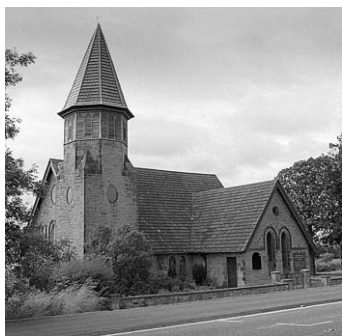


# St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



September  
2020

Website: [stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org](http://stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org)

## A Message from our Minister, Revd Julian Saunders

Dear Friends,

It has been 12 months since I joined the churches here in Morpeth, Widdrington and Gt Bavington, and it has been a very different year than I was anticipating. The effects of the Coronavirus have temporarily halted a lot of the things we hoped to be doing in the church at this time, and it must be said, has interrupted the process of getting to know people properly. As the lockdown eases, it is hoped that even if 'normality' might be a long way off, things might start to happen that mean the process of getting to know people can resume.

I have been impressed with how many of you have managed to embrace the technology and have been able to get involved with some of the online things that have been happening. I hope that this will provide an opportunity to explore more diverse ways of being church in the coming year and allow even more opportunities to get to know each other.

I am also aware that for many this time of lockdown has been difficult. Some of our fellowship have sadly passed away. Others have struggled with relationships and with loneliness. With our churches open once again, I hope that they may be places where people might come and find a quiet space, a time for prayer, and a comforting shoulder to lean on (metaphorically at least!).

This month also sees the anniversary of another important induction, that of the Rev James Anderson to Morpeth who was inducted as minister at Morpeth in 175 years ago. Known as the 'High Priest of Morpeth', the Rev Anderson from his initial induction on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 1845 seems to have made quite an impact on the area. The Anderson Room at the church stands in memory of his lasting impact.

The "English Presbyterian Messenger" at the time reported on his induction and concluded with an editor's note that states:

***"But although absent, no one then present participates more heartily in the sentiments appropriate to that joyful occasion, or more fervently prays for the blessing of Almighty God on the union then formed, or more confidently anticipates the happiest results not only to our own branch of the Church but to the whole household of faith in that quarter, from the zeal, judgement, energy and devotedness by which Mr Anderson is so eminently characterized. Let the people of Morpeth but second their minister, and our hopes will be more than realized."***

Rev Anderson embarked on growing the congregation, overseeing the building of the current church building, and continued to minister in Morpeth for 37 years until he died in 1882. His successor Dr Drysdale said of him that he had “a position of unique and commanding influence, not only in raising this congregation to a state of prosperity it had never previously known, but in reviving the whole Presbyterian interest throughout the country, to which he was a tower of strength by the weight of his character and counsels.”

It's a legacy that is difficult to live up to, but in the coming months I hope we will find opportunities to build upon the strong foundations already laid, and continue to grow deeper in faith and closer in our fellowship together, With every blessing,

*Julian*

“As we return to worshipping together in our church buildings some important regulations need to be followed in order to make this as safe as possible for everybody. When you come into the church building please remember:

**Please only return to church if you feel it is safe for you to do so. Social distancing will be in place and we will be requiring people to maintain a 2m distance**

**You will need to wear a mask, so please bring your own if you have one.**

**You will need to sanitize your hands on entering the building and on leaving.**

**You will be asked to leave your name and contact details for Track and Trace purposes.**

**Those within the same household bubble will be able to sit together, but otherwise you will need to sit in designated seats to ensure spacing.**

**There will be no singing during worship.**

We aim to do everything we can to make our church buildings as safe as possible and look forward to welcoming you back to worshipping with us.”

## **West End Refugee Service**

September 2020

WERS has expressed appreciation of the financial donations they have been receiving. These have enabled them to secure and enhance their support of destitute clients. They have also been able to introduce prepayment cards for hardship clients giving them a chance to budget for themselves. WERS has also been providing toiletries and cleaning products as well as regular food parcels.

