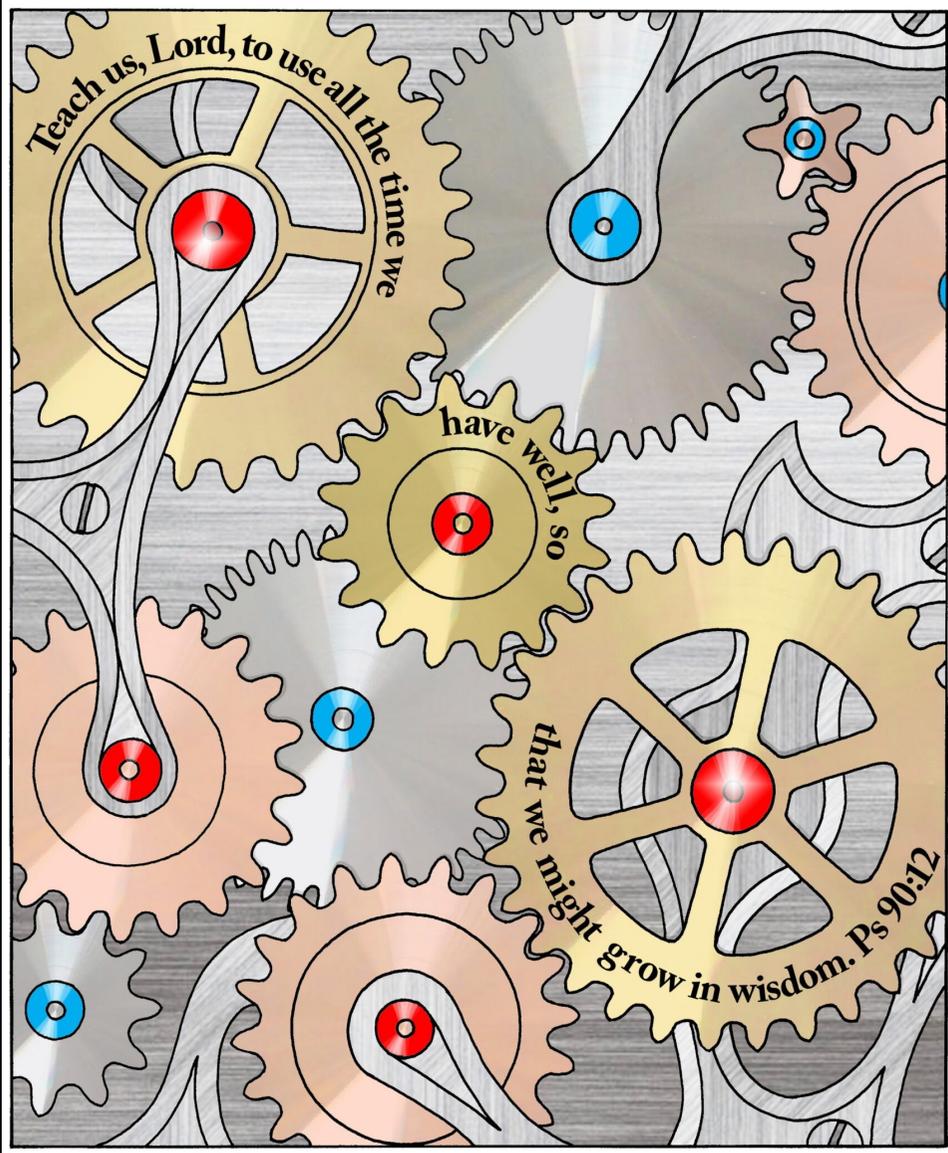




September
2021

St George's Mickley

St Peter's Bywell



All Change (again!)

One of the good things to have emerged from the pandemic has been the development of St John's 2020 garden. From a space that few of us paid much attention to, it has become a worship space, a space where people can gather, or simply sit and ponder, a space which is beautiful and attractive, and also a space where different types of events can be hosted (please see page 5).

Indeed, the joy of worshipping outside is something many of us have rediscovered or discovered for the first time, so much so, that several people have been heard to remark that it would be wonderful if we could just continue to worship outside! But as the summer comes to an end and we look to autumn and in light of the government's decision to lift the Covid restrictions, the time has come, after 17 long months, to return to worshipping in our church buildings.

I suspect after all the upheaval of the last year or so and after having learnt to 'do church' in new and sometimes challenging ways, we might find going back to 'normal' challenging too in its own way, even at the same time as heaving a great sigh of relief! We might even question what 'normal' is.

Both Bywell and Mickley PCCs have been grappling with these questions for the last few months – when should we go back into church, what will it be like, do we just revert to what we were doing before, or do we need to be thinking differently?

