

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



September
2022

Website: stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org

Worship at St George's United Reformed Church for September

Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 7th	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesdays (Doors open at noon)
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 14th	12.30am	Worship on Wednesdays
Sat 17th	7.30pm	Country Dance Club
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 21st	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesdays
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wed 28th	12.30pm	Worship on Wednesdays

Steward's Duty Rota

Sunday 4 th September	Madeline and Sarah Cleverley
Sunday 11 th September	Christine Oakes and Katherine Smailes
Sunday 18 th September	Joan Cooper and Karen Howe
Sunday 25 th September	Helen Muckle and John Muckle

Flower Rota

4 th	Jean Elliott
11 th	See Notice Board
18 th	See Notice Board
25th	<u>Harvest</u>
Reps	Sue Rutherford 0781014493 Margaret Finnie 514186



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

The deadline is Sunday 18th September.

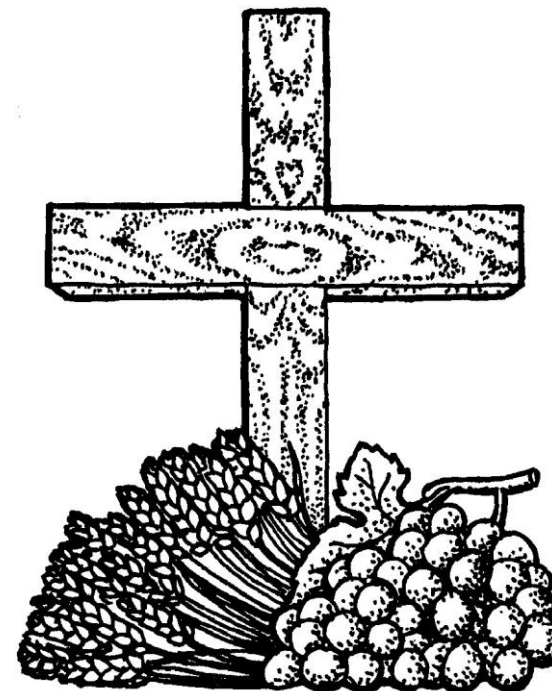
Please do not wait for the deadline if you already have articles ready to be included. Please contact Stephanie. E-mail: robson-robson@hotmail.co.uk

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 783434 Mobile 07714481089 liz.kelly@jcpce.com	
	Ladies Coffee Club: 2.00pm (3 rd Tues) nb: new start time Contact: Sarah Cleverley	515257
	Cobweb Orchestra 7.30 – 9.30pm In the Sanctuary Contact: Christine Oakes 518608 or Penny Oxley 514612	
WED	Morning Badminton: 9.30am Sarah Cleverley	515257
	Knitter, Natter Crafts & Chatter 2.00 – 4.00pm Joan Cooper	515682
	Afternoon Bowls 2.00pm Andrew Cleverley	515257
	Zumba: 6.00pm High Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com	
THURS	Morning Badminton: 10.00-12.00 Allen Oakes allen@oakesa.co.uk	
	Zumba: 5.45pm. Low Intensity with Lisa O on 07507 179 692 or email zumbawithlisao@hotmail.com	
SAT	Table Tennis: 10.00 – 12.00 Christine Richardson Country Dance Club: (Varies from month to month) Contact: Shirley Forster	513913
SUN	Orchestra: Norm. 4 th Sunday Andrew Hamnett 518485 (not August) Christine Oakes 518608	



Notes by the Way by Stuart Brock

Julian very kindly invited me to write something for this month's magazine as my personal reflection on what is happening in church and around the world.

So I have been thinking about the Summer: and what a Summer it has been! I hope you had a great time if you managed to get away. This wasn't easy, what with the queues of people waiting at airport check-in desks or the long traffic jams at the ferry ports with families trying to get away to Europe. And if you stayed at home, I hope you managed some rest and refreshment.

For me, the most significant event of this Summer has been the great heat wave in mid-July with temperatures reaching, at 40.3C, their highest in England since records began. We even sweltered here in the North East, where anything above a summer temperature of 21C is normally worthy of mention! In our household we struggled to decide which was the better option - to open all windows and doors to let the heat out or to close them all and stop the heat coming in! In the end, neither worked and we had to endure whatever the weather gave us. I am now writing this in early August and another, less severe (according to the meteorological forecasters) heat wave is beginning.

