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











October 2020

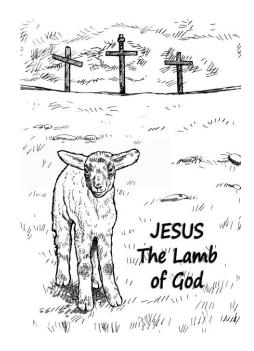
Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

# St George's Diary Dates for October

Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Wed 7th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Service
Wed 14th	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 21st	12.30pm	Midweek Service
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 28th	12.30pm	Midweek Service

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in November 2020. **The deadline is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.** 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,

I have been uplifted by the opening of our church buildings so that we may resume worshipping in these spaces. Not only because it feels better doing things together, but there is something intrinsically special about the buildings we worship in. I find there is a still a sense of something holy, something sacred, about the church where we meet for worship. In quiet moments before a service, or when I pop in on an afternoon to drop something off, I am often caught off guard by a sense of beauty and peace when I come into our buildings. Many have said to me too how much they value being able to come into our churches and to just sit and enjoy the space.

Last week we visited Hexham and, to avoid a rain shower, we ducked into the Abbey and spent some time looking around the church there. There was a lots to discover and some very beautiful things to look at. The stained glass windows – one of the Ascension of Jesus which was particularly striking with the light coming through the top of the window – wooden carvings on the choir pews, and painted screens showing various members of the upper classes dicing with death. One of the side chapels was open, and I took the opportunity to sit, and just enjoy being in this place that had been filled with the prayers of good people for many generations.

Plotinus was a third Century Greek philosopher who suggested that there was a connection between beauty and goodness. For him, the quality of our surroundings is important, not because the beauty of our surroundings is attractive, but that it can also reminds us of virtues like love, trust, kindness etc. Our surroundings are material versions of goodness, so when we really look at them we are reminded of these good things and it serves to reinforce them in our hearts. As I think about the inherent beauty in the places in which we worship I wonder if it also encourages towards goodness.

The psalmist recognises this too in words some 3000 years old.....

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

### Psalm 84

So next time you find yourselves in church looking up at the ceiling, or gazing at the chair in front of you, or just watching the movement of the sun across the carpet - take a look around, and you might be surprised at who else around you might also be looking at these things too! And lets give thanks for these special places in our community, where we may go and feel a sense of God's presence and be reminded of virtues such as love, and kindness, and justice and gratefulness.

With every blessing,

Junan

# I Hope...

That when I stand before my God at the end of my life, I would not have a single bit of talent, skill, love, fight, courage, prayer, heart and soul left, and I can say: 'I used everything you gave me.'

### Ruhi Acktar

Submitted by Joy Wight

T. . 1: ....

### Flower Rota for October

4	Harvest
11	Anne Crombie
18	Margaret Butchart
25	Lynden Jobson
Rep:	Penny Oxley 514612

# Refugees and Asylum Seekers October 2020

# West End Refugee Service

As with so many things at the moment 24 hours in the life of a refugee service can be a long time.

Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup> September) WERS posted an article on Facebook. This began "We opened our drop ins one month ago today on Mondays and Wednesdays, and have so far supported over 100 people face-to face, with sessions becoming busier every week as word gets out..." They then explained how they were working to keep everyone safe. They reported that all their remote support was also continuing where needed including food parcels deliveries, welfare calls, safe hardship payments, befriending etc.

Then yesterday (17<sup>th</sup> September) with the news of the impending local lockdown they put up another post. In it they stressed their determination to continue supporting asylum seekers and refugees alongside all the other great organisations in Newcastle saying "we have all worked hard to create safe ways to support some of the most isolated and disadvantaged in our local communities."

# **Justice and Peace Project**

The Justice and Peace Project building remains closed but the staff and volunteers have been working to ensure that when it is able to reopen it will be able to do so safely. It says "Although the Project is closed physically it continues to provide much-needed support to hundreds of Refugees and Asylum Seekers and their families."

By the time you read this magazine article the situation may have changed again but one thing I'm sure will be the same. The refugees and asylum seekers these organisations are working with will still be in need of help and support. Please remember them.

Margaret Brock

### Free Booklets!

Independent Age is an independent charity set up 150 years ago. I'll let it describe what it does.

