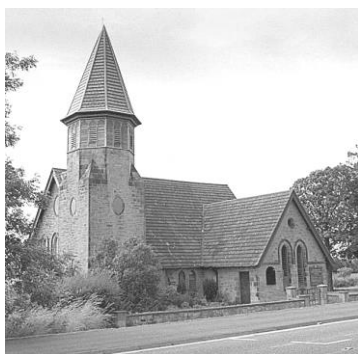


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



November
2021

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

Worship and Meetings at St George's United Reformed Church

November		
Wed 3rd	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesday Midweek Service
Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 10th	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesday Midweek Service
Sun 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Mon 15th	7.00pm	Elders Meeting in Church
Tues 16th	2.00pm	Ladies Coffee Club in the Hall
Wed 17th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert (doors open at noon)
Sat 20th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club. In the Hall
Sun 21st	10.30am 2.00pm	Morning Worship Meet the Lions – in church
Mon 22nd	7.00pm	Managers Meeting in Church
Wed 24th	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesday Midweek Service
Sun 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship – Toy Service & Church Parade. First in Advent, with Orchestra

Steward's Duty Rota November

Sunday 7 th November	Gillian Irvine and Christine Hawkins
Sunday 14 th November	Helen and John Muckle
Sunday 21 st November	Joan Cooper and Karen Howe
Sunday 28 th November	Gordon Slack and Katherine Smailes

Flower Rota

7	Gillian Irvine
14	Margaret Brock
21	Teresa B-H
28	See notice board
Rep: Linda Glascott 515582	



The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers
events in December/January 2022

The deadline is Sunday 21st 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

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
	Yoga for All: 1.00-2.30pm Karen Bell bluevalleyyoga@talktalk.net	07713629477
	Age UK Exercise: As above 3.00-4.30pm	
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 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	Ladies Coffee Club: 2.00pm (3 rd Tues) nb: new start time Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	Cobweb Orchestra 7.30 – 9.30pm In the Sanctuary 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 – 12.30 Christine Richardson Country Dance Club: (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	513913
SUN	Orchestra: Norm. 4 th Sunday Andrew Hamnett 518485 (not August) Christine Oakes 518608	

A message from our Minister Rev'd Julian Sanders

Dear Friends,

We come to that time of year when we again think about the changing of the seasons. We recognise the cycle of the year as we move from the warm summer evenings to the drawn in darkness of the nights. We will have by now put the clocks back, again another significant reminder of the cycles and patterns to which we live our lives.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot." Ecclesiastes 3:1

The writer of Ecclesiastes looks upon these life cycles with despair, proclaiming that all life is futile in this ever-endless cycle of ups and downs. Whether it was written as a parody, or a caricature, of the human condition, the writer relies only on human wisdom, and that which can be seen in the universe, to come to his conclusions. This leaves him despondent that life is meaningless.

Written some 3000 years ago this caricature of the human condition could be so easily held up against the society of today. As people disregard any sort of religion, or supra-natural beliefs, science becomes the ultimate god that provides the answers. And yet it seems that there is a growing despair at the futility of it all.

Having searched in the eighties with Monty Python for the meaning of life, much of today's society has come to the conclusion that there is no meaning. Whether you are a follower of Dawkins and believe that we are a genetic "accident", or Hawkings and believe that there is no need for a "God" to have created the universe, the result will be the same conclusion as Solomon – that life is empty and meaningless.

But with God these cycles that govern our life do take on meaning and significance. In a poem by Robert Southwell called "Times Go By Turns" he writes his own version of Ecclesiastes, viewing these cycles that balance life as God's way of tempering humanity. As a Jesuit priest who was eventually executed for his beliefs, Southwell saw life through the eyes of faith, in the wisdom of the Spirit. These words from his poem echo the passing of the seasons and the encroaching darkness of this time of year:

***"Not always fall of leaf nor ever Spring,
No endless night yet not eternal day;
The saddest birds a season find to sing,
The roughest storm a calm may soon allay;
Thus with succeeding turns God tempereth all,
That man may hope to rise yet fear to fall."***

Robert Southwell (1561 – 1595)

May you all find blessing in the turning of the season, and hope and meaning in the cycles of our lives through which God 'tempereth all'.

With every blessing, **Julian**

I would like to thank members of St George's for their very warm welcome when I joined the church on October 3rd. I was baptised by immersion at the Church of Christ, Evington Road, Leicester in 1955, and I feel I am back where I belong. On that occasion we sang the hymn *Just as I am*, and Julian invited me and the other new members to choose a hymn each, so I chose that one to link the two events. I am very happy at St George's, and I hope to live long enough to be useful where I can.

I was also very grateful for the flowers that were given to me the week before. They lasted almost a fortnight, and gave us a lot of pleasure.

Christine Hawkins

Spanish classes in Morpeth, coming soon.

1. Absolute beginners
2. Elementary
3. Pre-intermediate
4. Reading group Spanish.

For details and to enroll, call me, Ruth Darby on 07739 396426. Alternatively, email ruth@spanglishfantastico.com

These classes may be coming to St George's!

Refugees and Asylum Seekers November 2021

West End Refugee Service

WERS reports that it has "had another busy few months delivering our support services and projects, we've also begun some exciting new initiatives and are proud to be supporting national campaigns to oppose the new #AntiRefugeeBill, calling for a fairer and kinder treatment of refugees here in the UK."

Hardship Fund Appeal

WERS has launched a hardship fund appeal. This fund provides people seeking sanctuary, who have no access to state support, with £60 a month & £10 phone credit on a pre-payment card. This appeal for donations is being made as referrals to the scheme are increasing significantly week on week as Covid restrictions lift. Many people have received government support through Covid. This is changing and they are now seeing large numbers of people being made destitute. More details about the hardship fund can be found at www.wers.org.uk/donate, along with details of how to make donations. They stress that "All donations make a huge difference to the lives of these people."