*They explain that their clients have “experienced many of the hardships that were already sadly a reality to them, in ever more intense ways. Social isolation, anxiety about the future and their case, inability to work or pursue their studies, financial hardship, food poverty, and a sense of their lives being on hold – all being increasingly present in their lives.”*

They have continued to provide support and food parcels and have also produced activity packs for families with children. The clothing store is still closed, but they can meet need from the stocks in their garage. They are asking for donations of cleaning products, hand sanitisers and elastic for face masks.

Now that lockdown requirements have eased some home visits have been taking place again, safely outside in gardens wherever possible and they have also just restarted some drop in sessions.

Whilst this has been happening, Sean Gladwin, WERS Director since April 2019 left his role in June. He paid tribute to the “*amazing work with an incredibly dedicated small team, who work every day to make a difference to the lives of asylum seekers and refugees.*” Hannah Barnes, an existing member of staff has taken on the role of Acting Director.

### **Justice and Peace Project**

The J&P Project have reported some excellent news that due to a generous grant from the Albert Gubay Foundation they have been able to extend the successful supermarket voucher scheme. Until recently they were able to send digital vouchers to the mobile phones of destitute clients so they could purchase goods to the value of £30 in the relevant supermarket. The recent grant has meant that this has been increased to £35 per month for destitute clients. In addition they can now offer their other clients a £20 voucher each month.

They have also been able to secure the temporary services of an additional project worker to assist their work.

At the time of writing this report there are no definite plans yet for the reopening of their premises.

Please remember that both of these organisations still need our support at a time when we are unable to send clothing and food donations. Please remember them and support them as you are able.

**Margaret Brock**

### **CHRIS & PAT HAVE MOVED**

"Most of our friends at St. George's will by now be aware that Pat and Chris Hills have now moved house. We are no longer in the Loansdean area but instead have moved down to the new(ish) apartments at

**No 2, Admiral Collingwood Court,  
Morpeth, NE61 1SQ (opposite Mill Race).  
Telephone number is the same on 01670 503338 and the  
email is unchanged on [ccsh1@talktalk.net](mailto:ccsh1@talktalk.net).**



We would both like to sincerely Thank You all for the large number of "Oh, You're Moving" cards and a home made cake, and Pat would like to acknowledge and send 'Thank You's to those kind people who sent Birthday Cards and Congratulations on her recently becoming an Octogenarian. We had planned to have an event similar to her 70<sup>th</sup>. But it didn't happen. As you can imagine, it has been a very busy and at times traumatic few months with potential buyers nearly dropping out and then Mr. Covid putting a stop to all the kind offers of help that we had. We still have a number of unopened boxes here though I gather from some we have met that this is quite normal. Thanks Again.

**Pat and Chris H.**

*A THURROCK youngster is celebrating after winning a top prize in BBC Radio 2's 500 words short story competition. Lenny Tucker aged 8 is a Year Three pupil at Arthur Bugler Primary in Stanford-le-Hope and he picked up the silver medal in the five to nine years age group.*

Patrick (Pat) the rabbit was very sad. He was very old, his fur was grey on his paws and around his mouth and his bones were aching. His baby rabbits had all grown up and moved away and had bunnies of their own, his mum and his dad had died many years ago and he missed talking to them, but most of all he missed his lovely wife Pearl, all the time. Pat was also fed up of running from the mean farmer who was always chasing him with his gun, he never dug any holes any more and he only ate the carrots easy to dig up these days.

Today it was raining and grey, the sky was black, and the grass was muddy and wet, and it was really windy and cold so Pat decided to hide in the barn until the rain stopped before he went looking for carrots. As Pat dried off from the rain he drifted to sleep. Pat woke up feeling very warm, he could see the bright sunshine coming through the walls of the barn and he could hear rabbit's chilli chilli chat chatting coming from outside. Pat started to creep outside, his bones felt light and he noticed the fur on his paws was a lovely brown colour like they used to be. Pat's bones didn't ache, and he didn't feel sad, but he didn't know why. Outside he noticed the grass was so green it didn't look real – it almost sparkled. It was so soft it felt like he was walking on green clouds! And there were piles of carrots everywhere – with no mud on them – he wouldn't even have to dig them up or wash them! Then he saw a little way away under a tree, there was a group of about fifty rabbits all whispering and smiling and watching him. Suddenly he saw a beautiful lady rabbit step forward and walk towards him with her arms open and crying. Pat gasped and nearly swallowed his little rabbit tongue! It was Pearl! He ran to her and he kissed her all over her face and he cried, and he said to Pearl 'I have missed you so much my love' and she cuddled him so tight and whispered in his ear. 'I have been waiting a long time for you Pat'.

