the Sunday prior to the 20th of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

The Newsletter is being delivered by email to those whose email address we have. If you have received a paper copy, and you have an email address, please contact me as above. As well as saving printing and posting costs, it will enable us to send you other relevant information, and links to worship resources.

Flowers: Flowers for November by Kathleen, December by Fiona. We'll let you know about Christmas next month, but it seems likely that our usual happy decorating party will not be possible.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Doing your Christmas Shopping online this year? If so, when you haven't already joined up, now would be a good time to get busy with Easy Fund Raising! 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. 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 £288 so far with just eight members. Hopefully we'll get a payout this quarter.

Social: Sadly our social programme remains suspended. We realise that we must write off all events for the remainder of the year, and possibly the first months of 2021, as well. We have decided to transfer our 2020 programme forward to 2021, and reactivate this as soon as it becomes possible.

As we lost all our coffee mornings and several other events designed as fund raisers your regular support of our work is vital. Please, if you have not returned to worship, continue to put aside your usual weekly collection, by filling up your envelopes, or, if you use online banking, by direct transfer. Or you could set up a standing order. Contact Kathleen for bank details.

Sunday worship is now being held regularly. Please join us if and when you feel able. Please wear a face covering if you can. You will be asked to sign in (for track and trace purposes - visitors will be asked for contact details) and to sanitize your hands on entry. Offering plates will be placed at the back of church. Please place your offering in them either when you come in, or before leaving. Please remember that we will not be standing to sing hymns. If you wish to sing quietly into your mask while following a hymn, you may do so.

We are sorry, but while the 'rule of six' is in place we will no longer be serving coffee after the service. Please avoid gathering in groups in the car park when you leave.

If you don't feel ready to return to church, you can continue to listen to Julian's services which will be recorded live either at St George's or Widdrington, and streamed later in the day.

Preachers for November:

Sunday 1st: Sheila Brown

Sunday 8th: Val Mace (broken ankle permitting)

Sunday 15th: Rev'd Julian Sanders

Sunday 22nd: Worship Team

Sunday 29th: Carol Dixon

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club usually meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

However, regulations mean that we can't contemplate restarting at the moment.

1st Wednesday: Prayer Group: We have decided, now that we are able to worship together, to revert to monthly meetings, still via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th November. If there is anything you would like us to pray about, please let any member of the group know. If you have Zoom and would like to join us, please contact Julian for an invitation.

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 over 100 (119 actually) likes, with another 5 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements will be published there.

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'.

Sean now has 21 page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him! He loves seeing people again, especially the children.

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

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

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

We are happy that our Methodist friends continue to join us for worship, until they can meet in the Community Centre

There was a churches together meeting via zoom on Monday 5th October, and we will meet again on Tuesday 1st December.

The Tear Fund quiz is on November 14th. Diana is organising the distribution of the quiz questions to the churches. Each church will decide how to use it. We have decided to offer it to individuals and family groups to use as they wish. However, zoom users will be welcome to join the zoom quiz that Ian Dobson is organising if they wish. If you are interested, please contact Diana. A minimum donation of £1.00 for Tear Fund is requested.

Knitters, how about knitting Angels for Christmas? If you don't have a pattern, Kathleen will tell you how to get one. Kathleen is also collecting completed angels. The angels will be left around the village for people to find.

FEM

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

During the winter, there will be one service per month, on the first Sunday of each month:

Sunday 1 November, 4.00 pm but please check the Facebook

page www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC to see if there are any changes.

Once the clocks change, the church will not be open during the daytime for the winter period.

That's all the news for this month.

Nicola Bell