"Whatever happens as we get older, we all want to remain independent and live life on our own terms. That's why, as well as offering friendly contact and a strong campaigning voice, Independent Age can provide you and your family with clear, free and impartial advice on the issues that matter: care and support, money and benefits, health and mobility."

I regularly receive emails from Independent Age on all sorts of subjects and they also make available free informative guides which can be useful to older people. I have recently ordered a selection of these which I thought some people might find useful.

The booklets I have picked, from a vast array, are:-

Attendance Allowance

Behind the wheel

Caring for someone

Choosing where to live

Coping with bereavement

Dealing with depression

Getting help at home

Home safety

Home security

How to find the right care home

If you're feeling lonely

Living well with long-term health conditions

Managing anxiety

Paying for your care

Planning for the end of life

Scamwise

Settling into a care home

Staying in control when you're older

I have a number of copies of each. If you would like one/some please let me or your elder know and we will ensure you receive it/them. They are currently being stored in the vestry. If you want to do your own research and order other booklets free then you can go to <a href="https://www.independentage.org">www.independentage.org</a>
If you have any queries then do please talk to me.

Margaret Brock (511897)

### **CANCELLATION OF THE AUTUMN LUNCHTIME CONCERTS**

This was the decision that we really didn't want to have to make but, following the most recent Church Managers' Meeting, we will not be holding our popular Lunchtime Concerts for the remainder of this year. We hope to be back in 2021 and we also hope you will support these concerts which have become such a big Community Event in Morpeth with up to 170 in the audience.

We waited until we had experienced a couple of services at church before making this decision.

The Lunchtime Concerts rely on the warm friendly atmosphere that our supporters have enjoyed in the past. Social distancing unfortunately cannot supply this nor can the need to wear masks which is not only off putting for the audience but also for the artists. In addition we require a large audience to attract and finance the standard of musicians we have become accustomed to enjoying. Whilst we could survive for a short time, we would be seriously dipping into our reserves which we have used in the past to sponsor other charity events and fund raising concerts at church. We have also been able to support young musicians as they set out on their music careers. This is an extremely difficult decision to make but we feel it is the right one. We do not know what further restrictions will be placed upon us in the near future but at least we are trying to be clear regarding the action we are taking. The

they will not do so. We will keep you fully informed of our plans for 2021 in the hope that we will be up and running again at some point in the not too distant future.

artists we had booked for the Autumn are not finding things easy at present but

as yet they have very kindly not charged us any cancellation fees and I suspect

### Gillian and Ken

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity – Simone Weil (early 20<sup>th</sup> Century French philosopher and political activist)

Be sincere. Be brief. Be seated – Franklin D Roosevelt's advice on public speaking (useful to bear in mind at our first 'actual' Church Meeting?)

Submitted by Jared Johnson

# I wish (Pandemic prayer)

I wish
I could cuddle my grandchildren
Sit down next to a stranger
Share a meal with a friend.
But for now
I need to stay safe,
Socially distanced
Separated from others
In order to survive.

Lord, may this pandemic pass,
May we get back to normal
Not ' new normal'.
May we do things again
Without thinking,
Without sanitising,
Without always having to remember
To stay two metres apart,
Without self isolating.



Thank you Lord
For even in this time of 'exile'
From all we know and love
You are the same constant
Source of hope and joy and peace
And your loving hug surrounds me,
Surrounds us all and keeps us
Close to one another in you.

Carol Dixon 2020

### Lockdown

During the lockdown
I had time
To watch a spider
Weaving a web,
Feel the grass
Brushing against
My legs,





See millions of stars and constellations Carpeting the night sky, Listen to bird song, And the gentle Saughing of the breeze.

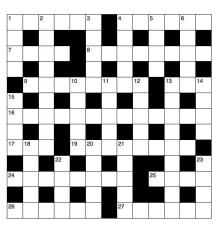
After the lockdown Will we remember To live in the moment. To care for the earth, The environment Around us. And for each other? Will we leave time For the unimportant, The unnecessary, And the silly, And above all Will we always Tell our loved ones How much we love them? (C) Carol Dixon

\*soughing is a Scot's word for sighing-like a soft breath of wind

# Crossword for October Clues Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6) 7 'They reeled and staggered

like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4) **8** See 19 Across **9** It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8) **13** Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to



root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3) **16** 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7) **17** Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

**19 and 8** '— a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8) **24** Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8) **25** Comes between Luke and Acts (4) **26** Empower (Acts 4:29) (6) **27** 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a —!' (John 2:16) (6).

