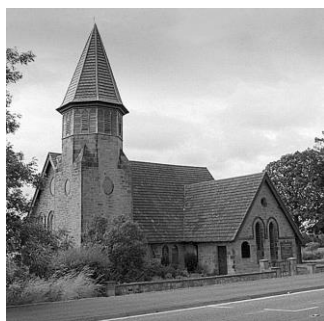


St George's, Widdrington & Great Bavington United Reformed Churches Newsletter



September
2023



Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

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

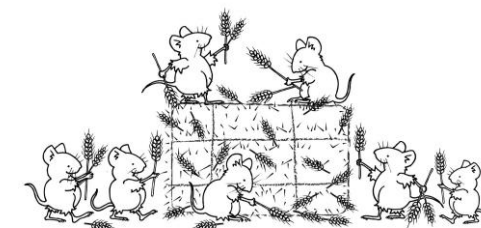
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
Mon 4th	2.00pm	Elders Meeting
Wed 6th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 10th	10.30am 11.45am	Morning Worship CHURCH MEETING
Wed 13th	12.30pm 6.30 – 7.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 20th	12.30pm	WOW Midweek Service
Sun 24th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship for Harvest . Praise led by Orchestra & Uniformed Organisations Parade Evening Service
Wed 27th	12.30pm 6.30 – 7.30pm	WOW Midweek Service CT Prayer Meeting

Steward's Duty Rota July and August 2023

3	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
10	Christine Oaks and Katherine Smailes
17	Gillian Irvine and Karen Howe
24	Gordon Slack and Christine Hawkins

Flower Rotas

- 3** Jean Elliott
- 10** Morag Stead
- 17** See Notice Board
- 24** **HARVEST**
Sue Rutherford
- Rep** 07810144490



What's On at St George's

SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH

10.30 am

MON	Age UK Exercise 9.00-12.00 noon Ronka Gbadebo	07952381160
	Age UK Exercise: 3.00 – 4.00pm As above	
TUES	Morning Badminton 10.00am – 12 noon Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	Rainbows, 5.00pm Liz Kelly 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	Brownies: 6.00pm Susan Fairgrieve . s.fairgrieve21@gmail	
	Guides and Rangers: from 7.00pm Liz Kelly Mobile 07714481089 783434 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	St.George's Coffee Club: 2.00pm (3 rd Tues) Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	Cobweb Orchestra 7.30 – 9.30pm 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 – 12.00 Christine Richardson Country Dance Club: (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	513913
SUN	Orchestra: Norm. 4 th Sunday Andrew Hamnett (not August) Christine Oakes	518485 518608

The next joint newsletter with Widdrington & Bavington URC's covers events in October 2023.

The deadline is Sunday 24th 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

Notes by the Way for September, by Revd Stuart Brock

On my desk is a drink coaster with a Latin tag on it. It is a constant reminder to me of one of my many failings. I thought this phrase was usually attributed to Julius Caesar, but according to the coaster it is, allegedly, the wisdom of one Quintus Horatius Flaccus. No, I had no idea who he was either! That is, until I Googled him. He appears to be otherwise known as the poet Horace. His dictum was "Carpe Diem" – Seize the Day. It is an encouragement not to waste time, dilly dally or procrastinate when important decisions are being made.

It isn't just the ancient philosophers and academics who saw the need to seize the moment. It is said that Winston Churchill had a tray on his desk of war time papers on which was written "for action this day" – an instant reminder that there was no time to waste in pursuing victory in the war.

I must admit that I am very bad at accepting this dictum for myself. Presented with a conundrum, I often take way too long to make up my mind how and whether I am going to tackle it.

Procrastination is my middle name. I will examine the issue to its ninth degree and put off making a decision as long as possible in case there is any fresh information which may alter my response.

Delaying decisions can be useful. Too many decisions in public life are made on the hoof without seeing the possible consequences just because people want to show they have done something. But sometimes, not making a decision is actually making a decision not to act! In my own defence I have to say that normally once I have made a decision I become doggedly determined to run with it.