At the moment, unless there is any sudden upsurge in Covid and restrictions are re-applied, our first Sunday back in our churches will be Sunday 5th September, which barring the occasional attempt at worship in church will be 531 days without regular Sunday services in either St Peter's or St George's.

The Church of England guidance leaves it to PCCs and incumbents to decide whether we need to have social distancing and mask wearing in place, and this is something that is under review at the moment, and a final decision will be made nearer the time, but any decision that is taken will take into account the needs of those who are most vulnerable and those who are most anxious.

Another issue that the PCCs have been considering is our pattern of services before the pandemic and whether we should simply return to that or adopt a different pattern.

Three things particularly have emerged from the pandemic. Firstly, how useful it is to be able to stream services, or at least record them and make them accessible on You Tube, and this is something that we will seek to keep going forward. Secondly, the 3pm Wednesday Communion service at St John's happened almost by accident, partly because that was when the church was open for private prayer, but it has worked so well, this will be something to keep going forward. And of course, we have learned to worship outdoors and on Zoom, and both of these are things that we may well seek to do from time to time.

Other changes that have occurred during the pandemic have been related to people: obviously, Robert Peers retired as a Reader, and then he and Ann moved to Scotland. Philippa also decided to retire earlier this year. But Jane has quietly been pursuing her studies with Lindisfarne and should be ...Cont

licensed next year as a Reader, while Joy has also done the training to become a lay worship leader, and of course Tom has joined us too. However, if the pandemic has taught us anything it is how fragile things can be, and so some consideration needs to be given to sustainability and future proofing.

With that in mind both PCCs considered how we might organise our Sunday worship going forward, based on the following criteria:

1. There should be a service in each parish church every Sunday, but that service does not always need to be a Communion service
2. The number of services in each church should be related to the proportional size of the congregations.
3. Staffing services needs to be sustainable taking into account other demands on Sundays, such as First @ Four and baptisms. It also needs to take into account the importance of shared ministry between clergy and lay ministers.
4. We also need to take into account the possibility and desirability of recording services.

On that basis, and also taking into consideration that the parishes will inevitably be in vacancy at some point in the future, both PCCs agreed to the pattern below which will begin in September. Please note the service times, which have changed slightly, and for more explanation of what a Service of the Word is, please see below:

Church	St Peter's	St Peter's	St George's	St John's
Week 1		9.30: Holy Communion	11.15: Holy Communion	16.00: First @ Four
Week 2	8.00: Holy Communion	9.30: Holy Communion	11.15: Service of the Word	
Week 3		9.30: Holy Communion	11.15: Holy Communion	
Week 4	8.00: Holy Communion	9.30: Holy Communion	16.00: Evensong	
Week 5				10.00: Benefice Holy Communion

SO, WHAT IS A SERVICE OF THE WORD?

A Service of the Word is an authorized Church of England service. As the name suggests it is a service centred around listening to and pondering the Word of God and responding to it. Like the Communion service, there will be hymns, intercessions and other prayers, but at its heart is the Word of God, so the service is geared around preparing to hear the Word and responding to it. We will be using the Sunday readings and there will be a short time of reflection, either with some music or a short, spoken reflection. All in all the service should last between 30-40 minutes, and there will be a service booklet to follow.

Pat Moran



Saturday 21 st August	2-4.30 pm St John's Garden – Cream Teas plus raffle and garden games.
Sunday 29 th August	3 pm St John's Garden – Memorial Service
Sunday 5 th Sept	14 th Sunday after Trinity: services resume in church
Sunday 5 th Sept	4 pm First @ 4 at St John's
Wednesday 8 th September	3 pm Holy Communion at St John's
Sunday 12 th Sept	15 th Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday 15 th September	3 pm Holy Communion at St John's
Sunday 19 th Sept	16 th Sunday after Trinity – Harvest service at Bywell
Wednesday 22 nd September	3 pm Holy Communion at St John's
Sunday 26 th September	17 th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 3 rd October	18 th Sunday after Trinity – Harvest Service at Mickley
Sunday 3 rd October	4 pm First @ 4 at St John's
Sunday 10 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity

Link for the August/September issue of the Link:

<https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/news/link/>



Thomas (Tommy) Nicholson, RIP

Tommy was a very good, loyal friend to me for 52 years. He was already an established member of St George's church, along with his lovely wife Joyce, when my husband and I arrived at Mickley. Tommy was a fount of knowledge of the church, and indeed of the whole local area. In earlier times he was a motorcycle rider and worked down the mines. With their closure he became a carer at Prudhoe Hospital. Tommy was a licensed football referee. At Mickley church he was in the choir for many years and was a Sidesman until his passing. Tommy was a constant member of the church he loved. Classical music was an other passion of his. He was a great family man to his son and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. During the pandemic he missed his church visits and communion so much as his church life was truly important to him. I personally will miss a very dear friend. May God bless you.