Climate scientists tell us that these are just the early signs of what will become commonplace as the world warms up owing, in large part, to the effects of the use of fossil fuels to power much of our lives since the Industrial Revolution. We are living in a time of crisis where the impacts of human activity could be such as to, eventually, make much of the planet inhospitable. What's more, the episodes of extreme weather are becoming more frequent.

All of which makes for sober thought. Not, perhaps, the usual opening gambit to a church newsletter! Yet the issue of how and whether humanity can come to terms with a problem largely of its own making, is as much a spiritual issue as our rightful concerns e.g. about world poverty. The challenge facing us is one of, or even *the*, biggest ever contemplated. It truly is a Climate Crisis!

The word 'crisis' is so common in our language as to almost debase its currency so I looked up the definition of 'crisis' in the Oxford Dictionary. It said a crisis is a 'significant turning point'; a 'time of danger.' The word comes from the Greek for 'decision'. It certainly is a turning point and on the decisions of this generation's leaders and Governments will depend the future of our children and grandchildren and generations well beyond these. We surely need to listen to the voices, especially of the young, calling for action. After all, the crisis is going to have maximum impact on them. They are aware of the issues in a way perhaps that older generations still are not.

We must also listen to the scientists who speak with prophetic voices about the consequences of doing too little too late. A 'time of danger' it most certainly is. Now for the Good News.....There are signs of hope, even in the depths of the Crisis. The COP26 meeting in Glasgow last year saw Governments around the world commit themselves to reach a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Will the promises made be fulfilled? Will this be enough? We can't answer these questions yet but it is a start. If nations do fulfil their promises this crisis could become a real 'turning point' - an opportunity to do all the things the scientists are telling us we need to: reduce our 'carbon footprint' both as individuals and societies, live more sustainably and put climate change at the centre of all our personal and public decisions.

In the book of Genesis God creates a garden - a place of great beauty and bounty. God places Adam and Eve in this Garden of Eden to tend it and care for it so that it may flourish. Humans, then, are meant to be stewards of God's creation, working with God and the natural world to maintain the creation for the benefit of all. We, though, have forgotten that idea of partnership and stewardship, assuming that we can do what we like without regard to the consequences. The heat and the drought and the forest fires are a timely reminder that there are reactions in creation to our thoughtlessness. They are a wakeup call for us all to prayer and action.

And the good news is..... that through the life, death and rising again of Jesus, God has made real change possible in ordinary people like us and in the decisions of those who have the power to change our world for the better. The love revealed in the heart of this Gospel is capable of transforming lives from self-centredness to putting God and others first. So perhaps the greatest thing we can do is to pray and work for that transformation which can still save this wonderful, beautiful planet.

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 into our community. These are being held every Friday from 10.00 am until 12 noon until further notice. This is providing a very successful hub for families to together supported by our community. Please come along and support this initiative.

September 2022 West End Refugee Service

WERS reports that they are working hard to support the people they work with who face unprecedented challenges so the demands on their services are increasing. They have developed several new initiatives and are further developing existing ones to tackle the challenges ahead. There is a new community campaigns group which is providing a platform for the people they work with to have their voices heard amongst communities and by local leaders. There is also a new awareness raising project reaching out to school children to promote understanding and compassion for people seeking sanctuary. A local partnership is bringing more opportunities for people they work with and their casework team has grown. They have also set up an advisory panel of people with lived experience of the asylum system. Despite all this extra work, their core work of providing essential financial and material support continues, as does their support helping people to understand their rights.

The Campaigns Group has penned a response to the plan to remove asylum seekers to Rwanda. They say *"The UK Government should not outsource its responsibilities to people seeking sanctuary to Rwanda, or anywhere else. This is a cruel and racist policy that does not reflect the compassion of communities in Newcastle and across the UK. We call on the UK Government to abandon these plans and build an asylum system based on compassion and justice. We urge all members of the WERS community to stand with us and take action to stop these deportations."* (More information and details of actions we can all take can be found at www.wers.org.uk/wers-campaigning-group).

Justice and Peace

The news from J&P is that Sara Harris has moved on having been Project Coordinator throughout the pandemic and there is a thank you to her on the Justice and Peace website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/justice-peace-refugee-project-update-july-2022>. Currently Azad Hasan, their project worker is covering the role until a new appointment is made.