**Down: 1** Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4) **2** The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

**3** He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5) **4** 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5) **5** Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

**6** 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5) 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

**12** Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5) **13** This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

**14** 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4) **15** One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

**18** Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5) **20** Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5) **21** Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5) **22** Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

# Put it this way...

- ~ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ~ A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

The Morpeth calendars for 2021 are now on sale at Staits Photographers for £5 and all profits will be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

St George's Church is featured on the front cover.

These are usually sold at Autumn church events and the Charity Coffee Morning which are not now taking place, so please support this very worthwhile charity and buy one for yourselves, friends and family.



100 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1920 that Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us." Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"

# Wordsearch for October All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

All Hallows Halloween Druid Priests Festival Samhain Bonfires Magic Dark Supernatural

Powers Winter Christians
Prayer Charms Deeper
True Eve Closer Christ
Thanks Loved Death Gone

Solution on page 16

L	Ε	Ε	0	٧	Р	0	K	S	D	Α	R	K
Α	٧	C	Т	Ε	R	0	K	٧	R	Ε	Α	M
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# The language of church-going.....

**HYMN**: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

JUSTICE: When your children have children of their own.

**KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Catholics and Anglicans can recognise besides gyros and baklava. (It means Lord have mercy)

**PEW**: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

# Prayer for the sick...

I was listening to my new curate pray and I realized one of his phrases didn't come out quite right. He said, "...and Lord, we pray for those who are sick of this church."

# Sudoku Solution on page 16

		5				
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4	9				6	1
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		4		5		
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1	3				8	6
6			7	8	4	
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# Telling the time....

The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

### Where?

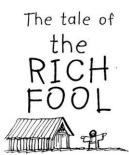
The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered "kindergarten."

### Home...

I just saw a local burglar kicking his own front door in. I asked him what he was doing. He replied, "Working from home."

# **Moses revisited**

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed, "Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"











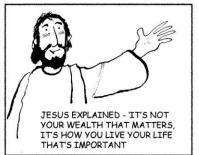












Thank you to all our friends at St George's for your kind thoughts and prayers during Keith's long illness and hospital stay. Also, thank you for the lovely flowers which I have so appreciated. Keith is now recovering and should be home soon. Love to you all,

Morag and Keith Stead

### **Junior Church**

Junior Church have continued to meet up regularly via Zoom with their Methodist Church counterparts and it has been lovely to see their friendships grow. For the 1st time since March, we all met together at Pegswood Park last Sunday and the children had a wonderful time! It was equally lovely for the parents (and grandparents) so have a catch up in person - socially distanced of course! Currently we are going to continue meeting weekly via Zoom until things become more certain regarding meeting up in church. We are hoping to continue our newfound junior church friendships in the future sharing both online and physical meetings. Every cloud!!!

Julie Vermaas



Christmas is only three months away. Now, more than ever people need Angels to keep them safe so why not start knitting early this year.

I will look after them; make sure they are safe to fly, co ordinate bagging, tagging and distribution so please all you knitters get started.

If you have lost your pattern let me know and I will get one to you. They are fun to knit, help pass the time and those who find them really love them. Please join in the great Angel Knit.

Patricia Gatherum Tel: 01670 517699.

### **CHRISTIAN AID**

Covid 19 has unfortunately prevented our churches from doing both their annual door-to-door and street collections for Christian Aid – (normally, one Saturday in September, about 5 of our church members would have taken it in turn to stand and collect at an allocated "pitch" in Morpeth). Christian Aid, however, will still need money to help people. The pandemic will undoubtedly mean even greater numbers of people all around the world will be in desperate situations and will need support. If you are prepared to donate money to Christian Aid, probably the easiest and safest way is to do so online by visiting; *donate.christianaid.org.uk* OR telephone 020 7523 2269 to donate using your Debit Card OR Telephone 020 7523 2226 to pay directly into Christian Aid's Bank Account. If you are a tax payer, please remember to Gift Aid your donation – the charity can then claim an extra 25%

### **Autumn Fair**

We are sorry to report that due to Covid 19 we are unable to hold this years Autumn fair. We have appreciated all your contributions and support over the years and hope and pray that we will be able to call upon your generosity in October 2021. Stay safe.

