

Stranton and Burbank Community

SIGNPOST



**Rooted in God's love
Growing together with Jesus
Branching out in the
Power of the Holy Spirit**

September 2026

Striking the balance... (The musings of a priest)

Well, what a busy summer it has been. We had the joys of Revd Claire's priesting, being with her as she presided for the first time, and sharing fellowship with a celebratory barbecue. We've also had a number of successful events across our parishes – a Summer Fayre at St Luke's, followed by Beer and Hymns at Stranton, and if that wasn't enough, we had the Deanery Confirmation Service all in the same weekend. That was closely followed by a tower abseil and history exhibition at Stranton, and then Hartlepool Community Singers performing for us as well.

If that still wasn't enough, we've had our usual round of beautiful wedding ceremonies, and I also decided as part of the Leadership Course, I've been doing over the last year, to accompany 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade (attached to Stranton Church) on their annual Summer Camp at the end of July, as they spent a week at Bonaly Scout Camp near Edinburgh. It was a really busy time, but all of it wonderful in different ways – yes, even the 18 hour days at BB Camp being up before the lads and getting to sleep after they were asleep (or at least pretending to be).

No wonder I needed a fortnight off after all that busyness.

But it's not necessarily wrong to be busy. Good busy can be hugely life giving and fulfilling, even though it might be exhausting at the same time. It helps us to form closer relationships with friends, family, colleagues, and with those we serve. It boosts our mental health and wellbeing, just as much as a walk in the country or along the coast might do, or perhaps you prefer to immerse yourself in a good book, or do a spot of gardening, to relax and recharge.

It's why it's important that we strike the right balance between that which gives us life, and that which drains our reserves.

And it's something we see in scripture, all the time – Jesus going for a walk, taking himself off to a quiet place to pray, spending time with his disciples – his close friends, enjoying the company of others over a good meal... all things that can bring us rest and recovery. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, 'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' Jesus recognises the need for rest and recovery, the need to strike the right balance, both for himself, and for us too.

Whatever you've been up to this Summer, I hope you've found time to recharge and recover, and to come into the presence of Christ who gives us rest.

Grace and peace, Revd John

From The Home Front

There are times in life when I have to make a conscious decision to trust in God and step out in faith. My children and husband will all tell you of my fear of heights. I struggle if I can see a long drop beneath me or driving up hairpin bends on mountainous roads or vertical drops with no secure fencing or walls – I feel sick, my stomach flips and I cannot move unaided. My children, who thankfully haven't inherited my fear, well remember as they grew up, me clutching their coats or jumpers as they looked over castle walls, cliff edges or stood on glass floors looking down - to prevent me from being sick!

So, when the Tower Abseil was mooted no one was more surprised than me to hear myself announce "I'll do that, at 70 I need to face my fears, before I'm physically unable to do it"! I felt completely calm and knew if I trusted in God, He would give me the courage to do it.

As I helped with the preparations for the day of the abseil and the Memories of Stranton Exhibition I felt no fear at all. I had a look up the bell tower and felt I could cope with the ladders which David Craig had been making more secure. The day dawned and I felt as prepared as possible. Having watched others descend I had an idea of what was involved and I knew I would require help to climb onto and over the parapet, as since my 'two replacement knees', I cannot bend my knees as far as before myself, but with help they do bend more! However, I was not prepared for the number of ladders to be climbed, or their almost vertical angle, or swapping from one ladder to another turning through right angles! I admit to being very frightened and just about managed to hold it together - until I had to wait on a platform above the bells – Argh, a long visible drop! The only way to cope was to hold tightly to the ladder and a wall bar, looking straight ahead and zoning out... When I was called to climb the last ladder, I knew I would need to have faith in the instructors at the top to enable me to climb out. They were so reassuring and held me firmly, they saw I was spooked and panicky, so they set about distracting me to calm me down. I was soon able to tell them about all the buildings, churches, landmarks, coastline etc we could see from this viewpoint were. Once I had settled down, they were able to help me manoeuvre my legs between the crenelations of the parapet (with only a degree of inelegance!). When I was confident to move off the descent was easy. I lowered myself slowly, in order to enjoy the views (however I did not look down!) and it was wonderful to hear my six year old grandson with the family and friends, shouting encouragement until my feet touched the ground. Although my legs were a bit wobbly, I was delighted to have achieved my goal because I had trusted in God to give me the courage and also the human support I needed. Mind you, the internal voice did say once I was at the top of the Tower, "Going down on a harness and ropes with Me watching over you will be easier than going back down those ladders!". As ever God was right.....