Marion Symons



GARDEN EVENTS IN AUGUST

There are two events taking place in August in St John's Garden both reflecting aspects of our experience of Covid-19.

Saturday 21st August 2pm – 4.30 pm

As we are able to gather more freely, come and enjoy a cream tea in the garden, plus garden games and a raffle. Come along with all the family, relax and enjoy some fab food and some fun safely in our beautiful 2020 garden.

Sunday 29th August 3 pm Memorial Service

Covid-19 has had a huge affect on all of us, but particularly on those of us who have lost loved ones during the pandemic and have been unable to say good-bye or have been unable to have the funeral service for our loved one that we would have wished for or have been unable to attend a loved one's funeral. The 2020 garden idea came into being as a response to this terrible situation. The idea was to create a place of beauty where those we have loved and lost could be remembered. So, we would like to invite anyone who has been affected by loss and bereavement to come along to our service and if possible to bring a pebble with the name of their loved one on it. During the service we will read out the names and invite people to place their stone in the garden as a memorial. Please do pass on this information to anyone who you think may want to come along.



September - Holy Days

14th September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

16th September: Ninian, Bishop of Galloway

Ninian was a Celt who was born about 360, in southern Scotland. He was remarkable for two things: he was almost certainly the first man in Scotland to live in a little white stone house, and also the first to preach the gospel to the Scots. Just as remarkable: becoming the apostle to the Picts was intimately connected to him even *having* a white-washed stone house, instead of the usual wooden hovel.

For Ninian had not always stayed in Scotland, but had travelled to Rome to study, and then on to Gaul, where he had spent time with St Martin of Tours. Martin's monastery was called Loco Teiac (little white house), and it seems that when Ninian returned to Scotland to preach the gospel, he wanted something similar. And so it was that Ninian built his little white house, called Ad Candidam Casam, and began sharing the Gospel with the Picts who lived in Whithorn and Galloway. This was the region north of the old Roman wall – where Roman rule had never been established.

Ninian seems to have been very effective, for it is said that, like Patrick (a generation later) and Columba (a century and a half later), he helped form the character of Celtic Christianity. And throughout southern Scotland, there are still many churches who bear his name.

21st September: St Matthew

St Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

26th September: William Carlile

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton in 1847, and did not set out to become an evangelist. Instead, he was brilliant at both languages and music, and excelled as a businessman. That is, until an economic recession and serious illness brought him crashing down and finished his career, aged only 31.

Not surprisingly, a serious breakdown followed, when Carlile questioned everything that he had been attempting in life. This search for a new meaning brought him to faith in Jesus Christ, and so turned his world upside down. He later wrote:

I have seen the crucified and risen Lord as truly as if He had made Himself visible to me bodily sight. That is for me the conclusive evidence of His existence. He touched my heart and old desires and hope left it. In their place came the new thought that I might serve Him and His poor and suffering brethren.

Wilson approached two Christians whose passion for ministry was already well known: the Americans evangelists Moody and Sanky, who were at that time in England. Wilson attended their meetings and supplied music via his harmonium. In return, he learned a lot about effective outdoors evangelism.

Carlile then prepared himself for a life of ministry. He was confirmed into the Church of England, studied at the London College of Divinity, ordained in 1880 and served his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington. But Carlile wanted more than comfortable parish life, and soon began outdoor preaching again. He wanted to reach the poor, unchurched, of the community.

Carlile left Kensington to work in a slum mission, and by 1882 he was busy uniting the local Anglican parish missions into one organisation. Here his business skills in planning and organising proved invaluable, and soon he had founded the 'Church Army'. He then founded two training colleges, to train both men and women evangelists. After slight hesitation, the Church of England agreed to incorporate the Church Army into its structure, and even created the office of Evangelist for the Church Army captains and sisters.

In the years that followed, Church Army has done great work in evangelism, as well as in social and moral welfare. It helped support the troops during World War 1. Carlile remained honorary chief secretary until retirement in 1926. He died in 1942.

28th September : St Lioba

What really gets a woman remembered? Loved? Respected? Lioba the abbess of Bischofsheim is the patron saint for any woman who wants to make the most of her life.