We all have significant decisions to make in life from choices of school for our kids, college for our teenagers, who becomes our husband/wife/partner, whether to change jobs, to whether to stay with the church even though our faith is sometimes shaken by events.

The most critical decision that we can make is whether to engage in a personal relationship with God who sends the Spirit to guide us in every aspect of our living. The decision to welcome the Spirit into our lives is one which will change them permanently. It is not a decision to be made lightly but it should be a fulfilling and joyful one. So maybe now is the time to Carpe Diem: seize the moment.

Refugees September 2023

WERS

"How did people feel during the pandemic? Not doing anything, not meeting anyone, not seeing your loved ones. For us, every day is like a day in lockdown. We are stuck."

These are the words of Sadia, one of the refugees who is part of WERS. They are very poignant words. We may think of refugees having endured traumatic journeys to get to Britain. We may think about the difficulties they have in a strange country with different languages, different customs and foods. We may think of their anxieties about their future. But, these words from Sadia bring home just a fraction of what it must feel like to be in limbo in a foreign land – waiting and waiting and not knowing, not being able to plan. We can all recall how we felt during lockdown. Most of us struggled with the restrictions imposed. Perhaps remembering this is a way for us to imagine in a small way what it is like to be a refugee, cut off from our home, isolated, frightened and then rejected.

Justice and Peace project

The J&P Project regularly provides details of the practical support it provides. Total Number of current clients: (The number of clients who have received our support once or multiple times in the last 3 months) 535. This is 480 Green Register Clients (those with some government support while claiming asylum): 55 White Register Clients (destitute clients whose claim was refused and government support withdrawn):
Vouchers given to 46 clients (at £40 each) £ 1840
Gift Card Given for refugee week to 26 clients (at £5 each) £130
Client footfall to the centre in July: 325, which comprised 292 green card & 33 white card.
Food bag beneficiaries in July: 558, 37 of whom were white card
New clients registered in July: 33 Green card
Clients & children supported by the clothing bank: Estimated at 85
1302 Food bags at £7 a bag with a value of £ 9,114.

J&P "With inflation figures continuing to be high and food inflation on items like bread, cereal and chocolate reported at 18.3% in July, everyone is feeling the pinch and we are aware that contributions to the Justice and Peace Project are under pressure too. However, we are keen to ensure those who are worst off in our community are not forgotten at this challenging time."

We continue to rely heavily on your generosity both for donations of food and toiletries and for financial donations, which allow us to purchase items that we need for our clients."

Your prayers for the work of these two organisations are as ever appreciated and any contributions, (financial, food, goods) are always welcomed by them.

Margaret Brock



Unfortunately the Teatime Talks will cease for the foreseeable future.
Many thanks and well done to Christine and all who contributed to it.

St. George's Knitter natter Group

Our new term begins on Wednesday 6th September 2-4pm
We are having a craft session on 20th September making pictures, any one who would like to join us please let me know so that we can provide enough materials for everyone.
Hope you all enjoyed your summer break.
Joan Cooper 01670 515682.



A Message from Revd Louise Sanders

I would like to thank all those who travelled to St Andrews's, Monkseaton to help me celebrate my Ordination and Induction. It was such a special occasion and it was wonderful to be able to share with so many friends from St. George's. Throughout my four years of training I have felt the love and prayers of the church, not only for myself but for the whole family.
Thank you to each and every one of you, and also for the many cards and gifts I received, not only for my Ordination but also for my Birthday – I have felt truly blessed.

Update on the Beehouse

You may have heard people speak about the "Beehouse" as this is a project we have been supporting since the beginning of the summer. It is actually the "Beehouse Love Orphanage" which is in Rivne, Ukraine.

The orphanage was founded 25 years ago and has around 25 teenagers in their care.