J&P say they are always looking for volunteers to support their work & suggest it does not have to be a regular commitment. It could be just to cover absences through holidays or sickness. This is a great opportunity to see the project in action and makes a real difference to the lives of those who visit the Project for support. They are still seeing about 10 new clients each week and so the demand for food, toiletries and finance continues. They particularly cite the need for toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo, conditioners and washing powders as well as cooking oil, coffee, salt, long life milk and chickpeas.

Their clients now can access support at their sessions from Newcastle Council Asylum and Refugee Team as well as from British Red Cross and from their Northumbria Police Community Engagement Officer. Please remember these projects at this difficult time in your prayers and in your actions.

Margaret Brock

Christian Aid

There will soon be the usual street collection for Christian Aid. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday 17th September. Collectors are required for one hour slots. There will be a list in the vestibule for potential collectors to sign to indicate their preferred timeslots.

Plans are also being made for a Christian Aid ceilidh, which will probably take place in October. More details will be available next month.

Thank you for all your support.

Margaret Brock

Hiroshima

Saturday 6th August saw the annual commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The remembrance took place in the Chantry Peace Garden, commencing at 8am. It was organised by the Morpeth Justice and Peace Group and was attended by about 40 people.

The service was conducted by Andrew Mowat, who, along with his wife, has visited Hiroshima. He is an Anglican, who worships mainly at St Mary's. The service included the words:-

*"War is the work of man,
War is destruction of human life.*

War is death.

To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future.

To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war.

To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace."

During the remembrance paper cranes and flowers were distributed and left for others to find and, hopefully, to remember.

Afterwards as many as were able met in the Market Place Café for breakfast.

Margaret Brock

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named, **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Five fun things to do during boring sermons...

- 1 Pass a note to the organist asking whether he/she plays requests.
- 2 See if a yawn really is contagious.
- 3 Slap your neighbour. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the minister.
- 4 Try to take the handbag of the lady in front of you by putting your toe through the handle.
- 5 If all else fails, look up at the ceiling, point, and scream.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. *That is faith*
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. *That is trust.*
3. Every night we got to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. *That is hope,*
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. *That is confidence.*
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. *That is love.*
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. *That is attitude.*

Submitted by Gillian Irvine.

I think that I shall never see
A thing as lovely as a tree.
It stands and looks at God all day,
And lifts it's leafy arms to pray.

That is a lot of prayers! **Patricia Gatherum.**



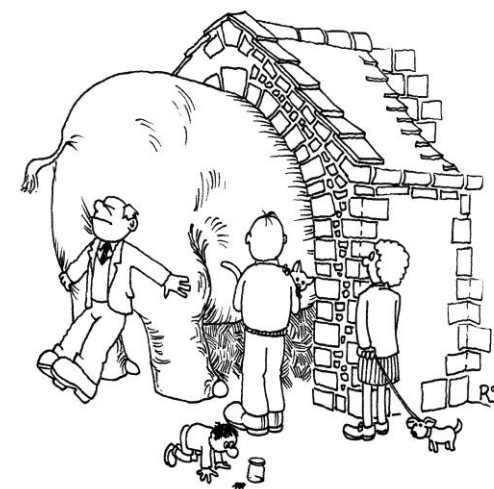
"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

From an announcement: Sadly, Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping, and so has requested tapes of the minister's sermons.

Report in a church magazine: Miss Charlene Mason sang *I will not pass this way again*, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

From a pew-sheet: The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.

** Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference:* The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.



*Eventually they decided to hold the
pets' service outdoors*

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Hearing is not believing
A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home."
Deliver us...I had been teaching my four-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. Then one evening at bedtime she attempted it solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"
Back to school...Young James finished his summer holidays and went back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that James was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested his mum. "I had him here for weeks and I never once called YOU when he misbehaved!"
When Adam met Eve...The topic for my class was palindromes, which are of course words or sentences that are the same read forward and backward. I asked the question 'What is the first thing Adam said to Eve?' I was expecting 'Madam, I'm Adam', but one student had a better reply: "Wow."

Mouse Makes

Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a _____ man.

The _____ fell, The floods came and the _____ blew.

Matthew 7:25

On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:24

Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a _____ man.