Lioba was born in Wessex early in the 8th century. Her family was noble, her mother was a relative of the monk Boniface (the Billy Graham of the day, in that he was the apostle and then archbishop of Germany). *Cont...*

Lioba was educated first at the nunnery of Minster-in-Thanel and then at Wimborne, Dorset. She became a nun. After some years of correspondence with Boniface, he invited her to Germany to help him evangelise the people by establishing convents. Convents were sort of the 'Fresh Expressions' of church in those days.

And so Lioba left Dorset with 30 nuns and went to Tauberbischofsheim, where she established a convent. She was a wonderful 'ambassador' of Christianity, for people found her both beautiful and accessible, intelligent and patiently kind. She became so highly esteemed that soon her advice was sought by magnates of both Church and State.

Lioba's convents followed the Rule of St Benedict: all her nuns learned Latin as well as manual work in scriptorium, kitchen, bakery, brewery, and garden. Above all, the regular public prayer of the Church was upheld.

Learning, hard work, and love of God: those were the factors that made Lioba who she was. Her walk with God was evident in her inner strength and dignity, her goodness and kindness. No wonder that even 50 years after her death in 782, the local people were still talking of her with great affection.

29th September: Enter All Angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Traveller's Tales – Impressions of Lebanon

I was wondering which of my travels to write about this month when I happened to listen to BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship while cooking breakfast on Sunday 1st August. I don't often do so but that particular service was being broadcast from the National Evangelical Church of Beirut, in Lebanon. It was a special service marking one year since the devastating explosion at Beirut port that in a couple of seconds killed over 200 people and made 300,000 suddenly homeless. A mix of corruption, cronyism and incompetence had led to a vast warehouse on the edge of a residential area being filled with ammonium nitrate and neglected for six years. The explosion which resulted was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history, could be heard in Cyprus and felt in parts of Europe. One year on no one has been held accountable.

This was a beautiful programme and the reflections of the contributors about their experiences on the day of the explosion and subsequently held me captivated. It was also lovely to hear Christian liturgy and prayer again in the languages of the near East - a vivid reminder that Jesus didn't speak English and that at the time he lived English didn't even really exist. The Sunday Worship episode is still available to listen again until the end of August on the Radio 4, Sunday Worship website if you're interested: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000ydns>

My interest in Lebanon had been sparked by reading William Dalrymple's wonderful "From the Holy Mountain", first published in 1998 and probably the book that made me long to travel. It is a gentle, sorrowful and perceptive meander through the landscape and the people of the Levant looking at how the different faiths have coexisted (or not) through the centuries and considers the factors stacked against the remaining Christian communities there. It's filled with descriptions of the landscape and fascinating people and episodes of history I had known nothing about. I haven't dared reread it in light of the Arab spring and the upheaval of the last decade but it had a profound effect at the time and I'd recommend it.

I was fortunate enough to visit to Lebanon was in 2004 and my first impression was that it seemed to have everything one could want in a country: warm Mediterranean beaches, snow-capped mountains and ski resorts, steep wooded gorges with tremendous views out between the trees, Lebanon Cedars, of course, even vineyards. The history is so abundant one almost falls over it and while the buildings in downtown Beirut at that time were still pocked with shrapnel and bullet holes they were being increasingly covered with sleek, shiny cladding. The nightlife down by the Corniche was elegant and buzzing: Beirut felt like a city on the up.

The rest of the stay in the country included a visit to bustling Saida (Sidon) where I remember getting totally lost in the Hezbollah-supporting part of the old town.

Cont...

Accidental intrusion into someone's home didn't go down well but the Crusader-era Sea Castle guarding the busy harbour was tremendous. We also visited a palatial, leafy home of the Druze leader Walid Joumblatt. Heading inland towards Syria we explored the Bekaa Valley including visiting towering Roman temple ruins unlike any I had seen up to then (Temple of Jupiter), toured the underground storage cellars of a Lebanese vineyard (and sampled some, of course) and stayed in the time capsule that is the Hotel Palmyra (previously visited by General Allenby, emperors, generals and artists). I am certain there was still a bakelite phone on the concierge desk. I loved it!

The twenty-something me had read about the historical tensions between the communities in the country, and its creation as a result of the Great Powers establishing their protectorates in the Middle East after World War One. The news coverage of years of warfare and hostage-taking in Lebanon through the 1980s was the backdrop to my childhood. Even in the early 2000s there were still Syrian tanks to be seen patrolling in the Bekaa Valley but that all seemed to be fading into history and I felt a really positive vibe about the whole country. Our guide, a local postgraduate student, Jonny, knew the regional politics better and was worried about it all unravelling one day and while his knowledge was evident I still didn't SEE it.