Festive Appeal

This appeal is to give the people in receipt of the hardship fund some extras at Christmas. The items they are collecting this year are:-

- New socks
- New warm gloves
- Chocolate/treats
- Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)

Please note that most people in receipt of the hardship fund are male, so please bear this in mind when donating! The last day for donations is Wednesday 1 December, to allow time to make up and distribute packs to everyone.

If you are interested in learning more about WERS their AGM, as advised previously, is on Zoom on Monday 8th November from 6.30 – 8.00pm. (Registration required in advance through website)

Justice and Peace

J&P reports that the demand on them for food is increasing daily and they are having to purchase additional food items every week so depleting project resources. They also understand that more people seeking asylum will be coming to the region in the near future and this, coupled with the emerging situation in Afghanistan, will mean the demand will rapidly become even greater.

For the past 3 months they have been giving out approximately 100 £30 food vouchers (value £3000) and roughly 600 food bags a month (value approximately £3000). Food donations are always welcome as are financial contributions. Bank details are: DHN, Justice & Peace Refugee Project sort code 40–34–18, account number 52854058. Alternatively, cheques made payable to DHN, Justice & Peace Refugee Project can also be sent to Sara Harris, Refugee Project Co-ordinator, St. Vincent's Support Centre, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2TQ. Gift-Aiding your donation where possible makes a big difference. Sara Harris, the Project Co-ordinator, writes "We know that the food bags you enable us to give are really appreciated; they provide a little extra and, perhaps more importantly, signal to those people claiming asylum in our communities that they have not been forgotten, that they are welcomed and valued." Specific items that are always required are: sugar, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish (e.g. tuna), biscuits (individual packets – not assortments or tins), cooking oil, long life milk and toiletries.

Thank you **Margaret**

Christian Aid and "Thank you for the Rain"

The Morpeth Christian Aid Committee has arranged for the Christian Aid film "Thank you for the Rain" to be shown at The New life Church on Saturday 13th November at 7pm. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to donate to the work of Christian Aid. The film will last about 90 minutes and it is hoped that people will be able to stay to discuss the film afterwards.

Information about the film from the Christian Aid website:- "Thank You for the Rain tells the story of Kisilu, a smallholder farmer in Kenya who has used his camera to capture the life of his family, and the human costs of climate change. When I first watched this film, I couldn't speak for a good 10 minutes afterwards. I felt rage and I felt sadness. But I also had a profound sense of hope, I wanted to stand in solidarity with Kisilu, I needed to act. The film is a rare and personal insight into the realities of the climate crisis and it is a call to action to all who care about God's creation. In 2021, a year when every moment matters, and every action counts, I want to invite you to watch and share Kisilu's story with your church, your friends and your family. By bearing witness to his life, his struggle and his hope we can stand with him in calling for climate justice. "Some idea of numbers in advance would be helpful, but whether you tell us or not, please do come if you possibly can. Thank you

Margaret Johnson and Margaret Brock

Memory Café

At Morpeth Methodist Church & Centre for the Community

For people with memory problems or dementia, and their family and friends.

Come along for a chat, to pick up information and to enjoy some social time with the others in a similar situation to your own.

No need to book, please just drop in!

Refreshments will be available.

The café will run on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every Month, commencing on 16th September from 10.30am to 12.00.

In the Coffee lounge at the Morpeth Methodist Centre
Howard Terrace, Morpeth

For further information please contact the church office on
01670 511078 or email office@morpethmeth.org.

If you are interested please have a word with Margaret Brock



First Communion...

My three-year-old niece, Kelly, went with a neighbour's little girl to church for her First Communion practice. The minister had the children cup their hands, and then went solemnly down the line, giving each child a piece of bread, and intoning: "God be with you".

Apparently, this made quite an impression on my niece. She came home and told her mother to cup her hands and bend down. Kelly took a piece of bread from her sandwich, placed it in her mother's hands, and whispered, in her most angelic voice, "God will get you."

Well I cannot believe it is that time again for St George's Angels to prepare to fly. The success of this flight depends on your continued help.

Patterns will be available in vestibule and Rook Mathew Sayers office from November. I also have some wool which you can use. The host needs to assemble by December 12th so that they can be bagged and tagged ready to fly by week beginning 20th. Thank you to you all for your continued support of this really appreciated project.



Patricia Gatherum

A fair way to Christmas

To mark the launch of the 2021 Real Advent Calendar, the Meaningful Chocolate Company is offering free delivery to churches and schools if they buy a case of 18 calendars.

The Real Advent Calendar is designed to support outreach work, mission and is a great way to share the Christmas story. Each calendar includes a 24-page Christmas story activity book, the chocolate is Fairtrade, and it supports charitable causes including a baby clinic in Kenya and Fairtrade farmer community schemes.

Real Advent Calendars cost £4.50 each and is not available in supermarkets. There is a case discount and free delivery if buying at www.realadvent.co.uk You can view a video of the Christmas story activity book at <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/real-advent-calendar>



Sign seen in a Jedburgh cafe:

We the willing,
Led by the unknowing,
Are doing the impossible
For the ungrateful
We have done so much for so long with so little
We are now qualified to do anything with nothing!!

Submitted by Eve Oaks.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

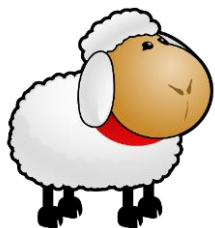
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-15

Jesus and his disciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL
BY
DR. JARED JOHNSON (& CHARLES DICKENS)
“BAA HUMBUG!”**

Saturday 4th December at 7.00pm



A Christmas Carol by Jared Johnson apologies to Charles Dickens

Tickets £8 which includes mince pies and mulled wine are now available
from Christine Oakes 518608

Numbers are limited so please buy or order yours now.

Joann is looking for volunteers to join us on stage,
no previous acting or singing experience required, and definitely
memorising of words

* * * * *

Christmas Social rehearsals are Sundays 14th 21st, &
28th November at 7 pm in the Hall.

Actors, singers, etc needed for an evening of fun and fellowship. No
experience necessary just a willingness to be involved!

Please contact Joann Evans if interested j.evans152274@btinternet.com

Lorna and Derek are please to announce the birth of their first granddaughter Eloise Christina Faye Dovey who was born on 23rd September; a baby sister for William.