They contacted us through the work being done with the Ukrainian Coffee Mornings, because they were facing the ongoing crisis in Ukraine where it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover the running costs of food and energy for the home.

We agreed that we would try to find a number of people who would be willing to sponsor this project so that regular monthly payments could be made to help cover the costs. So far we have 14 people who have agreed to be sponsors and we are able to send monthly payments of around £165 to the orphanage. The response has been better than I could have imagined, and the generosity of people has been a fantastic witness to the love of Christ among us.

Alongside this a special Coffee Morning was held on the 5th August where an additional £900 was raised which has been sent across to the Beehouse.

We have received a few videos from the orphanage which we have now shared during some of our services, and are in communication with the orphanage through our link person Tatiana Arendarchuk. She messaged to say:

"The Bee House got the money from you and they are very happy and say a big thank you to all those kind people who support them. And a huge thank you from me personally to you for being so kind and supportive."

Thank you from me to everyone who have been so generous in supporting them at this time.

Julian



Our coffee morning in aid of the Beehouse Orphanage

On Saturday the 5th August we held our coffee morning in aid of the Beehouse Orphanage in Rivne, Ukraine. We had a raffle with fifteen bee related prizes. It's amazing how many bee-related items there are in the shops! We also raffled a beautiful basket of flowers - with a bee on the basket of course! Many of our ladies had been knitting and crocheting small and large bees which were used

to decorate the church and were then sold to add to our grand total.

Our Ukrainian friends love baking and produced their famous honey cake, apple cake and cheesecake which quickly sold alongside all the baked goodies supplied by our members. Tea, coffee and scones went down well on this rather wet and windy morning and everyone enjoyed meeting up with friends for a chat.

The total raised was approximately £900 and we thank you all for your generous donations. We have already had messages of thanks from the young people in the orphanage and from Tatiana Arendarchuk, our contact in Rivne.

Morag Stead

St George's United Reformed Church, **Morpeth**

Saturday 14th October
10.00 am to Noon

CHARITY CHRISTMAS
CARD SALE &
COFFEE MORNING

With home-baked fruit & cheese scones

Supporting numerous charities including
Age Concern, British Heart Foundation,
Barnardo's, Guide Dogs for the Blind,
Christian Aid, Save the Children,
RNLI, Young Lives Versus Cancer.

Entry Free Lift access

**COME AND SUPPORT SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE
CHARITIES**

During one of Julian's WOW services, he asked us to reflect on the theme of wisdom using examples from the Book of Proverbs and other sources. He invited us to join in creating Wisdom acrostics and reminded us that the Psalmists used this technique.

Tate

Wisdom Acrostics WOW 16.8.23

Worthy
Is our God
Sing His praises daily.
Over all the earth
Magnify God's name

.....

Wait
In
Silence and
Devote
Our
Minds to the service of the Lord

.....

We will praise our God for His wisdom
In Him we will gain wisdom
Sing to His glory
Do His will
Offer Him praise
Meet together to gain His wisdom

.....

Wisdom is a truth
Is praying of good news
Searching for words
Doing the right thing
Open.....
M.....
(unfinished)

.....

Margery

Wait on God
In His time
Shall all be.
Depend
On His
Mighty power.

.....

We trust in His word
In time of trouble
Step out in faith
Day by day
On Him we lean
Mighty is His name

I wondered whether anybody had heard this story of greed?

Two men were hunting for gold in an area occupied by local tribes people. They decided to take some pieces of paper and pretend that these were government deeds which stated that the land now belonged to the two men and the local people would have to move away. They entered the village and were immediately surrounded by the inhabitants who listened to the two men telling them they had leave. Their chief remained for a while in his own dwelling, then came out wearing his full chieftain outfit. He listened very carefully to the two men. He took the pieces of paper and looked at them. Then he spoke. "I say, old chaps, I studied deeds when I was at Cambridge and these do not look like anything I saw there. These are rubbish!"
Needless to say, the two men were chased out of the district. Whether they ever tried it again is not known!!