J.A.R.



Revd Claire Mead Ordained Priest in Durham Cathedral on 27th June 2026



Revd Claire with her parents and Bishop Rick.

Rev Dr Nick Moore (former Stranton curate)
Revd Claire, Revd John, Revd Dr Andrew Craig
(former Stranton curate).



Revd Claire with Revd John and Bishop Rick.



Revd Claire officiating at Holy Communion in a joint service at St Luke's



Revd Claire officiated at her first Holy Communion at a joint service in St Luke's Church. Revd Eileen Harrop from Claire's sending church gave the sermon.

Celebration Barbeque for Revd Claire after her ordination as priest



Barbequers extraordinaire with Shadow overseeing

Members of all the Group churches including bellringers, Claire's parents and church friends enjoyed a barbeque with all the trimmings followed by cakes and fruit in the Vicarage garden on a breezy but sunny and warm day.



Revd Claire was presented with her own home communion set from Stranton and St Luke's.



What a busy month July was for 900th celebrations....

900th Anniversary Tower Abseil and Memories of Stranton Exhibition on 11th July



Revd Claire confidently stopped and waved on her way down!

Rev Nick Moore (former curate in Stranton) now Warden of Cranmer Hall in Durham brought his family (wife Bekah and sons Simeon and Francis) to watch him abseil from the Tower.



Kate and Michael overcame their nerves to descend safely.

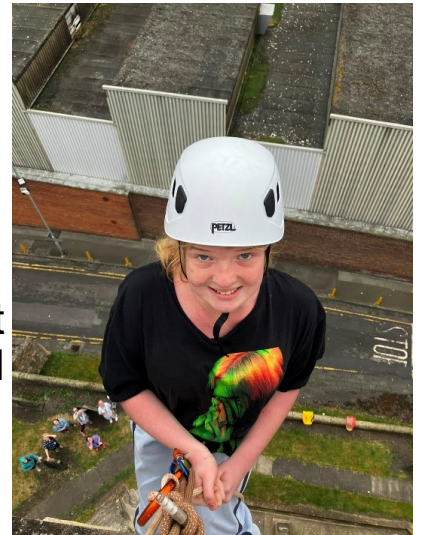


Intrepid septogenarians Joan Nixon, from St Luke's, alongside Jacqui and Andrew Rogers from Stranton PCC, didn't let age get in the way of a novel experience. A large number of Pat and Eric Porritt's family urged each other to take on the abseil challenge, there were some of the bellringers, a lecturer from The Northern College of Art, a father and son who had seen the event advertised, plus Lorelai Anderson amongst the other brave participants.



The youngest abseiler was only 6 years old!

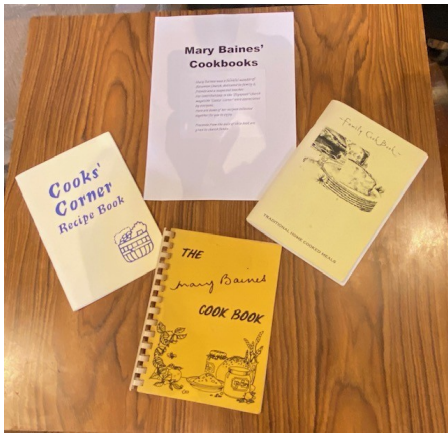
The last abseiler and made it safely to the ground



A surprise visitor to the exhibition was Revd Debbie Wilson a former member of Stranton Congregation and curate at St Luke's who was visiting her son, Stranton Tower Captain Joseph, on her holiday from Wellington, New Zealand where she is a Chaplain.

Memories of clergy, choirs, Sunday School, people and events over the last one hundred plus years in All Saints Stranton.





All Saints Stranton Church continued their 900th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 11th July with a sponsored tower abseil off the church tower. Twenty-three brave people from the churches and local community, children and adults aged 6 to 70+, rose to the challenge!