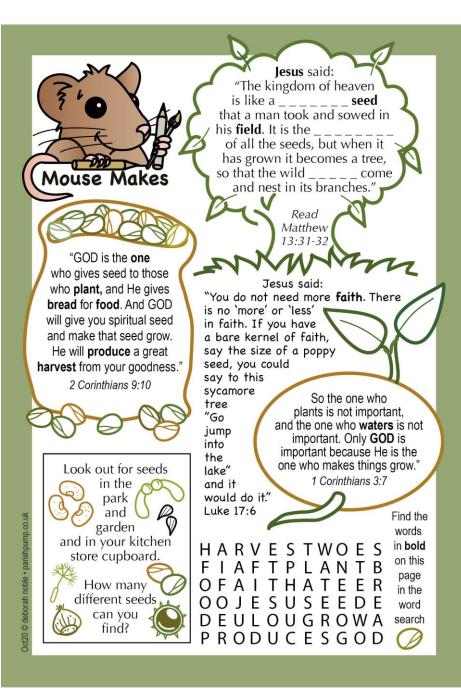
Patricia Gatherum and Lorna Anderson

A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she took her eyes off the book and reached up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his. After a little while of thinking she asked 'Grandpa, did God make you?' He looked at her and said, 'Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago.' She paused for a few seconds and then asked, 'Grandpa, did God make me too?' He replied, 'Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago.' Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, 'God's getting better at it, isn't he?'

We saw this in a small town in Scotland - Wigtown. Obviously the children grow up much quicker there!!!!!



Submitted by Gillian Irvine



### **Answers**

**Crossword: ACROSS**: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN**: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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S	T	S	E	1	R	P	D	R	U		D	A

## Colour In.....



# **News from Great Bavington Church:**

### **Services**

Provided that there are no further restrictions, services will be on the 4th and 18th October at 6.30pm.

Please check on the Facebook

page www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for any changes.

### **Harvest**

We usually give the collection at the Harvest service to the People's Kitchen (https://www.peopleskitchen.co.uk/). With the restrictions on cash handling at the moment due to covid-19, this year it would be much more practicable if people made their own donation directly to the People's Kitchen if they wish to (or to another charity). This also means that the People's Kitchen can claim Gift Aid on donations from individuals, if they are eligible.

# The church is open at weekends

The church is open again on Saturdays and Sundays for walkers and other passers by.

# **Film Night and History Night**

Unfortunately neither of these can take place for the time being, because of covid-19 restrictions.

Unfortunately there's not much news at the moment and of course there is the uncertainty of now the new restrictions in the North East will pan out. I hope all is well with everyone at St George's.

Meanwhile we plough on and hope for the best!

Nicola Bell



# **Widdrington United Reformed Church**

### PRAYING TOGETHER

During October, please pray for:

People in war zones

Victims of wildfires and other 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

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 October and November by Kathleen. Harvest Festival is on October 11th. Decorating will be by Fiona and Kathleen **only.** We will be grateful for gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables, or money specifically for this purpose, but to enable social distancing to be maintained we will do the work.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Perhaps you are considering doing this during the current emergency? Now's your chance 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 £280 so far with just eight members. We had a payout of over £20 last month.

**Social:** Sadly our social programme remains suspended. This means we will have lost all four coffee mornings, at a time when our funds are somewhat squeezed. Please make sure that you 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. New regulations mean that the resumption of social events is further delayed. We had hoped to be able to hold the bonfire party in early November, but this now also looks unlikely.

We are hoping to hold a church meeting after church on Sunday 18th, as we need to present reports, especially accounts, in a proper manner.

Sunday worship restarted on September 6th. 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 you 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, please do.

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 October:

Sunday 4th: Annetta Read

**Sunday 11th**: Harvest with Communion: Rev'd Keith Harbour **Sunday 18th**: Rev'd Julian Sanders (Church meeting after)

Sunday 25th: Worship Team

**Regular events:** 

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday: Coffee Club usually meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

However, the rule of six means we can't contemplate restarting at the moment.

**Wednesdays: Prayer Group:** We continue weekly via Zoom at 7.15pm and will continue to do so until the situation normalises. 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 reopening 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 have invited our Methodist friends to join us for worship until they can meet together at the Community Centre.

There will be a churches together meeting via zoom on Monday 5th October at 7.00pm. We'll let you know what is decided next month.

**FEM**