So where is this rambling going? The service reminded me how much can change for so many in just a second or two and how adversity can bring out the best in a community. This is probably something we've all seen closer to home this past 18 months. The corruption and mismanagement that has plagued Lebanon contributed to the chaos at Beirut port but the financial collapse of the country was underway before then, stemming from problems that I, as a tourist, was oblivious too.

Now, at forty-something, I realise I should apply that lesson to so much more - a person may seem outwardly to have everything going for them and not a care in the world but it's only by really looking and really taking the time to investigate that one discovers those problems and can try to help. I know so many more people now who seem to the casual observer to have everything they could possibly want and put on a strong façade of being OK and things being on the up. I guess that's what we're all increasingly aware of with the campaigns around being aware of, and kind to each other's mental health. It's been brought into sharper focus with all the sports stars and Olympians admitting struggles this summer. In both cases it's only by actually looking under the surface and keeping listening that one finds out where the problems really lie and it's terribly easy to assume everything's rosy. Problems mightn't be easy to fix for either countries or individuals but surely knowing that people care and you are not forgotten must count for something.

I'd ask you to hold the people of Lebanon in your prayers for a while and closer to home all those people who appear to have everything but are struggling behind the façade.

Abby

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...

A bit of background to my story....

Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes currently has 111 WIs throughout the county and 2700 members - and Prudhoe WI is one local to us.

As a fundraiser the Federation runs a "100 Club" and any member (or WI) can purchase an annual ticket. Some of our Prudhoe Ladies support this each year but in July the numbers drawn were as follows:

100 Club Draw		
Drawn 13 July 2021		
1ST	184	Anne L - Prudhoe WI
2ND	185	Alison S - Prudhoe WI
3RD	186	Linda N - Prudhoe WI

NOW WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF THIS???

**Three wins from the same WI, all consecutive numbers
AND in the correct order!**

"Ah hah" - you say!! "That can't be right - they didn't mix
the tickets properly"

Well, it is neither of the above!!

This draw takes place in Federation office at a board meeting, and numbered tiles are randomly drawn, each by a different person and verified by a fourth (the Federation Treasurer). Currently there are 224 ticket holders so these odds are staggering!!!



Those of you with a mathematical brain might like to try and work out the odds of this amazing occurrence, but I for one would happily join my fellow members should they decide to buy a lottery ticket!!

Joy M

A Report from : **The South** - Life on the 54th Parallel

Greetings from the Province of York, Easingwold Deanery, Forest of Galtres Benefice, Parish of Sutton-on-the-Forest with Huby. Janis has been prompted to ask that I write a piece for the Parish Magazine about life in "The Deepest South".

With the arrival of a grandchild and my imminent retirement, Rachel and I put our house in Stocksfield on the market in October 2019 and rather like Robert and Anne, had little interest from any potential buyers at that time. In 2020 Covid came along and viewings were forbidden in the first lockdown. We did not take the house off the market, but at our request, the agent removed it from *Rightmove* for a period. Our aim was to look for a house to rent/buy in the South of England, to be nearer to our daughter and her family and also to my father. The house was on the market at the asking price, or near offer. We had several offers in late 2020/early 2021 all of which were too low. Eventually we accepted an offer in early 2021 and arranged with the buyers to move out before the (then) end of the stamp duty holiday on 31 March 2021. Little did we realise how much the market had changed - we could not find a suitable house to rent in the South of England - we could not visit to view due to travel restrictions and all the houses were snapped up within a few hours of being listed by the agents. In the end we came to a compromise - we had always liked Easingwold and arranged to move to a rented property in nearby Huby with a one year lease. We are still looking in the South of England, when we can get down there - although houses for sale are now all listed with a "guide price" and offers **above!**

Huby is an agricultural village on the plain of The Vale of York. The area was historically covered by a large forest known as The Forest of Galtres. To the North and Northeast are the Hambleton Hills, part of the massif forming the North York Moors National Park. The Kilburn White Horse is a prominent feature on the edge of the escarpment and first viewing on the long trip back from the South acts as a "welcome home", much in the way of the Tyne Bridges on entering Newcastle by train, or the Angel of the North on the A1. Nearer and to the Northeast are the Howardian Hills (after Castle Howard), where there are very pleasant villages and walks. Just to the North of Huby is the intriguing village of Crayke, which arises from the plain rather in the manner of a French medieval hill town. The characteristic silhouette of the Castle and Parish Church can be seen from miles around. Cuthbert is said to have established a monastery at Crayke and historically Crayke was part of the Diocese and County of Durham until 1844 - indeed the village pub is *The Durham Ox*. Further away and to the Southeast are the Yorkshire Wolds, an area we have visited briefly in the past and which awaits our further exploration. The Wolds are chalk downland (the furthest North in England) and the topography is somewhat reminiscent of Wiltshire, where we have been looking for a house. To the West are the Pennines of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Wharfedale (the highest peak in Yorkshire) is visible like a slumbering whale when viewed from Crayke. In describing all the rural delights on our doorstep, I must of course not forget the historic City of York, nine miles to the South which we have yet to visit since we arrived here - Evensong in the Minster is very much on our to-do list. The rivers Swale and Ure leave The Dales and after running cross-country, converge not far to the Northwest of here. Having been the Ure for a short stretch the river miraculously transforms into the Ouse at Cuddy Shaw Reach before forming the main river through York (the other being the River Foss).