He then realised he recognised the shapes and voices of the rabbits standing nearby all watching him and smiling – it was his mum and dad. His aunties and his uncles and even his Nan and Grandad! He looked at Pearl dazed, and she smiled, and she said, 'they have been waiting too'. Pat was so happy but so confused as he cried with happiness into Pearl's fur he whispered, 'Pearl I am so happy I feel like I am in Heaven'.

To which Pearl replied with a smile, 'my wonderful, beautiful Pat, you are'.

**Submitted by the Editor**

## Wednesday Lunchtime Concert Update.

We thought it would be useful to update everyone with our plans and intentions for the Autumn Series of monthly concerts. So many people seem to be missing these and if restrictions continue to be eased it may be that we can continue with most of them as long as we observe the government's advice with regard to social distancing and good hygiene guidelines.

Unfortunately there will not be a September concert. We would like to observe how the church will be operating following its opening for services on September 6th. We feel we will be able to observe the good practice and adopt it to our needs. The Northern Sinfonia Musicians booked for that particular concert are also unsure of the requirements that will be made upon them with regard to rehearsals at the Sage so we all felt that a postponement would be the best solution.

The concert planned for 14th October with the Bottle Bank Band is expected to go ahead albeit with a much smaller audience. Their last visit attracted over 140 and as this number will need to be greatly reduced we will ask people to book their seats in advance. There will be further details nearer the time when we will be able to advise what the requirements for attending will be. We suspect that refreshments will not be available but we would invite you to bring your own.

We also look forward to the November and December Concerts taking place once again with smaller audiences and we will update you in future Newsletters and with posted notices.

***Gillian Irvine***

## Tootsies

We are a small group of ladies from St George's who meet to play the recorder under the watchful and very patient eye of our teacher Christine Oakes.

The group first started in 2003 when Christine offered to give her time to teach the recorder as part of the Church's Time and Talent event and money was given to the church. We were given the name Tootsies by Bill Luke – I think he may have given us other names, but this is the one that stuck.

We have progressed over the years as initially some of the group had never played the recorder before nor could even read music and apart from Christine none of us had picked up the recorder since school! We now have quite a repertoire. There have been changes in the group over the years but there are usually 5 and our teacher.

We meet in people's houses about once a month but since lockdown we have had Zoom sessions and 2 garden sessions – socially distanced of course. We have found clothes pegs very handy for keeping our music in one place when we were outside.

Our teacher has never taken any payment for her work so what would have been a fee to her we collect and have donated to St George's and other local charities and continue to do so.

We have an annual Christmas meal in February to which spouses and past Tooters are invited – lets hope we can have our usual meal in 2021.

We are definitely not available for any public performances at any price!

***Sarah Cleverley August 2020***

## **BIBLICAL CRIMES**

### WHO?

- 1) Covered her son's hands and neck in goatskin so that when he served food to his blind father he could pose as his elder brother and steal his inheritance?
- 2) Shaved her husband's hair while he slept to make him weaker?
- 3) Washed his hands of responsibility for an unjust death penalty?
- 4) Sent a husband to die in the forefront of battle so he could marry the widow?
- 5) Fled into the desert to escape ill-treatment by her mistress after having borne a son to her master?
- 6) Enslaved a tribe of foreign immigrants and ordered all their baby boys to be drowned?
- 7) Killed his brother after God refused his offering in favour of his brother's ?
- 8) Reputedly asked for the head of her mother's critic to be served on a plate at her stepfather's birthday celebrations?
- 9) Encouraged a mob to leave their coats with him so that they could more easily stone an innocent man to death?
- 10) Was the powerful Israelite Queen Mother, but a worshipper of Baal, killed by being thrown out of a window by her eunuch servants , then trampled to death by horses and finally eaten by dogs?**

*Answers on page 19      Submitted by Jared Johnson*



Wordsearch for September

The Church gives thanks for angels in September: the 29<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world’s hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.