Lorna Anderson

St George's Ladies Coffee Club



The Ladies Coffee Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month, apart from December, from September to April. We have a Christmas lunch, in January and a Spring Lunch in May. New members and guests are always welcome to our meetings.

It was decided at our AGM that our meetings should start at 2.00pm instead of 3pm. So our next meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 16th November in the church rather than the Drysdale Room.

**Our speaker will be Revd Jeremy Cooper and he will be talking about
The Anna Chaplaincy.**

We hope we will be able to serve tea or coffee.

For more information contact Sarah Cleverley, co-ordinator, on 515257 In keeping with St George's Church Covid advice please wear a mask when coming into the building, sanitise your hands on entry and do not come if you have any symptoms of Covid.

Sarah Cleverley

Knitter Natter Coffee group

Each Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00pm.

Please enter by the front door.

Joan Cooper



Lunchtime Concerts

The Lunchtime Concert on **Wednesday 17th November** at 12.30 pm will profile the young, talented pupils of Jennifer and David Murray. David, one of the North's finest pianists, will be accompanying the musicians. This is an opportunity to support these talented musicians as they entertain us on clarinet and piano. It is also hoped to include a young vocal soloist. It will not be necessary to prebook for this concert. Doors will open at noon and tea and coffee will be available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH MUSICA JOHANNES

FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER AT 7.00pm

Including mulled wine or fruit juice with nibbles

Enjoy a delightful programme of Christmas music performed by this group of professional, talented singers and their accompanist on piano and organ.

Musica Johannes' previous visits to our church with their Remembrance Day Concert tribute have always been popular and well supported.

This will be a church fund raising event and tickets will be available from mid November from Gillian and Ken or from the Chantry Tourist Information Centre priced at £8. Please be aware that if you buy from the Chantry TIC they will charge us 10%.

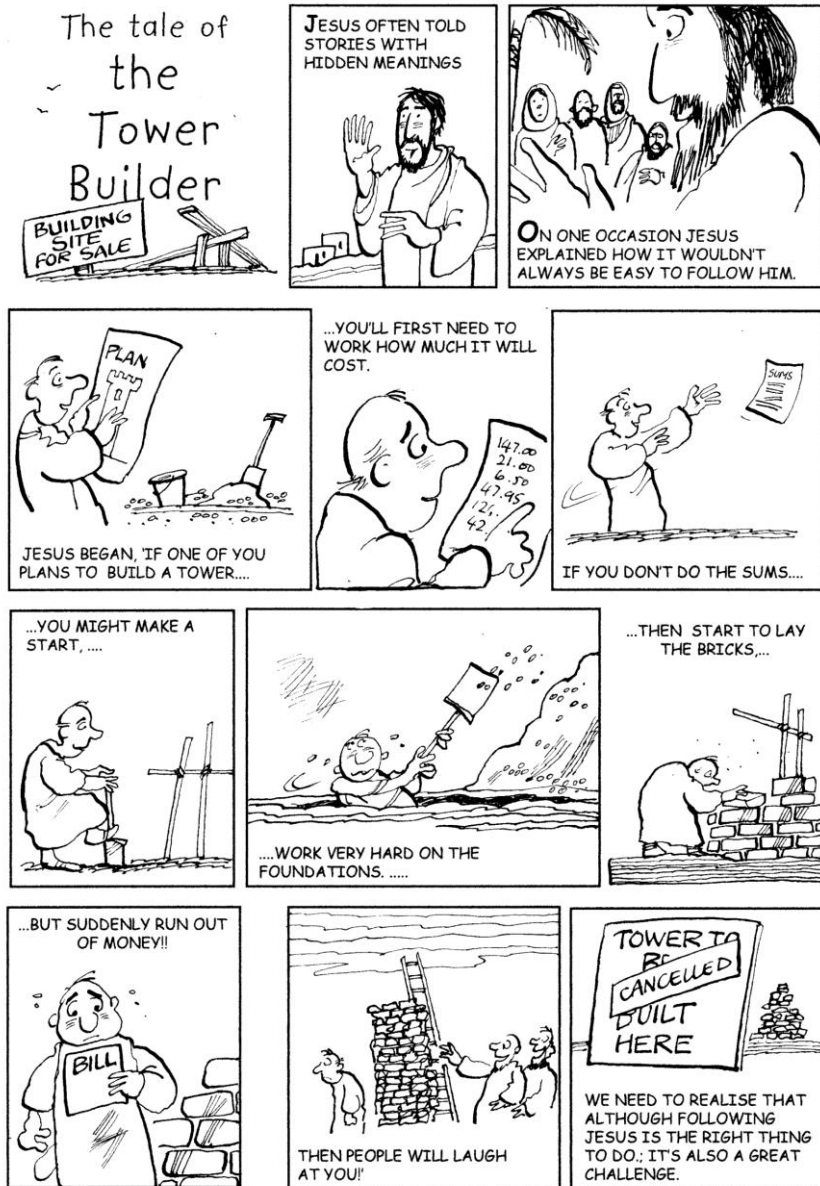
Please put this date in your diary and let your friends and neighbours know about it.