On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:26

Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses? Read Matthew 7:25 and 27

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

What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching? Read Matthew 7:28-29

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
FOUNDATIONS

Sep22 © deborah noble

CLUB NEWS

Tuesday and Thursday Badminton at St George's begins again on 6th September



Would you like to come and join our friendly group of badminton players?
Perhaps you are an experienced player who has not played for some years?
Perhaps you have never played before?

Maybe you want to keep fit whilst having some fun and friendship?
Come and join us on Tuesday and or Thursday mornings from 10.00 am to about 12.00 noon

Please contact Allen Oakes for more information and to check if the session is able to go ahead.

Preferred contact Email: allen@oakesa.co.uk
Or 01670 518608

Wednesday Afternoon Bowls

Bowling will restart on Wednesday 7th September at the usual time of 2.00pm in the Church Hall.

New players are always welcome. If interested in playing please contact Andy Cleverley on 515257

Wednesday Morning Badminton

The Wednesday Morning Badminton Club will restart on Wednesday 7th September at the usual time of 9.30am in the church hall.

New players are always welcome. If interested in playing please contact Sarah Cleverley Tel:- 515257

St George's Ladies Coffee Club Meeting

Tuesday September 20th 2pm in the church



Bob Young will be talking about the history of Smail's shop in Morpeth. Although this is St George's Ladies Coffee Club we welcome anyone to our meetings, male or female, so do come along if the topic interests you.

It is only £2 for the talk, a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and the chance to win a small raffle prize!

Sarah Cleverley, Coffee Club Coordinator. Tel:-515257

St. George's Knitter natter Group

Our winter season will start on Wednesday 7th September from 4 pm in the Drysdale Room.

One of our first projects will be Balaclavas for the men in Ukraine. Patterns are already available in the church vestibule with dark wool, please help yourself. The first lorry is going out to Ukraine from Morpeth in about 1 month's time.

Coffee will be available for anyone who would like to call in for a chat.

Joan Cooper 01670515682



2-

Table Tennis Club

Don't forget that the Table Tennis Club meet from 10am – 12noon each Saturday. Long coffee break included, All Welcome.

....There are a number of Ukrainians living in and around Morpeth and a simple "Hello" will help them to feel welcome. In Ukrainian it is,

PRYVIT.....Hello

Pronounced phonetically.....PRIVIET.

Balaclavas for Ukrainian Soldiers

We were asked to knit balaclavas for the soldiers on the front line by Simon Burnage, a local man who has already taken a consignment of aid to Ukraine and is currently collecting boots, socks, protective clothing and many other things to take out on his next trip which will be in the next couple of months. Balaclavas were specifically asked for and Joan has put wool and patterns in the vestibule for anyone who is prepared to knit one. We have already handed over the first few and I know there are several more well on their way. Simon comes to our Ukrainian coffee mornings on Fridays if anyone would like to come and meet him and find out more of what he does and what he needs.

Morag Stead

Music Making at St. George's Church



SGURC Church Orchestra



Do you play an instrument?

Would you like the opportunity to play with other friendly musicians? St. George's Church Orchestra will meet to play again on Sunday September 25th for morning worship which will be the Harvest Festival. We meet at 9.30am to practice for the service at 10.30am usually on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please contact Christine Oakes (Email oakescm@yahoo.co.uk) if interested so that I can have the appropriate music ready prepared for you.

The Cobweb Orchestra Morpeth Group

On Tuesday 20th September the Cobweb Orchestra resumes rehearsals at 7pm in the St George's Sanctuary.

This is a friendly open access orchestra which is part of a larger organisation.

Please contact Morpeth Group's conductor Laura Reavely Email :

laura_reavely@hotmail.com

Or Christine Oakes as above

SGURC Ceilidh Band

Musicians always welcome meeting monthly on Saturday nights

Please contact Shirley Forster for more information shirlsgurc@gmail.com

Crossword for September

Across: 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6) 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6) 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4) 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8) 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3) 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13) 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3) 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8) 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8) 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4) 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6) 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down: 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)

2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

3 O raid (anag.) (5) 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)

5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4) 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)

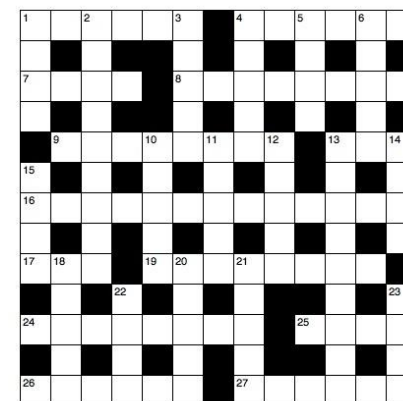
10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5) 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)