Thanks Angels Church  
Feast Michael All  
Genesis Messengers God

Sent Intervene Garden  
Eden Lot Gideon

Balaam Mouths Lions  
Daniel Archangel Gabriel  
Mary Mother Teaming  
Revelation danger



Solution on page 19



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Essays...

A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, its plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, its called research."

Off to uni...

Smith: So your son is in college?

How is he making it?

Jones: He isn't. I'm making it and he is spending it.

**Late...** Being the office supervisor, I had to have a word with a new employee who never arrived at work on time. I explained that her tardiness was unacceptable and that other employees had noticed that she was walking in late every day. After listening to my complaints, she agreed that this was a problem and even offered a solution.

"Is there another door I could use?"

A boy was sent by his parents to a school a long distance from home. He had been strictly enjoined to write home regularly and tell them all about himself and his new life. At the end of the first week, his first text arrived: "There are 370 boys here. I wish there were 369."

Sudoku solution on page 19

## St George's Ladies Coffee Club

St George's Ladies Coffee Club have not been able to meet since February. We were due to have a meeting on Tuesday 17th March when Patricia Gatherum was going to talk about her African Adventure. This meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the corona virus pandemic restrictions.



Usually at this time of year we would be putting together the programme for our next year but sadly in the current situation this is not possible. Although St George's Church plans to commence services in September there is no indication when other activities are likely to start again in the building, so we are unable to make any plans for the Ladies Coffee Club.

Although our AGM was cancelled in April coffee club members have agreed to give a donation to church funds and to the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.

I do hope that we are able to meet in the not too distant future, but we will just have to wait and see what the next few months bring.

**Sarah Cleverley Ladies Coffee Club Coordinator**

### St George's Church Flower Rota for September

<b>6</b>	Jean Elliott
<b>13</b>	Penny Oxley
<b>20</b>	
<b>27</b>	Harvest Festival
<b>Rep</b>	Karin Jackson 519180

*This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.*

**Young son to father:** "Dad, what is the middle class?"

**Dad:** "The middle class consists of people who are not poor enough to accept charity and not rich enough to donate anything."

**On dating app:** 'Princess, having had sufficient experience with princes, seeks frog.'



**Field of Hope**

### We are hoping to:

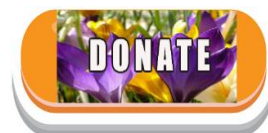
a) Plant crocuses to provide a 'Field of Hope' around the trees in Deuchar Park at the Rotary Glade end which is situated on the main road into Morpeth from the South to recognise all the key workers who have kept our communities going and heroically provided care, services or support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The crocuses will bloom every spring and remind us of the value of our NHS staff, our Carers, Emergency Services, Armed Services, delivery drivers, shop workers, teachers, waste collectors, manufacturers, postal workers, cleaners, vets and engineers. The flowers will remind us of their value and be a yearly visual 'Thank you' for everything they do for us.

b) All other funds raised go to the Teardrop Garden at Wansbeck Hospital which is in need of some tender loving care. This garden is a calm and quiet place where patients, friends, family and staff can sit.

The tranquillity provides an essential environment to help people to cope with anxiety, depression, mental health issues and recovery from major illness.

The garden was opened in 1992 having been designed by the Japanese Ryu team at Northumbria University. The garden was designed to provide an opening to provide to help with those suffering from grief and loss. Spaces have been created behind screens of trees to make the garden appear bigger. These screens provide privacy and solitude if needed.

We cannot do this without your help so why not make a contribution through our [virginmoneygiving.com](https://virginmoneygiving.com) page which has been set up or by clicking on the donate button below or capturing the 'QR Code' on your smartphone.



*Submitted by Rhona Dunn*



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## St James the Least of All

### On how to survive a weekend away with the young people

The Rectory, St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I think your idea for both our Confirmation groups getting together for a weekend away – socially distanced, of course - was excellent and our meeting last week drew most of the plans together. We didn't take any minutes, so let me record the decisions I believe we made.

Since all of us have to sleep far apart at the centre, I am prepared to spend the nights at a local hotel. By chance, I have found that there is a four star one only a few miles away, so I have booked myself in.