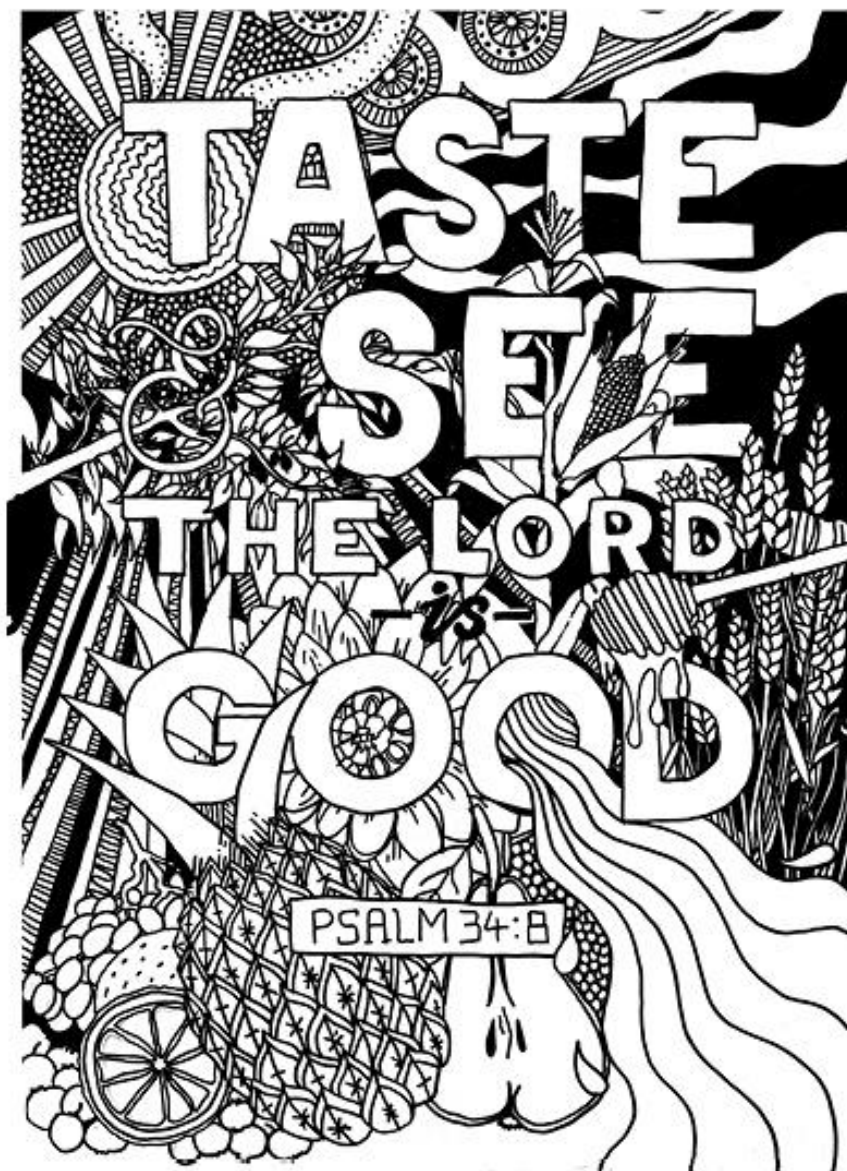
Lives Remembered Service

We hope to be able to hold a "Lives Remembered Service" at 7.00 pm on **Monday 6th December**. In the past, this service has been held in conjunction with Jacob Conroy and Son, the local Funeral Directors, but this association may not be possible this year. Confirmation of this event is expected later this month.

St George's Community Carol Service

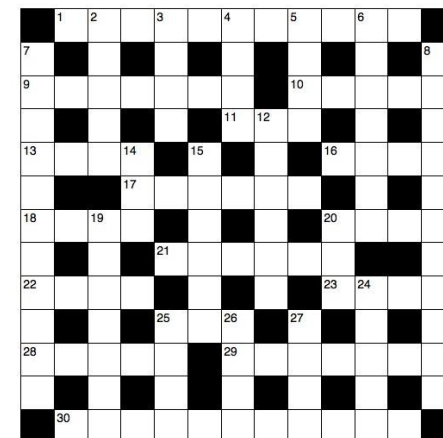
Our Annual Community Carol Service will be held on **Monday 13th December** at 7.00 pm. As in previous years, we have invited the Mayor of Morpeth to attend and also representatives from the local Air Cadet Squadron. Please invite your friends along to this Service of readings, carols and incidental music.





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

Crossword for November



Across: 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)

9 'No —, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)

10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5) **11** Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1) **13** Taverns (4)

16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)

17 'He will not always —, nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)

18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4) **20** Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4) **21** She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6) **22** A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4) **23** Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)

25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3) **28** Annie (anag.) (5) **29** Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7) **30** Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11).

Down: 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5) **3** Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4) **4** 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4) **5** — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4) **6** 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)

7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11) **8** 'This is a day you are to —' (Exodus 12:14) (11) **12** Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6) **14** 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3) **15** Liverpool dialect (6) **19** 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7) **20** Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)

24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)

25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4) **26** Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4) **27** See 18 Across

Solution on page 20

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. —

Winston Churchill

Something You Never Hear in Church

Hey! It's my turn to sit on the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.

Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

I've decided to give our church the £500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.

I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Sunday School class.

Forget the denominational minimum salary: let's pay our minister so he/she can live like we do.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!

Minister, we'd like to send you to this Bible Seminar in the Bahamas.

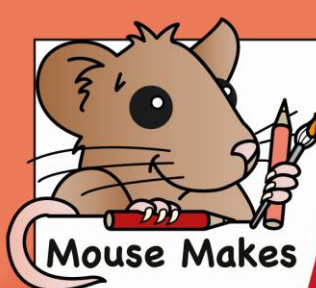
Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our church meeting

Daily Mail... At a recent church meeting, our Sunday School teacher requested that a notice be put into the weekly pew-sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of paper mache, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy. The secretary made a rough note, and the notice went in: 'Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males.'

Stewardship.... Our church launched a new Stewardship Campaign, which instead of holding a series of events, decided to focus entirely on one big fund-raising event. The evening became known as "putting all our begs into one askit."

The congregation... A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were 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."

Hold her hand... While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."



I AM

Mouse Makes

I AM THE

Read John 10:11 and 14

I AM THE

Read John 15:1 and 35

I AM THE

Read John 6: 35,51

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14 Jesus is telling us who He really is.

I AM THE

Read John 11:25

I AM THE

Read John 14:6

I AM THE

Read John 10:9

I AM THE

Read John 18:12

AND THE

Read John 18:25

OF

AND THE

OF THE

BRANCHE SLIFETB

SHEPHERDFATHER

LOJGATERWORLDE

IVEDDIAMOAUINA

FISEOBLIGHTFOD

ENUGOODWAYHEHE

RESURRECTIONBL

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

Nov21 © Deborah Noble • parisipump.co.uk

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Ketchup... A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it.