Submitted by Janet

Brown

As Party Conference season gets underway:

We pay a tremendous crime bill each year, but we do get a lot of crime for our money.
What this country needs is fewer people who know what this country needs

Thank you:



work.

Writing on behalf of the trustees and myself, we would like to express our delight and sincere thanks to the members of St George's United Reformed Church for the most generous donation of £700, gratefully received for our organisation Contact (Morpeth Mental Health Group). Please pass on our sincere thanks to all and be assured that we remain, as ever, extremely appreciative of the support shown and interest you continue to take in our

Yours sincerely, Paul Harrison (Fundraiser)



Thank you for your donation to the Food Bank of £700 and your continuing support. Please convey our thanks to all your church members.

Your generous contribution is very much appreciated during this time when many in our community have no alternative but to turn to the food bank for support. The incredible generosity extended by individuals and organisation such as yourselves enables us to continue to keep pace with the increased demands. In the previous 5 years we have been able to issue food to the value of £814,866 and we remain absolutely and totally committed to relieving food poverty. Today our doors remain open to those who have nowhere else to turn and it will be the same tomorrow and thereafter until the day food poverty hopefully becomes some distant memory. Rest assured that your donation will be used to ensure that we can still continue to offer our service, as long as demand arises.

Yours sincerely, Revd John Rowley (Treasurer)



I write to thank the Church for their recent donation of £700 to Barnabas Safe & Sound, as a contribution to our work with young people in Morpeth, and the wider Northumberland community. We will continue to keep you up to date with our work, and I am very much looking forward to attending the Church's Cuppa Club in November this year.

Regards Gill Monaghan (Finance & Communications

Lead)

Morpeth is more than just a memory

For those of you who know my dad, Ted Le Grice I thought I should post an update. After struggling in his house in Rectory Park he has moved down to a home in Romsey down south, near to where his tallest son Robert lives. He's been in and out of hospital recently with one thing or another, but is being well looked after, and can still be found bending the rules at Scrabble and Boggle!! He's a bit scatty nowadays, but I know he misses Morpeth and when he loses track of everything that has happened he still asks when he'll get back there.

I'm starting to wonder the same thing. We were very lucky to be born and brought up in Morpeth: the woods and streams we played in; friends from school; the sense of history; the hills and the beaches and castles of Northumberland. And with dad bussed out, I hope Morpeth will be more than a memory. When our mum Jill died I went to a service at her old church in Hampton Hill in London – also a St. George's URC – and thought no one would still be there who remembered her. But quite a few folk there knew Jill and my gran well, and pointed out the tapestry hanging on the wall that gran had made some 40 or 50 years ago! The warm welcome was fantastic. And it is a welcome we've had every single time we have come to St. George's Church in Morpeth where I hope the memory of my mum and dad – Ted and Jill - will live on for a good while yet. Morpeth is still home, and I hope to see it soon.

Best wishes to you all **Andrew**

UKRAINIAN FAMILIES IN MORPETH & DISTRICT

We continue to hold Coffee Mornings in our church for the Ukrainian families who are newly arrived in the area, and their hosts, providing an opportunity to support and welcome them to our community. These are being held every Friday morning from 10.00am until 12 noon until further notice. This is providing a very successful hub for families to get together supported by our community.

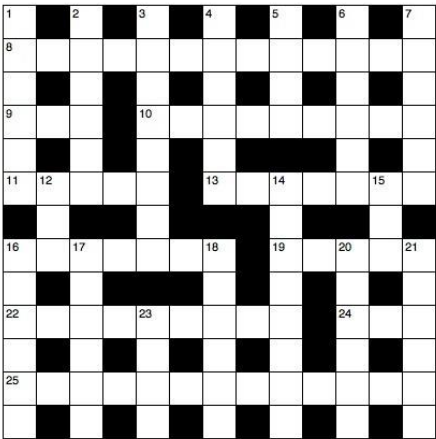
Please come along and support this initiative.