As the dining area in the youth centre may be cramped, I am also willing to have dinner each evening at the hotel, thereby creating more space for the rest of you. An additional sadness is that, since breakfast at the hotel is not served until 8am, I will not be able to join you either for your pre-breakfast dip in the nearby stream. It would be grossly unfair to expect you to pack lunch for me, so I will arrange for the hotel to provide me with a picnic hamper for one which I can have while you all enjoy your cheese and pickle sandwiches.

I think it will be an excellent learning experience if you prepare all the teaching sessions yourself, but be assured that I will always be on hand to give the advice of experience. That large armchair near the fire in the common room seems to be the best place for me to sit, so I can keep an eye on proceedings, while I take on the responsibilities for stoking the fire. This reminds me; do make sure that the young people are encouraged to saw enough logs each morning for me to fulfil my obligations.

Naturally, my arthritis will prevent me being able to accompany you on your afternoon hikes, but I will cheerfully park my car wherever you leave the minibus, to provide a second vehicle in case of emergencies. I do not mind in the least waiting all those long hours until you get back; I have already found an attractive tea shop in the village.

I am fully aware that not sleeping or dining at the centre, not being responsible for preparing the teaching, nor being involved on the walks will mean that my contributions will be ever so slightly limited, but these are sacrifices I gladly make in order to give you further experience in your ministerial career.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## RECIPE FOR VIRTUALLY PLAYING TOGETHER

SGURC Orchestra

Skill level	Preparation time	Cooking Time	Temperature
Easy to Difficult	A few hours	2++ days	Rising from cool to very hot

### Ingredients required:

- 1 Willing participants - 1 group of players of various instruments
- 2 Music in parts suitable for volunteers in appropriate keys and clefs
- 3 Computer for communication, distribution and basic sound editing software
- 4 Metronome, recording, listening devices, earphones for use with smartphones or tablets (Players)

### Method:

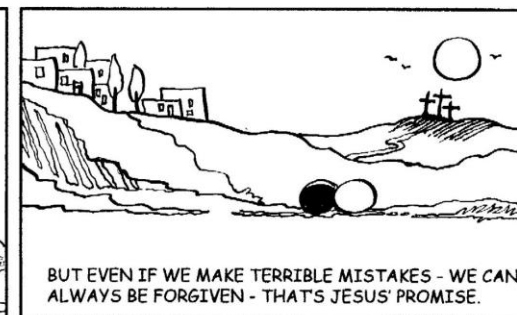
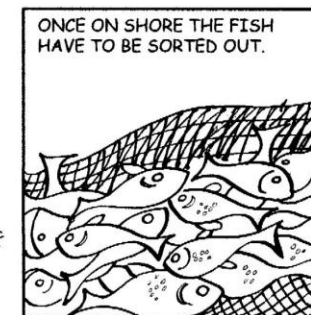
- 1 Download and print off appropriate music part
- 2 Practice, listening to given metronome speed or pre-recorded accompaniment.
- 3 When ready using phone, tablet or recorder then press RECORD. Warning do not get your earphone wires tangled with your instrument. Relax and DON'T PANIC! You can always delete your efforts and try again.....
- 4 Now send your recording through the clouds or in some appropriate manner.
- 5 Now what you need is a naive, patient, long suffering technical editor. Markers will be required for key timing points, to keep us all together. Inadvertent squeaks, scrapes etc. caused by panic will be dealt with. (Remember to dispense regular encouraging refreshments to the editor)
- 6 Listen to the remarkable achievement of the finished result!

Yes, this is what you heard on two occasions at the end of morning worship when SGURC orchestra played.

A number of our regular players were understandably unable to play as they did not have access to the appropriate technology.

Hopefully we will all be able to play together (socially distanced) before too long. The latest reports indicate that there is no greater risk of transmission of the virus from playing woodwind or brass instruments than from regular speech.