During the day, the abseilers, and their supporters, also had the opportunity to look around the Past Memories Exhibition in church and enjoy the refreshments on offer. As part of the exhibition, there was a wide range of stories on display such as photos and displays from family baptisms, photos from a 1980s Victorian Street Party, photo memories from our local Boys Brigade, Choir and Sunday School and church history records.

Revd Claire Mead, Assistant Curate said 'It was wonderful to see everyone take part in the tower abseil! It was a joy to see 8 members of the Porritt family take up the challenge and to welcome back The Revd Dr Nick Moore, former Curate and now Warden at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Thank you to everyone who took up the challenge and supported the upkeep of our church with their sponsorship money and a massive thank you to our 900th team, volunteers and the great team at 'Canoes, Mountains, Caves' who made our special day possible'.

Revd Claire

My Abseil Adventure

I'd done it before, so when asked by my good friend Jacqui to do the abseil down Stranton's Tower as part of the 900th Anniversary celebrations, I immediately volunteered.

As I walked up the steps to Stranton Church, I realised exactly how high the tower was. Hmmm. Then I remembered how long ago it actually was since I last abseiled!

I was so warmly welcomed there was no going back.

The instructors were charming, very patient and their meticulous kitting out made me feel secure. When it was my turn, I was told casually just {!} to go into church and up the steps to the top of the tower. I was not told there were 4 long vertical ladders in an increasingly narrow space. I then realised why hard hats were needed. Not so much for the abseil itself but for when I hit my head on the edge of every ladder ie three times.

I arrived at the top to be told by the instructors what a wonderful view across Hartlepool there was from the top of the tower. As I had my eyes shut at the time I had to take their word for it. However, once I got my bottom over the parapet wall (no mean feat) and was hanging in the air I felt completely safe, in control and I actually enjoyed the experience, even managing a (very) little hop taking my feet off the wall for a second or two. I really did relax, although not to the extent of Revd Claire who stopped midway to smile at the crowd and have her photo taken! I felt really elated to complete the descent, it was definitely helped by the supporters' encouragement – plus the high quality of Stranton's cake and coffee.

Joan Nixon

St Luke's



Troy and Odyssey Quiz

- T** Which **T** doubted Jesus?
- R** Which **R** was the mother of twins?
- O** St Jerome Emiliani is the patron saint of **O**?
- Y** Which **Y** man left Jesus feeling very sad?
- A** Which **A** is linked with Saint Crispin?
- N** Which **N** was the father of Ham?
- D** Which King **D** ordered Daniel to the Lion's den?
- O** Which **O** is how Christian soldiers travel?
- D** Levi became one of these **D**?
- Y** Complete the hymn **Y**_____ are the King of Glory
- S** Which **S** describes the size a mustard seed?
- S** Which **S** had a mother called Bathsheba?
- E** Which **E** was viewed at the Transfiguration?
- Y** Which **Y** is the Israelite name for God?

900th Anniversary Beer and Hymns 4th July

A huge thank you to Cameron's Brewery who donated alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks plus glasses to this enjoyable early evening event. Drinks and crisps were consumed as those attending sang at full volume to well known hymns and worship songs to praise the Lord!

A visitor from Friday Cafe



Members from other churches and visitors from the parish attended.



Deanery Visit to Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens



Members of congregations from across Hartlepool Deanery including Stranton and St Luke's enjoyed a wonderful day out on Saturday 18th July for an insightful and uplifting visit to Ushaw House and Gardens. There were lots to see including the Chapel, Refectory, The Academic Dining Room plus exhibitions including almost 100

wedding dresses. The guided tour was very interesting; and we learnt more about the College, School and its role now which includes being a TV location for programmes such as 'Vera'.

Deanery Confirmation Service in Stranton on Sunday 5th July with Bishop John Pritchard



Adults, young people and older children from All Saints, St Mary Magdeline Hart, St Peter's Elwick, Holy Trinity Seaton, St John's Greatham, St Luke's, St Hilda's and Saint Aidan's were confirmed in a moving service by Bishop John Pritchard. Those being confirmed were well supported by family and friends and everyone enjoyed a delicious supper afterwards.

First Aid Training



Members of Stranton and St Luke's churches plus a representative of St Matthew's CC attended a Level 3 First Aid Training Day at the end of August. Everyone passed and are now certified First Aiders – so we are well covered for any medical incidents in our churches.