Here's a fool proof way to tell right from wrong: If the thought 'could I get caught?' runs through your mind, it's wrong.

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). *Solution on page 21*



Going to college... Lecturing is transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.

When I was

young, I was poor. But after several years of hard work, I am no longer young.

Wordsearch for September

For some reason, the Church gives thanks for angels in September. The 29th 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 21

Rota for After-Service Refreshments

We are at present, having difficulty in getting volunteers to serve after-service refreshments. There is a rota in the vestibule so if you could sign up to this very sociable activity it would be very much appreciated. If you haven’t volunteered before and feel a bit concerned as to what this entails, please feel free to ask anyone on the list, Elders or Managers and they will be more than happy to provide you with all the information you will need. It is a very rewarding service which enables church members to socialise after Morning Worship

St George's United Reformed Church,
Morpeth

Friday 27th Oct. at 7.30 pm

Concert by
WERCA'S FOLK

**Performing a wide range of Folk and Contemporary
Songs**



Tickets £6 from Morpeth Chantry
or at the door on the night.
Accompanied Children Admitted Free

Bookings may be made by ringing 01670 515870

**Tea, Coffee and biscuits available for a small donation at
interval.**

Sudoku for September. Solution on page 21

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

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In common... I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre. But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain cholesterol."

Two professors were sitting chatting on a veranda overlooking the sea, watching the sun set. The history professor asked the psychology professor, "Have you read Marx?" To which the professor of psychology replied, "Yes, and I think it's these pesky wicker chairs." More Notice Board Bloopers... ~

Women's Luncheon: If each member can please bring a sandwich, Polly Phillips will give out the medication.

~ Congratulations to Tim and Rhonda on the birth of their daughter October 12 thru 17.

~ Hymn no. 135: 'I Love Thee My Ford' ~ Helpers are needed!

Please sign up on the information sheep.

~The District Superintendent will be meeting with the church board.

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St George's Church Coffee Club

Tuesday 19th September at 2pm in the Church Hall.

Our speakers are Kath and Harry Gilbert who will be giving an audio-visual presentation entitled **"A Shoe String Called Chile"**



This is our first meeting after the summer break.

All our welcome to our meetings.

There is a small charge of £3 which includes tea or coffee and a biscuit.

For further information contact **Sarah Cleverley – 515257** or come along to the meeting

ST GEORGE'S AFTERNOON BOWLS CLUB

The 2023-24 Season begins on 6th September

St George's Carpet Bowls Club is always looking for new members.

We enjoy friendly afternoons playing carpet bowls on Wednesday afternoons in the Church Hall from September until April, commencing at 2pm

Don't worry if you have never played before: instruction will be given.

If you are interested, please contact **Andy Cleverley on 01670 515257** or come and join us on Wednesday 6 September.



Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a human being needs ... just five minutes more.

People say 60 is the new 40. The policeman who just pulled me over didn't agree.



Morpeth Cobweb Orchestra News

The Morpeth branch of Cobweb Orchestra meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in St George's sanctuary during term times.

This term has seen a change with Robin Forbes taking over the role of our Morpeth group conductor after Laura Reavley our previous conductor was unable to carry on due to family commitments.

We are very fortunate that Robin was willing and able to take over this role. Robin was head of music at KEVI school in Morpeth until his recent retirement. Cobwebs is an open access Community Orchestra with groups over the north of England from York to Cumbria and Northumberland.

Many of St. George's Church Orchestra players have met and become friends because of playing with the Cobweb Orchestra. They also have supported us in our socials and the ceilidh band.

For more information about The Cobweb Orchestra groups and events see the website or speak to Christine Oakes, Shirley Forster or Penny Oxley.

cobweborchestra.org.uk

More players always welcome! Christine Oakes

Church Notice Board Bloomers...