*Submitted by Christine Oakes*





## Crossword for September

**Across:** **8** Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)

**9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3) **10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4) **11** Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)

**13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7) **16** Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7) **19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5) **22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

**24 and 2 Down** 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6) **25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

**Down:** **1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6) **2** See 24 Across. **3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

**4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6) **5** The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)

**6** 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6) **7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)

**12** 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3) **14** Second city of Cyprus (8)

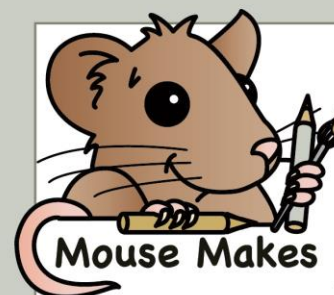
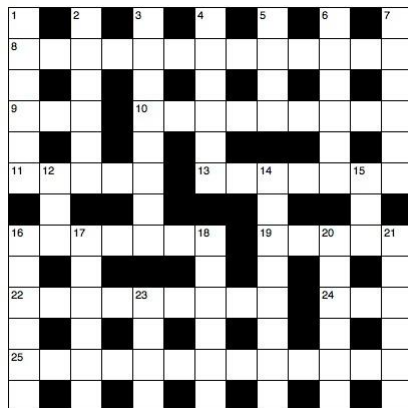
**15** United Nations Association (1,1,1) **16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6) **17** Braved (anag.) (6)

**18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6) **20** 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)

**21** 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6) **23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Why is it that saying: "Have a nice day" sounds friendly, but saying "Enjoy your next 24 hours" sounds threatening?

Decide... Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive — do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"



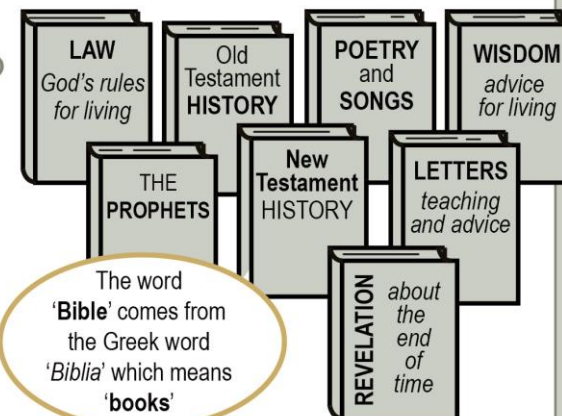
### BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K  
R I O S I L G  
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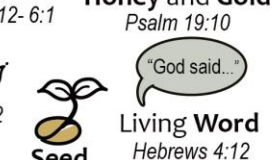
The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '**Biblia**' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



This was allowed (Deut 23:25), but it was the Sabbath.

The Pharisees said to Jesus



Why are your disciples harvesting on the Sabbath? That is against the rules!

But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests\*



\*1 Sam 21:6

And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath\*



\*Num 28:9

Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?\*



\*Hos 6:6

If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



There was a man with a crippled hand.

The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



Is it right to heal someone on the Sabbath?

If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



..and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.



We will kill him.

## SOLUTIONS:

**CROSSWORD: ACROSS:** 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

**DOWN:** 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

## Biblical Crimes:

- |                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Rebekah                       | (Genesis 27)  |
| 2. Delilah                       | (Judges 16)   |
| 3. Pontius Pilate                | (Matthew 27)  |
| 4. David                         | (2 Samuel 11) |
| 5. Hagar                         | (Genesis 16)  |
| 6. Pharaoh                       | (Exodus 1)    |
| 7. Cain                          | (Genesis 4)   |
| 8. Salome (daughter of Herodias) | (Mark 6)      |
| 9. Saul of Tarsus                | (Acts 7)      |
| 10. Jezebel                      | (2 Kings 9)   |

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

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

## Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"



## Great Bavington United Reformed Church

*Here is our news for September:*

### Services

We are delighted that services will start again in September, at 6.30pm on the first and third Sundays of the month, as before. Things will be a bit different because of the covid-19 requirements: everyone needs to wear a mask, and there will be no singing. But it will be very good to be able to meet again, and many thanks to Julian for doing the risk assessment and all the other preparations for re-opening.

Julian will continue to do online services every Sunday at 10.30 as well.

### Opening the church for walkers

The church will be open during the daytime on Saturdays and Sundays, starting on Saturday 5 September.

### Film Night and History Night

Unfortunately Film Night and History Night cannot resume yet because of social distancing requirements.