900th Anniversary Summer Concert by Hartlepool Community Singers 17th July



Stranton Church was packed to hear the Hartlepool Singers led by their musical director George Colley and accompanied by Nicola Sumpter. The varied programme included hits such as Catch a Falling Star, California Dreaming and Bohemian Rhapsody through to songs from the musicals including Joseph, I Dreamed a Dream and Moon River plus Ave Verum Corpus.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Singers contact
Joan Turner: 07900 413930, joanpoppyturner@outlook.com

**Are you planning a special celebration or party
and looking for a venue?**

**Have you thought about
St Matthew's Community Centre?**

**We have 2 large halls which can accommodate up to 140 persons
as well as 1 large and 2 small kitchens for your catering needs.**

**One hall is even big enough to house a bouncy castle –
ideal for children's parties.**

**We also have our own private car park and some outdoor space if you fancy
al fresco fun for your guests.**

**If you would like further information please call:
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The Gates at Stranton have been refurbished



Clergy and PCC members are very grateful to Sylvia and Ken Shepherd who gifted the refurbishment of the gates to commemorate their 55th Wedding Anniversary which has fallen in the 900th Anniversary Celebration Year.

Sylvia and Ken have attended All Saints Church for many years and were married in Stranton. They have been PCC members, Church Wardens and Vergers, Electoral Roll Officer, counting team lead, plus being involved with the Cubs, Scouts, St Matthew's Community Centre and other rolls over many years. Their ongoing contribution to the Stranton Parish family and to church life has been invaluable.

Everyone at All Saints, Stranton were delighted to see the gates, at the entrance to the steps, return in late July. They have been cleaned, de-rusted and painted, then rehung with improved and working catches, bolts and lock points – they look magnificent. Thank you to Sylvia and Ken for this generous gift.

Stranton Brownies, Guides and Rangers

These are all Church Sponsored units.

The new term for Brownies and Guides starts on the 14th of September at St Matthew's Community Centre.

Brownies meet 6.00 -7.15 pm. Brownies are from 7 to 10 years of age.

Guides meet 7.00 – 8.30pm. Guides are from 10 to 14 years of age.

Rangers meet 7.00 – 8.30pm. Rangers from 14 years of age.



If you are interested in finding more information, and would be interested in what we do, please register on the Girlguiding website, use the link here:

A Leader will contact you, to invite you to visit the age relevant group.

A Farmer's Life....

The farmer gets up out of bed. He's weary. As he splashes cold water over his face, he thinks to himself, who would want to be a farmer nowadays?

He struggles into his overalls; they are stiff with hardened mud. He leaves his wife sleeping, as it's 5.00 am.

The weary farmer walks down the stairs and starts the fire to heat the pan of water for a cup of tea. He knows that later, when his morning chores are done, he will come home to a steaming bowl of porridge with fresh honey from his bees - followed by thick slices of home-made bread spread with freshly churned butter. His wife feeds him well. His stomach growled at the thought of food.

The farmer opened the door to let in the fresh air, and he slipped into his trusty work boots. He stood in the doorway, surveying his land. He drank the hot tea like this every morning, looking in wonder at the fields that he had toiled at year after year. He breathed in the fresh, damp air, looked up at the blue sky, and prayed.

Blessed are you, O Lord Maker of heaven and earth.

Who gives me breath in my lungs and strength to my bones.

Blessed are you, O Lord, who pours down water from the heavens to give the thirsty land refreshing water.

Who lets the sun rise and set, bringing much-needed warmth.

I offer you, O Lord; my hands and feet, may we work together to sow seeds that will bring an abundant harvest for your glory. Amen.

The farmer, energised by his prayer, sets out for the barn.

He lets his chickens out. The eggs would be collected later. The farmer picks up the weighty bag of seed. He walks towards the field; the bag lies heavily on his shoulder.

The field is not as ploughed as he would like, but it needs to be sown, so he sets the bag of seed down and fills his belt bag to the brim so he can easily access it.