"It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother. Then she told her caller: "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Tee-shirt... My kindergarten-aged daughter announced, just before school that she needed to take a clean tee shirt to class. The teacher was going to iron an anti-drug message on it. My wife frantically swept through my daughter's room, finding nothing usable but one tee shirt that already had something printed on one side. She sent it off to school with my daughter. That afternoon, my daughter returned and happily showed off her shirt. On one side it said, 'Families are forever.' And on the other, 'Be Smart, Don't Start.'

Iniquities... A keen young boy, attending his first Mass as an altar boy, was very attentive to everything the priest said. He was especially struck by the priest's prayer: "Lord, wash away my iniquities, and save me from sin!"

In the sacristy afterwards he humbly asked the priest where he should pour the water from the ablutions bowl: "Please father, where shall I put your iniquities?"

Poppies

It was 100 years ago this month, on 11th Nov 1921, that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war.

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies had grown, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write "In Flanders Fields",

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

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.*

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

*Remembrance Poppies Sold Countries Commemorate Military
Personnel Mud Blood Carnage Trench Warfare Thousands Bright Red
Graves Fallen Flanders Fields Symbol*

'Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain.'

War does not determine who is right – only who is left. – Bertrand Russell
The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. – Harry Emerson Fosdick

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished. – Anon

P.R.E.S.S

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St James the Least of All

There are more frightening things than bishops out there....



My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

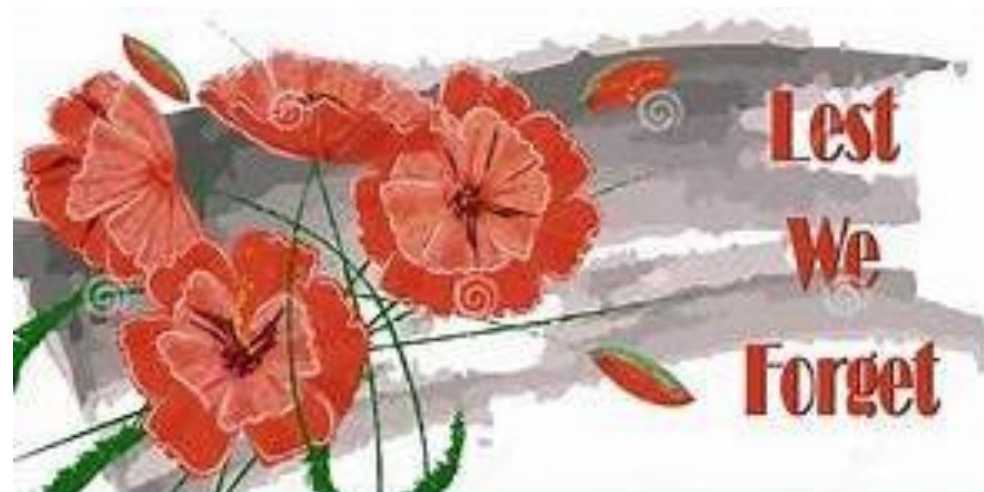
A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurks much nearer home.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Solutions:

Crossword: ACROSS: 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase.

DOWN: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.

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

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

Great Bavington United Reformed church

Services:

Here is the news from Great Bavington

From November to March, services will be at **4.00pm** on the first and third Sundays in the month.

Sunday 7 November, 4.00pm

This will be an early Remembrance service, as we will not meet on Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 21 November, 4.00pm

Please look on www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for any changes or you can email bavingtonchurch@gmail.com, or ring 01830 540350.

Services from St George's are available on YouTube - search for Morpeth and Area URC and you will find them all there. Each Sunday service is recorded live, and uploaded later in the day.

Bavington Parish Council

The Parish Council will meet in the meeting room on Thursday 4 November at 7.00pm. Parish Clerk: clairemillerparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

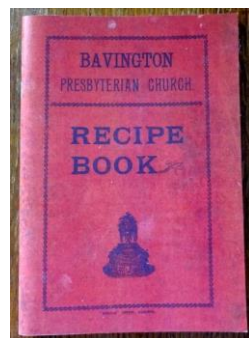
Hats, Gloves and Scarves; Bikes and a Flute

Following on from the request in the September News, Northumberland County of Sanctuary have received three bikes, and thanks to Shirley Forster's contacts with the Cobweb Orchestra Musical Instrument Library, the flute player now has a flute which he is delighted with. Many thanks to all who have made this happen. Now that the weather is getting colder, NCOS would very much welcome any donations of men's hats, gloves and scarves for the asylum seekers and refugees whom they support. So if you can help with this - or if you are a knitter and would like to knit some - please contact NCOS at sayhellotoanne@gmail.com to arrange delivery.

Bavington Presbyterian Church Recipe Book

This is a facsimile copy of the recipe book which the church produced in 1925. Some of the recipes are just like we make today, and others are quite different! Copies are £6 each plus p&p, and they would make great Christmas presents. A History of Great Bavington is also available at £7 per copy plus p&p.

To order, email bavingtonchurch@gmail.com or phone 01830 540350.



Nicola

WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER

During November please pray for:

COP26 in Glasgow

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

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

Victims of natural disasters

Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

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

Health workers, 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 and teams working to deliver the vaccines

Those who have still to receive the vaccine; vaccine delivery in third world countries.

Those whose mental health has suffered over the past year.

The homeless

Your neighbours

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

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details in writing either on a piece of paper or by email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). 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.

Although no-one opted for separate rotas, Stephanie and I have decided that they will work better from the typographical point of view.

Flowers: Flowers for November by Kathleen, December by Fiona. Information for Christmas Decorations next month! Yes, it's that time again.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? If not, now would be a good time to get busy! 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 £340 so far with just nine members. Still waiting to hear if we have reached £15.00 in the last quarter, to get a payout.

Worship:

Please join us when you feel able. Wearing face covering is now voluntary. Continue if you feel you need to. You will still be asked to sanitize your hands on entry.

We now take up the offering within the service.