Cont...

The change in rules to allow two households to “bubble” and meet inside was a very welcome development. Katie, Mark and Zachary have been up to see us and we have met with them in a cottage in Wiltshire in the past few weeks. We were primarily down South to house-hunt and see family. So far we have not seen anywhere we definitely would like to buy, but have scouted out a few places we might like to move to, if the right house came up.

In the interim, Rachel has been busy recording a radio play with residents of Redesdale as part of the “Revitalising Redesdale” project run by Northumberland National Park. This did involve a couple of trips up to Elsdon in May, where I was fully occupied as companion, chauffeur and gofer! We have had many local trips out, discovering the delights in the area. We have also maintained our daily “lockdown walks”, a habit established on the roads and paths around Stocksfield. The local inhabitants are all very friendly with a cheery hello, but we don’t yet really know any (other than our immediate neighbours and our landlord) to talk to as we did out and about in Stocksfield. There are many ancient tracks around the village and the Community Shop have a series of helpful walk leaflets with explanatory notes about local geography, place names etc. The flat terrain is predominantly arable farmland, with some cows and sheep and (around the village) many horses. The fields are of variable size, but there are many very large fields with an absence of hedges. These fields are often separated from the lanes only by a deep drainage ditch. It has been particularly interesting to watch the ploughed fields show their first green shoots and then to play “guess the crop” (the *Candida* App first suggested to me by Pat has been particularly useful in this regard – although the mobile phone signal is very patchy and internet connectivity may take a while to find!) and subsequently watch the crop develop.

Since May, Sunday morning worship has been in person and in church – socially distanced, masked and no singing of course – but there has been a choir of six to sing the hymns. The Benefice (see above) comprises five churches, with one priest in charge (who is also Area Dean). We have been primarily attending All Hallows, Sutton-on-the-Forest (our parish church – there is no Anglican church actually in Huby). On a nice day it is a lovely walk over the fields (approx 40 mins). The service is at 1115h, so plenty of time beforehand. Due to the commitment to 5 churches, the service is only every other week. The Church burial ground in Sutton (which is remote from the Church itself) has an interesting collection of gravestones with Polish names on – apparently the Canadian Air Force had a base on a now-disused airfield during WW2 and there was a significant Polish contingent, many of whom settled locally after the war.

I have maintained my association with the Stay at Home Choir and have been involved in several projects. With the onset of “Freedom” on 19th July I will probably look into the availability of local choirs. There are several singing groups who (used to, and I expect will recommence to) meet in Easingwold and the National Centre for Early Music in York also offers various groups. With the opportunities offered by retirement I have been able to read books I have accrued over the last few years, but not yet read*. The house we are renting is much smaller than the one we had in Stocksfield. I estimate (from the length of the removal pantechonicon involved by each portion of the load from our house) that approximately 2/3 of our stuff is now in storage – this includes a large component of our two childrens’ possessions as well!)
Cont...

I enjoy reading the St George’s and St Peter’s Magazine, which Sue sends me electronically. I note that consideration is being given to incorporating reports from other bodies in the villages. This very much forms the bulk of the Parish Magazine here in Huby. There is a prominent report from the YCA, which meets regularly in the *Rose and Crown* in “normal” times. As it is not specified what the initials stand for Rachel and I took time to work this out: Young Christians Association? (unlikely in view of the meeting place) – Google came to the rescue – the *Yorkshire Countrywomen’s Association* has been “promoting companionship, crafting and the importance of community” in the county since 1983!