### Great North Air Ambulance collection of clothes etc

The Great North Air Ambulance van will be collecting from Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall on Wed 9 September, 10.00-10.45am. Clothing, linen etc. can be put in any suitable bag and should be securely tied. Books should be put in separate bags/boxes and the same applies to old mobile phones, CDs, DVDs and printer cartridges; again these bags should be tied. Jewellery, ornaments and bric-a-brac cannot be accepted. The Air Ambulance raises thousands of pounds each year through this, so if you have been having a lock-down clear-out, this is a good outlet for your unwanted things.

Further information on all of the above: [bavingtonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bavingtonchurch@gmail.com) , 01830 540350

## WIDDRINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

### PRAYING TOGETHER

During September, please pray for:

People in war zones

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

School pupils and students returning to or starting study and teachers operating in unusual ways due 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](mailto: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:** We hope to start worshipping in church from September 6th. (Please see below for more details) Flowers for September by Fiona, for October by Kathleen. We hope to be able to hold our harvest service on October 11th. Details of that will be next month.

**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](http://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 £270 so far with just eight members (although we didn't *quite* reach £15.00 for the last quarter's payout. There shouldn't be any problem next quarter!). As they say, every little helps.

**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. As soon as we can operate again we will plan for some Saturday coffee mornings. We will also try to find a way to run the Car Treasure Hunt as soon as possible. We'll let you know. 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. We will work out if we can hold any planned events as soon as it is possible.

We are hoping to hold a church meeting in October, as we need to present reports, especially accounts, in a proper manner. We hope to set a date at our next Elders meeting

We intend to restart Sunday worship on September 6th. Huge thanks are due to Kathleen for undertaking a risk assessment, and getting the church ready to reopen. We have been open for private prayer from 16th August, which has given us some idea how things might work. Please cooperate with the stewards, even if they ask you to sit in a different pew from usual! You will be asked to sanitize your hands, and wear a face mask.

If you don't feel ready to return to church, you will be pleased to know that Julian's services will be recorded live, and streamed later in the day.

More details about worship:

The service on September 6th will be conducted by the worship team. Julian will conduct the worship on September 20th, and Margery Tate has volunteered to lead on 13th. A preacher for 27th has yet to be arranged: if all else fails, the Worship group will lead it. There is a complete plan for October and November. On October 11th, we will have our harvest festival, and celebrate Holy Communion, conducted by Rev'd Keith Harbour.

Do you have any CDs of hymns? As you may know, we are not allowed to sing together in church. We thought that we might use recorded hymns to fill some blanks, so if anybody has any they would be willing to lend, please let me know. Would members of the Door/Offertory rota please confirm whether they are available for stewarding duties yet. Please don't feel obliged to come if you have any doubts.

#### **Regular events:**

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

However, though coffee shops are reopening, large meetings remain inappropriate, and we have not yet planned to recommence.

**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's still feeling lonely, but he's looking forward to us coming back. The **website** is at: [www.widdringtonurc.org.uk](http://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

Our activities together remain suspended.

FEM

### Gift Day

At a previous Annual General Meeting held in 2019, it was proposed and accepted that a Gift Day would not be an annual event, unless extra monies were needed for a specific cause. Because of the effect on the church finances since March, when lockdown came into force.....the loss of income from our Bank Holiday coffee mornings etc. there will be a Gift Day this year (unfortunately the respite didn't last long). The external woodwork on the church needs redecorated and although it's something which would have been held over until next year, the integrity of the woodwork, down to bare wood in places, means that the cost would be greater next year, following another winter. A reasonable quote has been accepted, for thorough work that should last for ten years. Anyone who feels able to donate as part of Gift Day can do so at the Harvest service on the 11th October, or by any means most convenient for them.

Thank you, Kathleen



I would like to thank everyone who kindly contributes to the newsletter, I am sure that all of your articles are enjoyed by everyone and are most welcome. At this present time, when news is thin on the ground, regarding club meetings and events, it would be much appreciated if you could continue to send me any news that you would like to share with the readers. Stephanie.

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in October 2020. **The deadline is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

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](mailto:robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk)



September  
2020