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

For those who don't feel able to return to church, St George's services will continue to be in YouTube later in the day

Preachers scheduled for November along with those on duty are listed in the table below.

Social: On Friday November 5th our hot dogs and fireworks evening at Cook's Hemmel returns with a bang! Starts at 6.00pm (there'll be a bonfire too!)

Tear Fund Quiz: Saturday 20th November in the Hall at 7.00pm

Sadly we have had to delay our plans to host a concert by Harbour Lights Community Choir of Amble as their social distancing requirements make it difficult to allow room for an audience! However, we hope to include them in the programme for next year, when we hope they will feel able to sit closer together!

Get ready to book your place and order your dinner for our church Christmas meal at Warkworth House in December

There will be a CHURCH MEETING after morning worship on Sunday 21st November. We'll make it as short as possible. There will be a limited agenda.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. November's venue is Warkworth House.

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

Every Thursday the church will be open for Prayer, Refreshments and Fellowship from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We would love to see you. If you would be interested in joining the stewarding Rota (we need two people each week) please let me know.

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 168 likes, with another 6 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there.

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

The website is at www.widdringtonurc.org.uk

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

We are now considering a relaunch - watch this space.

Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham

The Advent Course is on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm, beginning on 23rd November. Details of Week of Prayer arrangements next month.

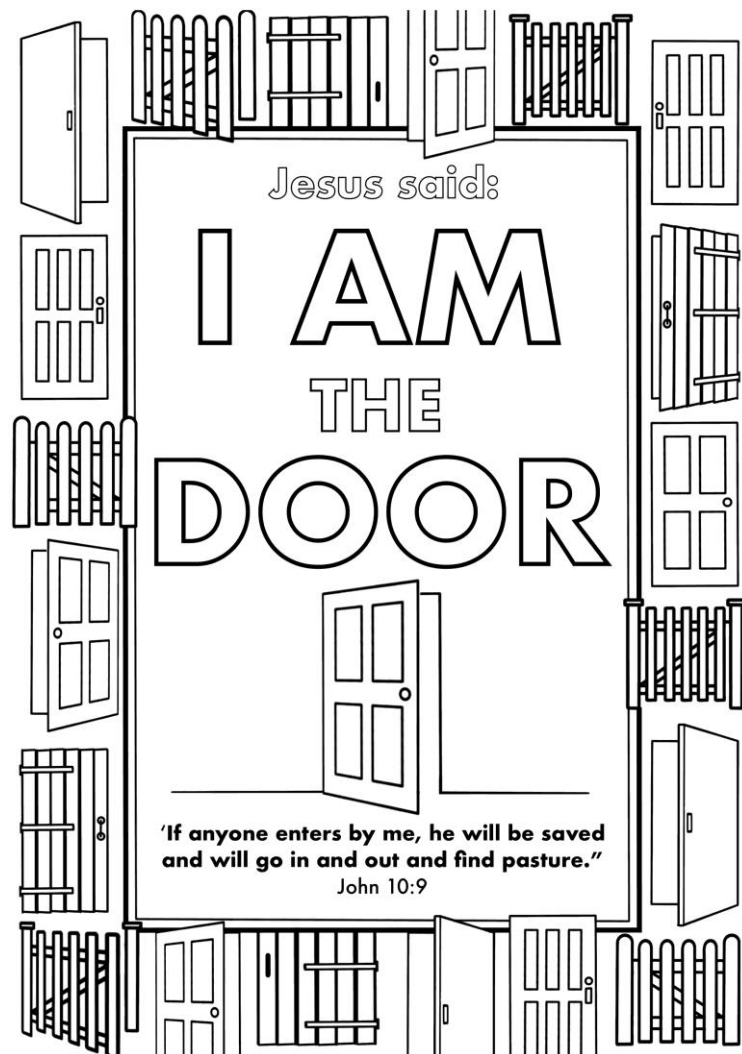
COP26 Pilgrimage

On Wednesday 13th October, Widdrington played host to the European Ecumenical Pilgrimage, making their way to COP26 in Glasgow. Our catering team provided a much appreciated meal of soup, quiche and salad and chocolate cake. One of the pilgrims described to spread to me as 'beautiful'. Breakfast was also provided next morning. The St. George's Band provided entertainment, which was much enjoyed, our guests joining heartily in the choruses of Blaydon Races and Cushie Butterfield though I'm not sure what they made of Wor Geordie's lost his penker! Rev'd Julian Sanders then led worship. After breakfast the Worship Team led a morning devotion before we waved our guests off on their way to Alnmouth. We would like to thank: the catering team and assistants, the band, friends who joined us for the concert, our Methodist friends for their generous contribution to expenses, and Diana for coordinating everything.

Widdrington Rota

Preachers	Vestry	Door & Offering
7th M Tate	D Hogg	F Middlemist R Gordon
14th S Rutherford	L Walden	K Bailey J Hart
21st Rev'd J Sanders	K Bailey	D Hogg M Scott
28th C Dixon	F Middlemist	E Whinham A Grieves

Colour in



NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN SYNOD HELD VIA ZOOM ON 16 OCTOBER 2021

I have asked Stephanie to reproduce elsewhere in this Newsletter, the entire report which came to Synod as Appendix 4 on New Patterns of Ministry. I hope our members will take time to read it and perhaps it could be a discussion at a Church Meeting. I have tried to make this report on Synod proceedings as short as possible.

The Moderator, Revd David Herbert, welcomed everyone and opening worship on the theme "Dimensions of Hope" was conducted by the Principal of Northern College, Rosalind Selby. We heard of comings and goings - of note to us, we heard that Revd David Brown had passed away, that Revd Alan McGougan has been called to SENE, effective from November 2021, that Julian Sanders and Stuart Brock had significant birthdays in August, and Ron Forster this December. David announced that he will retire in two years at the age of 65 and will not take on 3 more years as Synod Moderator, feeling that a younger person and fresh eyes would be best for Northern Synod.