~ worm welcome to all who have come today.

~ Sermon Outline:

1. Delineate your fear
2. Disown your fear
3. Displace your rear

~ Next Friday we will be serving hot gods for lunch.

~ If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a cheque and drip in the collection basket.

~ Don't miss our evening of boweling at Lincoln Country Club!

~ If you choose to heave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.

~ We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the rector.

- ~ Sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be water baptised on the table in the foyer.
- ~ Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight.



Coronation Chaos in the Church Hall By Joann Evans

Church Social: Saturday 2nd December at 7pm

Venue: Church Hall

Supper: Mince pies and Mulled wine

Tickets available from Christine Oakes £8



If there is anyone interested in being on stage, contact me by email or mobile 07518916939, thanks, **Joann**

St George's Church Morpeth
Country Dance Club
 Saturdays 7.30-9.30
June 10, July 8, Sept 9

BUTTER THOSE PEAS *Strip that willow*



You don't need a partner. You don't need to know how to dance, Dances are explained and there is plenty time for a rest and a chat.

£2.00 for St George's Church Morpeth. Bring your own refreshments

Info from Shirley Forster 07749525269 shirlsgurc@gmail.com

+ see us in action on facebook 'Morpeth Country Dance Club'



Come back to church!

To encourage people to attend church, how about if we offered:

Beds – for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream – for those who find our church too hot.

Cushions – for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids – for those who find the minister speaks too softly.

Cotton wool – for those who find the minister speaks too loudly.

Score cards – for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.

Ready-meals – for anyone who can't come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.

Some flowers – for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms – for all those who have never seen the church without them.

See you Sunday!



Mrs Todger became a Living Artwork –
"Woman who saw a snake"



"Er... vicar – does the church have a
position on the donation of GM
vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

When Autumn Comes

Should we be sad when autumn comes and winter looms ahead?

Is it so bad that days grow short and verdant leaves grow red?

We'll miss the sun and long, hot days; we'll miss the sea and sand.

But soon will come the starry nights and wintry landscapes grand!

Perhaps it's best that nature sleeps and things no longer grow.

To get a rest from vibrant weeds and grass we need not mow.

So celebrate the equinox, the autumn season's here!

It is a date, to mark, with joy the turning of the year.

By Nigel Beeton



Some observations on everyday life:

To me, old age is always 15 years older than whatever I am. – *Anon*

We have relatively few illiterates in the country, but millions of people who can't read the road signs. – *Anon*

Not only are the sins of the fathers visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers. – *Anon*

If I understand what the economists are saying, the situation is hopeless – but improving. – *Anon*

To entertain some people, all you have to do is sit and listen. – *Anon*

It is surprising how many people unselfishly will neglect their own work, in order to tell you how to run your affairs. – *Anon*

Folk singer: a person who sings through his nose by ear. – *Anon*

Compassion: when someone *could* tell you all about their recent operation, but doesn't. – *Anon*

A chrysanthemum by any other name would be... much easier to spell!

Puzzle Solutions:

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

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

23rd September. When the sun goes edgewise, and daytime equals night.

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

Bloopers in the church notice sheets – those moments when the message did not come out quite right!

~ The young curate had been fervent in her recent prayers for the families of the congregation. 'Let us each continue to pray at home, for our unloved saved ones.'

~ Please welcome our new minister, Mr James. He was widely known in his last church as a caring man, who just loved hurting people.

~ Free this evening? Come out and join us for a time of prayer and sinning!

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington

Services

Sunday 3 September, 6.30pm

Sunday 17 September, 6.30pm

History Night

History Night will be on Tuesday 26 September at 7.00pm. The current topics of research are the schools which have been here at Great Bavington over the years. The first one was set up in the 1790s, and the last one closed in 1947.

Other events

Please see the church's Facebook

page www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC for updates, or ring 01830 540350.