12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9) 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)

15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4) 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3) 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)

21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5) 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4) 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Solution on page 20

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

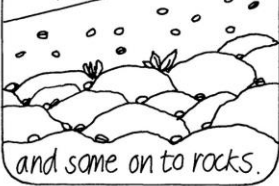
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

Crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path

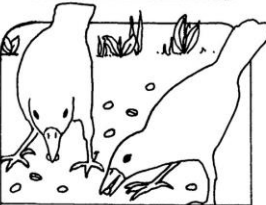


Some fell among thorn plants and



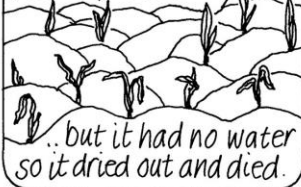
and some on to rocks.

some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...



...but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move on to another 'best thing'.

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

Tea Time Talk for September

THU 8 SEP
AT 2:00PM

ST GEORGE'S URC, MORPETH

Tea time talks

CHOCOLATE & THE CHURCH

A talk by Rev. Julian Sanders followed by refreshments. All welcome.

24 Hours in Church

Well, we did it, Christine, Keith and I, we did it. We spent 24 hours, fasting in our Church, from 9am Saturday 25th to 9am Sunday 26th June.

What was it like?

It varied throughout the day. Just before 9am Julian, who had Noah with him, prayed us into our vigil to help put us into a calm frame of mind, focussed on the task that lay ahead of us.

Julian and Noah soon left us to our task however we weren't alone for long. Amy Brown and some of our guides came to set up the refreshments they were supplying and serving from 10am to 12md. Unfortunately Liz Kelly had had to pull out at the last minute.

Amy was back again in the afternoon with a group of Brownies for the 3pm to 4.30pm session.

We did get quite a few folk in during these times to enjoy tea or coffee with little cakes which they bought by donation.

This was the same way that people paid for the knitted Ukrainian colours that Joan Cooper and our Knitter Natter group supplied and the crafts in the children's corner that Barbara Pringle and Junior Church had arranged.

There was also an envelope for donations at our prayer corner.

Over £400.00 pounds was raised from these sessions.

We did have people joining us in the prayer corner although it was a little difficult to pray when there were a lot of people in the sanctuary.

It was lovely that people had written prayers for us, thank you to everyone who did that, it was much appreciated.

The point of the vigil was to raise money to help the people of Ukraine.

The money raised was £1,780.62, this really exceeded our expectations, so much so that instead of just helping the Morpeth for Ukraine Group and UNICEF in Ukraine we were also able to give some money to Simon Burnage who takes vans full of supplies into Ukraine. He has already managed to use the money we gave him to purchase a GPS tracker which is now in use by front line soldiers in Ukraine. I have actually seen a photograph of a soldier holding the tracker. It's wonderful to know that the money we raised is actually being put to good use right now.

So, what was it like to spend 24hours in Church existing only on water?

Doing without food wasn't too bad, although I did fantasise about fish and chips around 7pm. Another glass of water seemed to assuage the slight craving. I think on that occasion I chose hot water for a change; you see we did have treats!

It was the times when there was no-one else in Church that we really were able to spend some time in prayer or in imagining what living in a war zone must be like.

We talked about mindfulness, we thought about others and ourselves.

I can't say we suddenly discovered the meaning of life; we didn't because we didn't even try!

I know that I definitely felt a sense of inner peace which came back to me the following Tuesday, my birthday, when I was in a little two-seater plane flying over the coast and castles of our wonderful home county. My birthday present from my lovely friend Adele.

Back to the vigil. I had thought that we would stay awake the whole of the 24hours but keeping my eyes open became increasingly more difficult in the early hours of Sunday morning so we decided we'd just give in. Around 2am Keith went into the minister's vestry, Christine and I took up different areas in the sanctuary, I had a feeling of something of ancient times for some reason. It seemed almost a natural place to lie down. I was cuddling my beautiful new teddy bear, Morag had bought us all teddies as a bit of a joke but I am definitely a teddy bear girl so mine was well and truly hugged.