The following Resolution was carried *"Synod resolves to commence formal discussions with Yorkshire Synod to create a joint Safeguarding Committee and instructs Synod Executive Committee to report final arrangements to the March 2022 Synod Meeting."*

Also carried: *"Synod appoints Ian Ring as Rural Consultant for a 3-year term."*

I noted that Synod is supporting grant applications from churches wishing to install WiFi and IT equipment.

David Grosch-Miller presented the report of the Trust. He emphasized they are looking to recruit new directors. The Trust's work includes exercising an oversight of financial, property, legal and employment matters. If anyone is interested, contact the Trust Secretary, Willie Duncan, willieduncan63@gmail.com, or I guess, we in Morpeth may approach David G-M.

The Synod no longer asks for a levy from local churches towards its budget, funding it instead from reserves. Our Commitment for M&M for 2022 is £788,921.

On Pensions, the following resolution was carried *"The Northern Synod recognizes that the extra prudence now required in the valuation of the Ministers' Pension Fund (MPF) has created a substantial deficit in that Fund; and acknowledges that, although the United Reformed Church Trust Ltd (URC Trust) on behalf of the United Reformed Church has an obligation to meet the deficit on the MPF, it does not have the resources to do this on its own and that this challenge requires a URC family solution."*

The Northern Synod notes and affirms the decision of the directors of the United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust Ltd to make the following payments to the URC Trust for the sole purpose of funding the pensions of ministers and Church-Related Community Workers: 2022: £400,000; 2023: £400,000; 2024: £400,000. The Northern Synod also notes and affirms the decision of the United Reformed Church (Northern Province) Trust Ltd to make the following provisional offers to the URC Trust for the sole purpose of funding the pensions of ministers and Church-Related Community Workers, noting that these amounts will only be asked for if subsequent actuarial valuations of the MPF demonstrate that these are necessary: 2025 £400,000; 2026 £400,000; 2027 £250,000; 2028 £250,000; 2029 £250,000; 2030 £250,000. The Northern Synod notes that any of these funds that are ultimately not required for this purpose will be returned."

Amongst the various grants given to local churches, it was noted that Gt Bavington received £2,985 towards professional fees in support of a programme of repairs and maintenance and a bridging loan of £250,000 was made to SENEA to help with an exchange of manses.

We have four students for ministry, amongst whom is Louise Sanders.

There is training planned for Lay Presidency at Communion – Sat 29 January 2022 using Zoom and Sat 26 March 2022 in Newcastle, further details from Ron Forster or Synod Office.

A Retreat at Shepherds Dene is planned for 8-10 March 2022, which is open to everyone.

With great sadness, the Pastoral Committee has received notice on the closures of 4 churches -at Boldon, North Broomhill, St Paul & St John's at South Shields, and St Andrew's at Hebburn. St Mark's at Amble has voted to leave its building as of 31 December 2021 but it remains a worshipping community elsewhere.

There was a lot of discussion in breakout rooms (Zoom terminology) on the five-year strategy "Building capacity and connections 2022 – 2027", following which the following Resolution was carried *"Synod resolves to endorse the five-year strategy 'Building capacity and connections' (2022-2027), and to approve the initial three-year budget of up to £874,553 to be drawn from the Mission Fund as and when required."*

Christine Eddowes thanked churches for continuing to support Commitment for Life and she emphasized that our Commitment should also be to put pressure on MPs, by signing petitions, sending letters, etc.

Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn spoke to her report in Appendix 4, which is fully reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read and pray about it.

All the Synod Meeting papers may be viewed in full on the Northern Synod website.

The next Synod will be held on Saturday, 19 March 2022 at a venue to be decided.

Joyce Calcraft

PATTERNS OF MINISTRY – A WAY AHEAD TO 2025

BACKGROUND

Ministry in the United Reformed Church takes many forms, and we give thanks for the variations in gifts and styles across the denomination. There are stipendiary ministers, self-sustaining ministers, special category ministers, local ministers, CRCW's, chaplains, lay leaders and preachers and others. For the purposes of this paper, we are referring to the deployment of ministers primarily as the stipendiary minister.

The United Reformed Church has a limited number of stipendiary ministers available for deployment across the church, usually based on numbers, so that all areas might be covered in an equitable manner.

All churches contribute to the Ministry and Mission Fund of the Church to support this ministry and the work of the whole Church. As a result, churches can expect to receive a share of ministry. That share of ministry must however be proportional – an equitable share. An equitable share of ministry is calculated by the national Church on the basis of 33% number of churches and 67% number of members. The calculations also include an assumed 10% vacancy rate to encourage the movement of ministers. Currently, the calculations do not take into account things like rural pastorates or mission potential.

An approximation of fair shares (based on a 33% number of churches and 67% number of members) is: 0.1 of a minister for each church and first 5 members and 0.1 of a minister for each additional 22 members. Every church is different, but 0.1 of a minister might look like: 1 meeting per calendar month and 1 morning or afternoon of pastoral outreach work per month, and 1 act of Sunday worship per quarter.

We must also remember that the M&M funds are supporting the wider Church and the pension funds of the Church, not just the stipends of ministers. And, of course, as the membership numbers go down so do the M&M funds. At the national level, these factors are taken into account for each synod, and the number of ministers is determined so that ministry is shared out where it is needed.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NORTHERN SYNOD?

Northern Synod is considered, due to numbers rather than geography, a smaller synod. The returns for 2020 show, the synod has 59 congregations. It is providing ministry (or has accepted a commitment to provide ministry) to around 2100 members.

In its most recent decisions on ministers' deployment, the URC has determined that Northern Synod must reduce its allocation of ministers from our current 15 (2021) to 12 by 2025. This number is not negotiable; it is our fair share of ministry for the synod. The URC will not accept vacancies that are not consistent with the longer-term deployment plan.

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR CHURCHES?

Perhaps best summed up in three words: change, challenge and creativity.

Unfortunately, we find all three difficult to deal with!

Change: There will have to be changes that affect both churches and ministers.

We must remember that if we have too many ministers in one area, it means that another area is going without. We must also remember that we are talking about people, and we have a duty of care for one another.