Looking ahead to October:

The service on Sunday 1 October will be a Communion service, at Great Bavington (6.30pm)

On Sunday 15 October, it will be a joint Harvest service at St Aidan's Thockrington, at 6.30pm and The Band from St George's will provide the music.

The church is open

The church is open every day for visitors.

Nicola Bell

Widdrington United Reformed Church

PRAYING TOGETHER

If you would like to add any topics to next month's prayers, please let me know.

During September please pray for:

All war zones;

Refugees

The people of Afghanistan, especially women.

Those suffering religious or ethnic persecution

Victims of natural disasters

Victims of crime

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering still from Covid19 throughout the world.

Health workers and workers in essential industries and services

Medical researchers, especially those working on COVID 19 vaccines

Vaccine delivery in third world countries.

The sick, both with physical and mental problems, and the recently bereaved

Those in financial difficulties, and fuel poverty

The homeless

Students beginning the new academic year, especially those starting school,

going to a new school or moving into further or higher education. Prayer

especially for those who are leaving home.

Hay and corn harvests

"Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,

God's breath in man, returning to his birth,

The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,

The Christian plummet, sounding heav'n and earth" (George Herbert)

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by

email to elliemist@gmail.com and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the second last Sunday of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

Flowers: Flowers for September by Fiona, and October by Kathleen. Donations of cash or garden flowers would be welcome. Information about Harvest flowers next month.

Easy Fund Raising (Easy?) Do you shop online? Have you joined Easy Fund Raising yet? The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at easyfundraising.org.uk and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. This can range from a penny for a Kindle 99p short to several pounds for a major purchase. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me, as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £400 so far with just nine members. We get a payout each quarter provided at least £15.00 has been raised.

Fund raising: £40 from the Treasure Hunt, and £85 from Coffee Club in the hall. News of the August Bank Holiday Coffee Morning next month.

Worship:

We feel we are 'back to normal'! Please feel free to wear a mask - or not - as you wish. Hand sanitisers continue to be available.

You are invited to join us for coffee/tea after the service.

Preachers for July and August, along with duty rotas are in the table below.

Social:

The Treasure Hunt was a great success. However, we are sorry about cancelling the Seaside Supper: we were taken aback by the menu prices at our chosen venue, and hadn't time to arrange for somewhere else.

September's event is a film afternoon on September 9th. It is in the hall, which now has blackout curtains, at 2.00pm. I believe there will be popcorn.

Donations for hall expenses welcome.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at various

coffee shops around the area. In September we are visiting The Hub at Alnwick.
1st Wednesday: Prayer Group: We gather at Cook's Hemmel, Causey Park at 7.00pm. You are welcome to join us, or tell us any of your concerns for prayer.

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 186 likes, with another 8 people 'following'! Any information we have about service arrangements and social events will be published there.

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

Sean now has 24 (+2 following!) page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him!

The **website** is at: www.widdringtonurc.org.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 been invited to take part in a Christmas Carol event at Holy Trinity. This will involve creating a small display on the theme of any Christmas Carol: we would like to select a less obvious one, and I am thinking about the Birds Carol 'From out of a wood did a cuckoo fly' (though I'm not sure what to do!) If anybody is interested in helping, especially if you have a good idea, please speak to an Elder.

FEM

We are still collecting things!

*Medicine blister packs for Cancer Research

*Green plastic milk bottle tops to make wheelchairs

*Basic toiletries for the Ukraine appeal

*And don't forget the hamper for the food bank!

*Crisp packets no longer required for the time being.

September Rotas

Sunday	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
3rd	Margery Tate	Fiona Middlemist	Diana Hogg Margaret Scott
10th	Worship Group	Diana Hogg	Audrey Grieves Kathleen Bailey

17th	Rev'd Julian Sanders	Kathleen Bailey	Fiona Middlemist Ruth Gordon
24th	Sue Rutherford	Fiona Middlemist	Kathleen Bailey Elizabeth Barber