For two hours, the farmer walks up and down his field in straight rows. He throws out seeds from his bag, some to the left, others to the right. He often has to refill his belt bag. Soon the sun is high, and sweat is pouring from his brow. Birds are circling, ready to come and swoop down and peck at the seeds as soon as he leaves. He is hot, hungry, and tired; his job is done. The farmer knows from experience that the birds will eat some of the seed, and the weeds will choke other seeds. Yet more seeds would have fallen on the soil where he hadn't ploughed properly, and they would lie there and die. The farmer smiled, knowing that much of the seeds he had sown would grow so tall and produce the best wheat, which his wife would grind into the most delicious bread he was about to eat for his breakfast. Other wheat would go to serve others' tables.

As he walked, he thought, 'I never know the outcome of my yearly sowing, but God does; all he wants me to do is be a faithful sower'.

A few years later the farmer lay on his bed; he could no longer get up and work on his beloved farm. His mind was willing, but his body was very weak. He lay there, thinking about who else would take over from him in sowing his fields. He heard his dear wife making breakfast for them both. She had been a blessing to him all their married life.

He started to say his daily prayer. These last few months, it had changed, as he could no longer stand at his front door looking over his land.

He started to mumble quietly:

Blessed are you, O Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.

Who gives me breath in my lungs and strength to my bones

Blessed are you, O Lord, who pours down water from the heavens to give the thirsty land refreshing water.

Who lets the sun rise and set, bringing much-needed warmth.

I offer you, O Lord, my hands and feet.

At this part of his prayer, the farmer faltered. What use was he to God, lying in bed day after day? He could no longer use his body to serve his maker. Tears trickled down his face.

The farmer was not one for self-pity, but over the next few days he started to look back over his life. His mood began to lower as he thought that all his life he had farmed. What impact had he made on God's kingdom?

A week later, the farmer drifted into a deep sleep. The doctor told the farmer's wife that he wouldn't be on this earth much longer. His wife sat by his bed and read his favourite Bible passages to him. The farmer's wife would let others come and sit with him. One day, the neighbouring farmer sat by his bed and spoke in his rough voice.

"You know I'm a man of few words, but I needed to tell you before you pass from this earth that you have been a dear friend to me. There have been times where I didn't think I could go on, and you would walk across the field at just the right time and let me rant at ya. You listened to me and reassured me that I was not alone. Remember that time my tractor had broken down, and you came with your tools and fixed it. I just want to say thank ya." He shuffled out quickly.

The next day a young woman came to visit. She sat by the farmer's bed and took his calloused hand in hers and said, "You need to know that the day you came and dropped off the loaf of bread that your wife had made with the wheat from your field and the sweet honey that came from your bees came at the very moment I had prayed for provision. We had no money, and our food had run out." Tears splashed onto the farmer's hands. She wiped them away and kissed them. And then walked out of the room. These words were the last earthly words the farmer heard before entering into his heavenly home.

Ang Hall

ORGAN RECITAL



Saturday 19th September 2026

7:30 pm

Doors open 7:00 pm



Daniel Cook
Internationally Recognised
Master of the Choristers
and Organist of Durham
Cathedral



**Suggested Donation
£10**

Ticket not required

**All proceeds will go to
Stranton Organ
Restoration Fund
Donations taken at Event**

**Refreshments served
during interval**

**Accessible parking in
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heritage open days

All Saints Stranton Church



We invite you to look inside this 12th century Grade II listed church which sits on an ancient site, on a hill, in the modern town of Hartlepool.

Memories of Stranton photographs will be displayed

Saturday 12th and 19th September - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday 13th and 20th September - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Accessible parking available in Cameron's Brewery Car Park. Accessible between the Causeway Public House and Church



Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT

www.stranton-church.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

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1

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our
strivings cease; take from our souls the strain
and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the
beauty of thy peace. Breathe through the heats
of our desire. O still, small voice of calm.

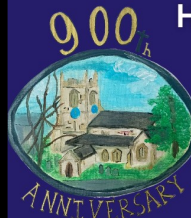
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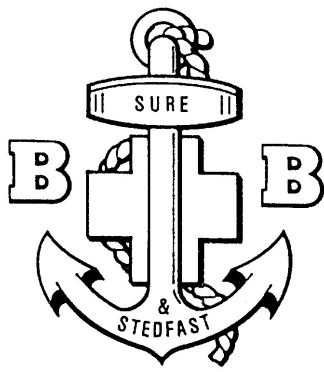
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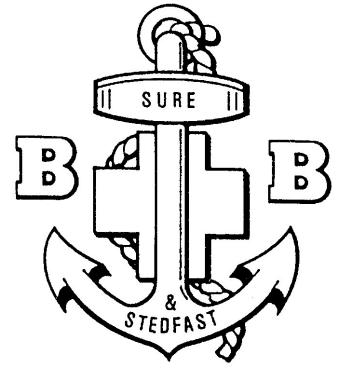
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Boys Brigade Camp 27th – 30th July



Highlights included High Ropes Night Lining, Rope Balance, Escape Room (in a forest!!) and trips to camera obscura, Lazer Hunt, a treasure hunt and water activities near the Forth Bridge, a visit to a safari park. Plus, visits to Highland games and a water adventure park.