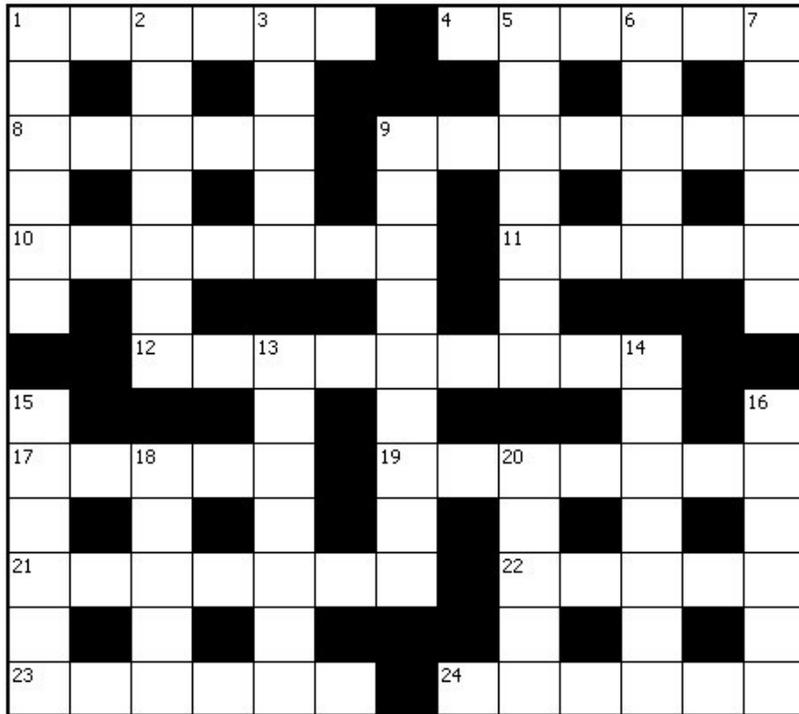
With good wishes to you all

Hugh

*I particularly recommend *The Northumbrians: North-east England and its People. A New History*, by Dan Jackson



PUZ?LES



Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)



		7		6				3
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			1				8	
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The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

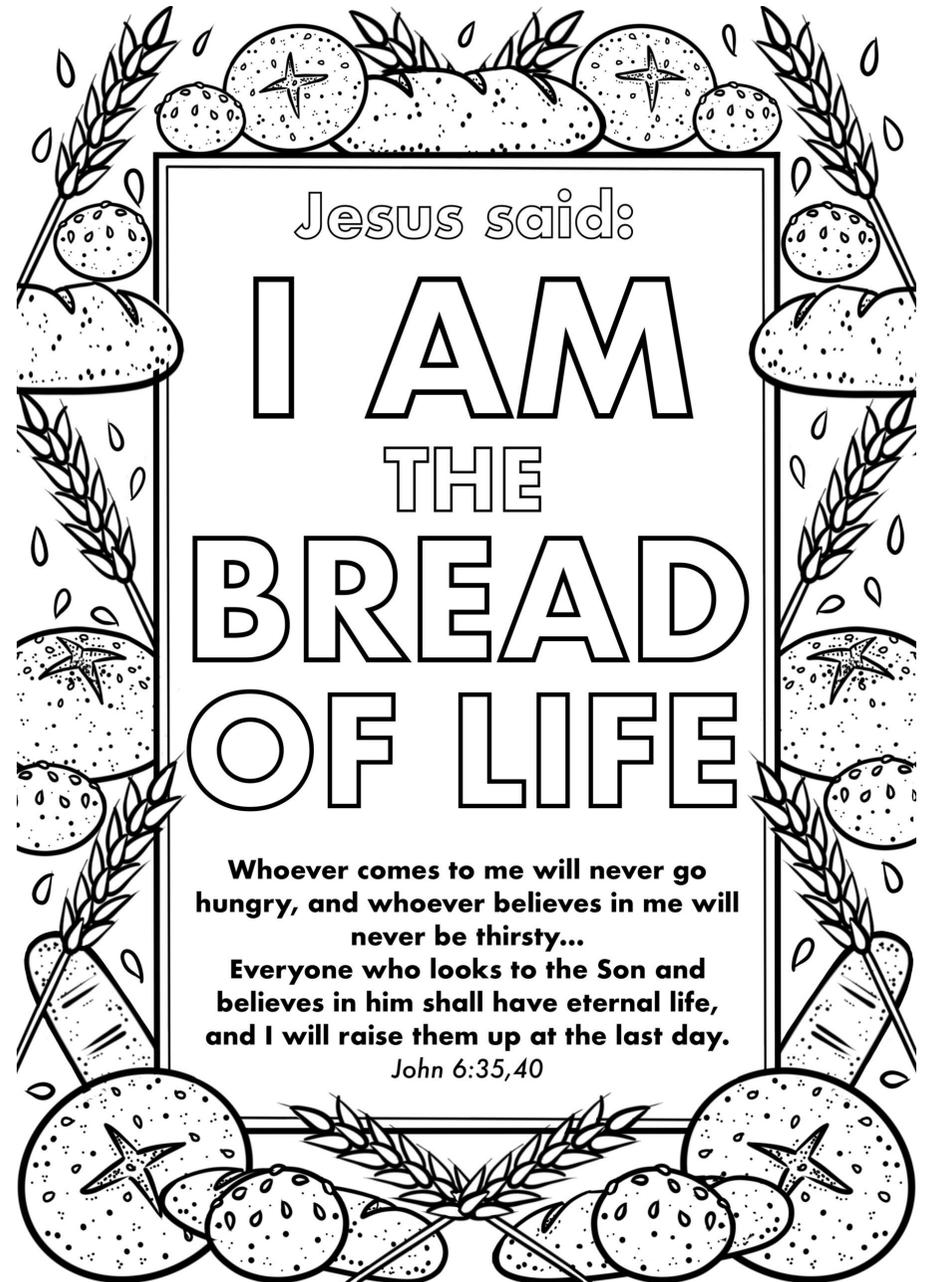
Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the 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	Sleeping	Master	Let	Barn
Heaven	Grain	Sow	Grow	Burned
Good	Weeds	Gather	Together	Harvest
Seed	Enemy	Reap	Bundles	
Field	Servants	Root		