Challenge: How will we cope with these changes? We have a choice. We can dig our heels in and fight for "our" minister, or we can try to figure out new ways of working. Perhaps the pandemic has given us a boost, in that many churches have had to think differently in the past year. With stipendiary ministry in such short supply, each church needs to ask, what do we want a minister to do? Where would their time and talents be best used for our church? Those questions might be answered as a part of a larger conversation about where we see our church in 5 years' time.

There are however, some issues that we have to figure into our thinking about the future.

1. Twelve stipendiary ministers can be used however the synod wishes. The suggested groupings identified in Appendix 4.1 are presented on the basis that synod deploys ALL available stipendiary ministry to pastorates. (The Moderator, CRCWs, SSM and SCM posts are not included in the 12.)

2. Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Where the synod has accepted responsibility for ministry to an LEP, the church should receive ministry as had it been a UR Church. The synod will have to have conversations about the future of ministry and its sustainability with our ecumenical partners.

3. Ministers in post. Where ministers are currently deployed to a pastorate that is consistent with longer-term deployment, it is expected that the ministry will continue unchanged. Where ministers are deployed to a pastorate that is not consistent with longer-term deployment, it is hoped the minister and churches will work with the synod to place the ministry onto a sustainable footing. It is recognised that this will take some time to attain and will require ministers and their pastorates to accept significant changes. These changes would need to be acceptable to the ministers affected and their own individual circumstances. Ministers planning to retire in the next few years should be encouraged to use their remaining ministry to plan with their churches for a sustainable future. Where churches currently with ministers in post do not have a sustainable post, they will not be able to declare a like for like vacancy when their current minister leaves/retires.

4. Implications for current vacancies. The Synod Moderator can only pursue vacancies that are consistent with deployment in 2025 and beyond. The shape of future pastorates should not be to the detriment of other neighbouring churches. Churches are encouraged to work together to make a sustainable

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Pastorate, if necessary revisiting their pastorate profile. Synod is not in a position to offer synod roles to make up the deployment of a part-time pastorate to full time.

Creativity: Just going on the number of ministers and groupings suggested at the end of this document, it's easy to think the worst. But a little cheer for the fact that we have four students in training for various forms of service! We cannot guarantee where they will serve, but we can hope!

Given the challenges, what can we creatively put into place to help as we look to the future?

Self-Sustaining Ministers (formerly non-stipendiary ministers) or Model 4 ministers: Fully trained and ordained ministers who choose to offer their services for expenses only, usually from the synod and placed within the same synod.

Model 4 ministers are locally trained to serve in a particular church.

Part time ministry: Recent attempts to recruit ministers to pastorates scoped as part time have been unsuccessful, but more and more churches across the URC are developing part time posts. (These do count in deployment figures, based on their scope.)

House for Duty ministry: There are ministers who might like to exchange living arrangements for light church duties. Is your manse sitting empty?

CRCW ministry: Church-Related Community Workers. Maybe what your church needs is not a “traditional” minister, but one trained to help in your outreach work in the community. (CRCWs do not count in deployment figures.)

Special Category Ministry: Do you have a major new project that is different from the “traditional” role of a minister? Each synod is allowed up to 3 SCMs.

Currently, the Warden at Holy Island is our only SCM until 2025. (SCMs do not count in deployment.)

The URC recognises that across the denomination we have problems when we look to the future. They are not sitting idly by, but also trying to think creatively for the future. Our own Synod Clerk, Melanie Campbell, is on a working group that is reviewing the structure and life of the URC on the national level.

Assembly has already created a Digital Ministry post, ensuring the Daily Devotions and Sunday electronic services continue and which will develop more over the coming few years. They have also affirmed the work of digital ministries already in existence such as Churspacious and YourChurch. Northern Synod is also looking at a Digital Ministry SCM, offering streamed services and other resources across the synod.

The Northerly Synods and the URC are looking at ideas of Umbrella Church, where churches may serve as umbrellas for other congregations who have left their buildings, but want to continue in fellowship as URC members.

Pioneer Ministry is another possibility in Northern Synod; currently there are two Pioneer Youth and Children’s Workers, with scope for more. Pioneer ministries are not limited to youth work, but can apply to many other projects.

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Some churches are looking at becoming hybrid churches, which is more than just streaming worship services. The word “hybrid” means to do more than one thing in equal proportion. Hybrid churches seek to engage and interact equally with in-person, online and isolated people through a variety of opportunities and events. Many churches will not have the capability to do this, but there may be many people who can benefit from those who do.

The URC is also talking about a new kind of “interim” ministry, in which ministers would be called to the synod rather than pastorates and then deployed based on need for up to three years.

The Northern Synod Way Forward hoped that groups would form leadership teams that could help each other. Also included in that plan was that synod funds could be used to assist groups paying for services needed. That fund is still in existence and has not been used. The synod could also make facilitators available to help groups set up their team structure.

Of course, we also have the incredible resources of our lay preachers, worship groups, retired ministers, local leaders, elders and members who already offer their gifts and talents to our churches in so many ways!

We recognise however, that we are all getting older and though many want to do all they have done in the past, it just isn’t possible now. The past year and more has taken its toll on many of us and we are tired. We will have to work together to support one another.

REVIEW OF PASTORATES

Asked by the Synod Executive, the Pastoral Committee has reviewed the current pastoral arrangements across the synod and identified the following as possible longer-term pastorates, consistent with the deployment allocation for 2025. This has been done on an equitable basis of 33% churches and 67% members, as the URC deployment plan sets out.

We have set out the reasons and necessity for change and we have offered a plan. We recognise that time moves swiftly and between its writing and implementation by 2025, some church situations will have changed.

This is yet more change, and we know it will be unpopular. Spreading ministry more thinly means more work for the local church and groups will have to think differently about how they function. Synod will try to rise to the challenges with creativity. But now, it’s over to you.

Discuss this with your elders, your church, your group. We want your opinions, your ideas, your creativity. This issue will come to synod in October for an introductory discussion, then take time to think about it, pray about it and work with it.

Joan Grindrod-Helmn
Convenor, Synod Pastoral Committee

Submitted by Joyce Calcraft