Our sleep was destined to be short-lived however, Christine was the first to be woken at 3am by an ear splitting noise, she got up and looked all over to find the source of this noise then she woke me, I think the noise was starting to get through to me then. Together we searched to find where this noise came from; we even went outside, just as well as it was louder out there. To cut a long story short, after finding keys for the cellar we, joined by Keith, found a huge fan running on a timer. The only thing we could do was to unplug it and report it in the morning.

It may reassure you all to know that this fan comes on every day at 3am for one and a half hours to keep the cellar, the base of the Church, dry. A good precaution but a shame we didn't know about it in advance of the vigil. Julian came back just before 9am, as did Morag who brought each of us a bag of beautiful fresh cherries to eat as soon as 9am passed. Julian ended our vigil as he had started it, with prayer.

It is quite difficult to say what effect the vigil had on us all although we have definitely formed a bond between the three of us, we have met together once more since June and will continue to keep meeting every now and then. Would we embark on a vigil again? Yes we would. I don't know if we'd want to do 24hours again but we have certainly discussed that a sunset to sunrise or dusk 'til dawn vigil would be more than acceptable to the three of us. Perhaps others would join us, you'd be welcomed.

We wouldn't need to sleep during those hours so we could focus on whatever we had in mind for that vigil.

So that is how I decided to mark my 70th birthday.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this project, who sponsored the three of us, who donated money, who baked cakes and served tea and coffee, who knitted or glued Ukrainian lapel flags and ribbons, who arranged the crafts in the children's area, who wrote prayers for us, who came to chat to us or pray with us.

Many thanks to Julian and Morag for their extra support for the three watchers. Lastly, my deepest personal thanks to Christine and Keith for both volunteering to join me in this vigil, it means so much to me.

I thank God that I have been blessed with such wonderful friends and Church family.

Every blessing, **Sue Rutherford**



Missing congregation sighted on
Canaries cruise in May!



Further sightings en route to
Spitsbergen!

St. George's Church Social December 3rd 2022 – "50 shades of Blue"

This year is the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church and to celebrate this, I am putting together a medley of songs, poems and other entertainment.

If you feel able to join us on the night and would like to step onto the stage please let me know (j.evans152274@btinternet.com or 07518916939).

Further information regarding tickets will be available soon.

Thanks, Jo

Wordsearch – The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom Heaven Good
Seed Field Sleeping
Grain Weeds Enemy
Servants Master Sow

Gather Reap Root Let
Grow Together Harvest
Bundles Barn Burned

Solution on page 20

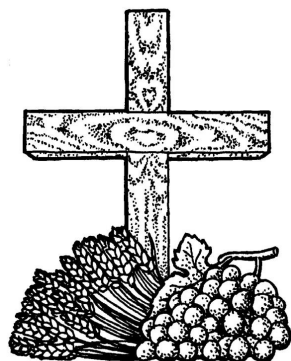


Puzzle Solutions

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R	L	E	A	E	I	D	T	R	S	H	
Y	E	H	N	S	N	L	N	G	D	A	
T	I	T	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	
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E	V	D	N	D	M	R	D	E	E	S	
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7	9	6	3	8	5	2	1	4
8	1	2	6	9	4	5	3	7
3	4	5	9	7	8	6	2	1
1	7	8	2	6	3	9	4	5
2	6	9	4	5	1	7	8	3
4	5	3	8	2	6	1	7	9
9	2	1	5	4	7	3	6	8
6	8	7	1	3	9	4	5	2



Listen up...While I was giving a sermon one Sunday, two teenage girls at the back giggled and disturbed people. Finally, I interrupted my sermon and announced sternly, "There are two of you here who have not heard a word I've said." That quieted them down. When the service was over, I went to greet people at the front door. Three members shuffled by, apologised for going to sleep in church, and promising it would never happen again. **Technology...**After ringing mobile phones disrupted the flow of a service, one minister laid down the law in the following week's pew-sheet: "Let's turn off the technology and turn on each other."

Budget... I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something.

Cheese...They say cheese gives you nightmares. Ridiculous! I'm not scared of cheese.

Great Bavington United Reformed Church

Here is the news from Great Bavington:

Services

Sunday 4 September, 6.30pm

Sunday 18 September, 6.30pm

Film Night returns!