Unexpected highlights included a marvellous sun set at the Forth bridge and a full-on security check at the Scottish Parliament - just to use the toilets!

The devotions were based on the story of Matthew.

Special thanks go to Jack and Rev John for their mini-bus driving and we were very appreciative of our three Sgts Lewis, Tyler and Billy who all worked well behind the scenes.



Borders to Edinburgh, we got settled in and then spent the afternoon outside playing cricket.

After tea, we split into groups to take on some different challenges that everyone will get a chance to do throughout the week. After supper, the evening was spent playing different types of board games 🚢

Looking forward to the rest of the week ahead!





Day 3 & 4 at camp! Laser Tag, Treasure Trail, Kayaking & Sailing and Safari Park.



Day 2 at camp, where we visited the city of Edinburgh!



Campfire fun



We're now safely back from Scotland after our brilliant time at camp. I'm sure all the boys (and leaders) will be sleeping well tonight!

If you would like to see more pictures of the boys go to our Facebook page.

New Session

Whilst camp was very good, it is now but a memory, so we are starting to think about the new BB Session.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED IN EACH SECTION

All sections meet at St Matthew's Community Centre:

The **Anchor Boys** for 6 to 8year olds who meet on Friday at 6.00 - 7.00pm from September 11th.

Juniors for 8 to 11year olds who meet every Monday 6.30 - 8.00pm from Monday 7th September.

Company for 11year olds plus who meet every Friday from 7.15- 9.00pm from Friday 18th September.

Subs in all sections are £2.00 a week.

Company Legacy

We are hoping to have our Flag Stand fully refurbished by the Harvest Festival.

Important Dates

Christmas Fayre Saturday 21st November.

Christmas Carol Service Friday 11th December.

George Bainbridge

End of Summer Brain Teaser Quiz

This is an alphabetical anagram. All the words are objects large and small you would find in a kitchen eg aefirry (2 words) = airfryer

1. abghilnopsuww (3 words)
2. aefnnov (2 words)
3. acefkorrsuw (2 words)
4. aeorstt (1 word)
5. aceimorvw (1 word)
6. abeinstw (1 word)
7. adghiiilnpqsuww (3 words)
8. aeoptt (1 word)
9. abcehkrr (2 words)
10. eeklth (1 word)
11. afginnpry (2 words)
12. cceehiilkrstw (2 words)
13. ceijru (1 word)
14. adehhirssw (1 word)
15. aeijlnrstu (2 words)

Gardening News – Summer continued

Summer this year has been a difficult one for gardeners, not to mention farmers and all those who depend on the weather for a living. After a particularly prolific and colourful show of spring and early summer blooms, lawns, plants and shrubs quickly lost their get up and go in the face of the ensuing weeks of little or no rain. Today we have had the first proper downpour in about 2 months and this is the first day in those 2 months that I haven't done any watering, apart from a few days away, when my family were commandeered to take over (and did a pretty good job). I have concentrated my watering efforts on pots and baskets, plus hydrangeas and occasionally the roses, but I have been very impressed with the fuschias, which have valiantly battled on and continued flowering with almost no watering at all. A bucket outside our back door has become a permanent feature, which we use as a way of recycling washing up water to water the plants, which don't seem to object and, of course, are very clean!

Similarly, the plants and bulbs in the church borders went from being a riot of spring colour to nearly, or actually, giving up the ghost. The good news, though, is that even the weeds seem to have lost the will to live, which makes life a lot easier.

Having just returned from a trip to Scotland, I can report, however, that there, as you would expect, nature has fared much better on the weather front, with all the things that should be green maintaining their greenness. There was also a profusion of late summer flowers everywhere we went and the only difference we noticed from previous visits was that there was less water in the rivers and streams.

I am sure regular readers will be eagerly awaiting the latest news re 'our' pigeon and am happy to report that he is still with us, which means that he has survived for a full year since he first appeared in the garden, despite a recent increase in the visiting feline population. We have not heard so much from the magpies this year, with only an occasional knock on our front door. They have obviously had a better offer somewhere else.

In the spring we went south to visit friends and on our way visited Jane Austen's brother's house on his estate in Chawton, Hampshire. Austen spent the last few years of her life living in a cottage on the estate and was a frequent visitor to Chawton House, so I enjoyed wandering round the house and garden, following the footsteps of one of our greatest literary legends. There were several plaques around the gardens displaying quotations, including this one, which is a prayer written by the author herself:

"Give us grace, Almighty Father, so to pray, as to deserve to be heard, to address thee with our hearts, as with our lips. Thou art everywhere present."

Amen to that. I am going to leave you with another quotation, which was displayed on a wall in a pub that we visited:

"Advice from a strawberry: - blossom where you're planted. Be tasteful. Drink in the sunshine. Keep close to the earth. Savour life's sweetness. Let good ideas ripen. Jam with your friends!"

I think you will agree, a very wise strawberry!

Pam Stockton




SUNDAY
13TH SEPTEMBER

4 PM TO 5:30 PM

Bible Story

Jesus' Big Picnic

Shared Meal

Games

Crafts

Singing

COME AND JOIN US
ALL WELCOME
LOTS OF FUN FOR THE FAMILY

St Matthew's CC
Elwick Road
TS26 9JF







SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

A time to spend together,
meet new people
and make new friends



St Matthew's CC
Elwick Road
TS26 9LX

STRANTON TODDLERS
Pre-school Children

Tuesdays

9:00 am to 11:00

Term-time only

Re-starts 15th September 2026

First child
£2
additional children
50p

Healthy snack
for children

Tea/coffee/biscuits
for parents/carers

Venue
St Matthew's CC
Elwick Road
TS26 9JF



Contact Stranton Church 01429 894006 for more information

Everyone Welcome a Fun Night for All The family

HARVEST

Family Quiz Night

STRANTON CHURCH
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
5.00pm - 6.30pm
Food & Drink available .

Save the date!

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult
More info: admin@stranton-church.org.uk,
01429 894006



End of Summer Brain Teaser Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. abghilnopsuww | - washing up bowl |
| 2. aefnnov | - fan oven |
| 3. acefkorrsw | - work surface |
| 4. aeorstt | - toaster |
| 5. aceimorvw | - microwave |
| 6. abeinstw | - wastebin |
| 7. adghiiilnpqsuww | - washing up liquid |
| 8. aeoptt | - teapot |
| 9. abcehkr | - herb rack |
| 10. eekltt | - kettle |
| 11. afginnpry | - frying pan |
| 12. cceehiilkrstw | - electric whisk |
| 13. ceijru | - juicer |
| 14. adehhirssw | - dishwasher |
| 15. aeijlnrstu | - utensil jar |

Troy and Odessey Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| T Which T doubted Jesus ? | Thomas |
| R Which R was the mother of twins? | Rebekah |
| O St Jerome Emiliani is the patron saint of O? | Orphans |
| Y Which Y man left Jesus feeling very sad? | Young |
| A Which A is linked with Saint Crispin? | The Battle of Agincourt |
| N Which N was the father of Ham? | Noah |
| D Which King D ordered Daniel to the Lion's den? | Darius |
| O Which O is how Christian soldiers travel? | Onwards |
| D Levi became one of these? Disciple - he changed his name to Matthew | |
| Y Complete the hymn Y_____ are the King of Glory. | You |
| S Which S describes the size a mustard seed? | Smallest |
| S Which S had a mother called Bathsheba? | Solomon |
| E Which E was viewed at the Transfiguration? | Elijah |
| Y Which Y is the Israelite name for God? | Yahweh |

CELEBRATE!