After a break of 2 1/2 years because of covid, Film Night starts again on Monday 12 September at 7.00pm in the church meeting room. The film will be "Downton Abbey: a new era" (PG). The Ray Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, has generously given Great Bavington URC a grant towards this year's film licence and a new bulb for the digital projector - new projector bulbs are surprisingly costly. Do come and celebrate the return of Film Night! The season will continue until March, on the second Monday of every month. Film Night has always operated on a donations basis rather than an admission price, and donations will continue to be very welcome especially as electricity costs are increasing enormously.

Julian is running Film Night so if you would like any further information, please contact him at sanders.julian@talk21.com or 01670 225539.

History Night

History Night will be on Tuesday 27 September at 7.00pm. Further information: bavingtonchurch@gmail.com.

Nicola Bell

Mystery music...A friend of mine, a professional organist, was asked to play for a wedding. Unfamiliar with the church's organ, she went to the sanctuary to practise. Curious about a small keyboard that slid out from under the two regular keyboards, she tapped out a couple of bars of a simple tune but heard nothing. Then she played a few more notes, but still no organ music. Just then a man came running into the church, shouting, "Who's playing 'Three Blind Mice' on the church-steeple bells?" She had been operating the carillon.

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:

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

Health workers

Workers in essential industries and services

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine and treatments and teams working to deliver the vaccines

Vaccine delivery in third world countries.

Those whose mental health has suffered during the pandemic

The sick and recently bereaved

Those in financial difficulties

Students starting a new academic year

The homeless

Your neighbours

"Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,

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

The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,

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

Seven days without prayer makes one weak

WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

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

The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the Sunday prior to the 20th of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue.

Flowers: Flowers for September by Fiona and for October by Kathleen (but don't forget second Sunday in October is Harvest - details next magazine) Donations to appropriate arranger please. If you have suitable flowers or foliage in your garden which you would like to donate we would also be grateful.

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 payouts in arrears every time we reach £15.00 in any quarter. Every little helps!

Fund raising: Coffee Club at Cook's Hemmel in August raised £80.00. The coffee tasting in the hall in July raised £55. Details for the August Bank Holiday Coffee Morning next month.

Worship:

Please join us when you feel able. Mask wearing is voluntary. You will still be asked to sanitize your hands.

We will be serving coffee/tea after the service for those who feel able to partake. Preachers for September along with duty rotas are in the table below.

The service on September 18th will be a special Anniversary Service, when we celebrate 50 years of the URC.

Social: September's event is on Tuesday 13th. We will AT LAST welcome Mary Davidson to talk about visiting our sister church in Mozambique with the Moderator. We are asking church members to contribute to a pooled supper, but we want others to consider themselves our guests. Donations for the work of the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique please.

October begins with a 50th Anniversary social with the St George's Ceilidh band on 1st at 7.00 pm. Pies and Peas supper £5.00 per head. Numbers needed by September 25th. We would like to invite all members of the Pastorate.

Regular events:

1st Tuesday: Coffee Club meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. 10.30am.
September's meeting will be at Hauxley Visitor Centre. Don't forget the parking charge!

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

Open Church : Thursdays from 10.30am to 12 noon. Come along for quiet reflection, fellowship and refreshments.

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.

The Group will be meeting in early September to discuss up-coming events. News of this in the October magazine.

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 moment.

Judith Hart

In July the church family at Widdrington was saddened by the sudden death of Judith Hart. A much loved daughter, mother, grandmother and friend, she was a cheerful, practical and hard-working person who will be much missed.

Judith served as a Trustee to Widdrington United Reformed Church for the last ten years, and her calm good sense was very valuable in this role. She led the Anchor Boys for several years from the section's inception to the closure of the Widdrington Boys Brigade Company. Later she was a Guide unit assistant, working with local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and was recently awarded a 'You're a star' award by the County Commissioner.

She took a full part in church activities, being a valuable member of the catering team, and a reliable 'Wise Man' in many Christmas Eve Nativity Plays. She also served as Cradle Roll Secretary.

Our prayers are with Judith's family and friends.

Widdrington Rotas: September

Date	Preacher	Vestry	Door/Offering
4th	Val Mace	Diana Hogg	K. Bailey. E. Barber
11th	Worship Team	Kathleen Bailey	D. Hogg. M Scott
18th	Revd Julian Sanders	F. Middlemist	L. Walden. A. Grieves
25th	Margery Tate	Liv Walden	F. Middlemist. R. Gordon