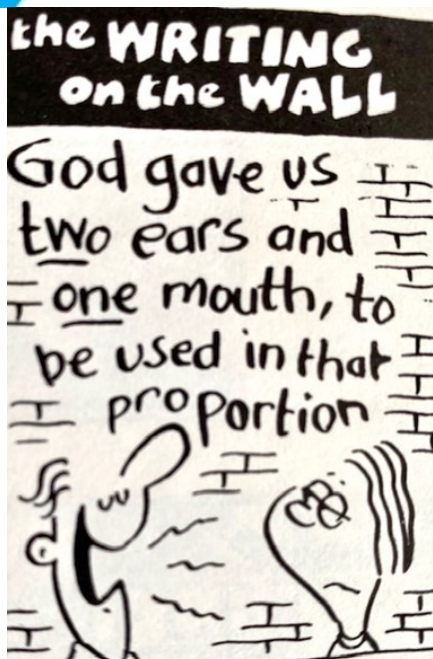
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to

September
Kehinde Akinyele
George Coils
Joan Herbert
Katie Herbert
Jack Hanlon
Mel Hutchinson
Maureen Wilford
Joy Mba



If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it -
email admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 894006.

All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.



Dates for the Diary

September

Sat 5 th	Coffee, Cake & Company	St Matthew's CC 2.00-4.00pm
Sun 6 th	Andy Walsh CMS Link	Stranton Church 9.00am & 11.00am Service's.
Sat 12 th	Heritage Open Day	Stranton Church 10.00-4.00pm
Sun 13 th	Heritage Open Day	Stranton Church 2.00-4.00pm
Sun 13 th	Messy Church	St Matthew's CC 4.00-5.30pm
Sat 19 th	Heritage Open Day	Stranton Church 10.00-4.00pm
Sat 19 th	Organ recital by Daniel Cook	Stranton Church 7.30pm
Sun 20 th	Heritage Open Day	Stranton Church 2.00-4.00pm
Sun 20 th	Sunday @ 6	Stranton Church 6.00pm
Sat 26 th	An Agape Meal	St Luke's Parish Centre 4.00pm

900th Anniversary Event Date for your Diary

The next event for the Stranton Church's 900th anniversary celebrations will be an organ recital delivered by Daniel Cook, Master of the Choristers and Organist, Durham Cathedral, on Saturday 19th September at 7.30pm.

Everyone is very welcome! No tickets required for this event. Donations can be offered at the event towards the upkeep of Stranton Church organ.

For more information about upcoming events and services at Stranton Church, check out their Facebook page or contact the Stranton Church Office: admin@stranton-church.org.uk, 01429 894006

Who's Who

Church Office	St Matthew's Community Centre Arncliffe Gardens TS26 9JF
Administrator	Trish Playfor "Tues- Fri, 9.00 to 11.00am" 01429 894006 or 07305 550009 E-Mail: admin@stranton-church.org.uk Web Site: www.stranton-church.org.uk
To contact clergy by E-mail	E-Mail: clergy@stranton-church.org.uk

Priest in Charge 34A Westbourne Road 07512 481115
 Revd. John Bell
 Email: **revdjohnbell@stranton-church.org.uk**

Curate
 Revd Claire Mead (Stranton & St Luke's) 07598 070481
 Email: **curate@stranton-church.org.uk**
 Usual day off – Friday

Reader
 Mary Tones 40a Blakelock Road 07972 342890
 Hayley Liversidge hayey@hartlepoolcch.coh.org.uk 07712 008772

St Aidan's & Columba's Church

Priest in Charge
 Revd. Becky Reeve 5 Tunstall Avenue 01429 671358
 Email: **revbeckystaidanandcolumba@gmail.com**

Safeguarding: Jacqui Rogers (Stranton Parish Safeguarding Officer)
 Email: **safeguarding@stranton-church.org.uk** 07749 163606

Churches Together in Hartlepool

Secretary Robert Proud: **pastor.nlfh@hotmail.co.uk**

Church Wardens Peter Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266

PCC Secretary Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Treasurer David Craig 57 Claremont Drive Contact Stanton Office
 894006

Asst. Treasurer Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
Loyalty Treasurer Ken Shepherd 251 Park Road 268007

Notice Sheet The Office (Notices by the preceding Wednesday)
Signpost Editorial Jacqui Rogers 19 Trentbrooke Avenue 265527
Signpost Advertising Maureen Anderson 22 Thetford Road 871266
St Matthew's Booking Trish Playfor Church Office 894006

Magazine articles to the parish office by 16th of every month.