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

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES - SEE PAGE 28

SOMETHING TO COLOUR-IN...



On the perils of taking a wedding

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Staycation Stories!!

'Camping!' Dad announced one evening after work.

'Camping?' Mum repeated, as she plonked our tea in front of us.

'A fella from work has said we can borrow his tent for our holiday this year. He says it's the best way to see Scotland.'

Why didn't we heed the warning message in that sentence? Quite simply, we had NEVER been camping. NEVER. Kudos to mum, she didn't burst Dad's bubble (THAT happened later!)

Four weeks later, the first-time campers set off for Fort William, Ben Nevis, to be exact. The car groaning under the weight of all things camping related. I was shoe-horned into the back of the car, as Dad and Mum wedged things around me, under me and above me. Is it at this point that I tell you we had not even tried to put the tent up? Not once. Not in the garden.

Arrival time at camp site 4.00pm. Weather forecast? Rain. The forecast was indeed thoroughly reliable. I couldn't begin to describe the hapless antics of the first-time campers, but I should have sold tickets. I really should. At any given point during the following four hours there was always:

1 member of Family Ferguson, professing to be an expert (and resolutely, but politely, refusing help from experienced campers on site)

1 member of Family Ferguson losing their cool
1 member of Family Ferguson falling around in fits of laughter on the increasingly sodden grass.



By 7pm the rain had taken on biblical proportions and our semi-constructed tent was definitely NOT looking like Noah's Ark. By 8pm the tent, resembling a very sad and deflated green balloon, was attempting, and failing, to float.

Family conference. All in agreement? Unanimous. Decamp to the car for the night, for what can only be described as a very bad tempered, very wet, very smelly, very hungry game of human sardines listening to Daddy Ferguson snoring and Mummy Ferguson muttering: 'Camping. I'll give you camping Eric.'

And yes, at every single family reunion from then on, this adventure was repeated, with increasing embellishments.

FOOTNOTE:

The 'tent' was a one man tent..... for three of us!! You couldn't make it up!

Janis

PTO for more "Staycation Stories"...

CHILDHOOD HOLIDAY MEMORIES:

All this year's talk of staycations reminds me of the time my family and I went on holiday to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. I would have been about 6 years old, so only have very hazy memories really. I remember waiting for a bus in Glasgow, and a bus tour of the Isle of Bute where it rained non-stop so that the only thing we saw was the steam on the bus windows. You could also hire small motor-boats, which we duly did, but again I did not see a thing because ...you've guessed it, it chucked it down from the heavens! My parents pushed me into a space under the bow to keep me dry while they got soaked. But then one day we awoke to glorious sunshine and the promise of a great day on the beach and exploring. A fellow guest offered us a lift to wherever we were going but as we got out of the car and my dad turned to close the door, he managed to trap my mother's finger in the car door, which meant we ended up in the local hospital which I still remember quite well after all this time. That turned out to be the only sunny and rain-free day of our holiday. Needless to say, I still have absolutely no idea of what Rothesay is like!

Pat

My Staycation Memories:

A lot of my favourite memories come from camping with my family. One time we went to 'the forbidden corner' whilst camping in Scarborough. It felt magical to go through all the different scenes and hallways, all surrounded by lush green gardens. From walking through a maze full of gnomes, to crossing stepping stones into an ancient temple, we couldn't be bored. Our holiday was topped off with a visit to the beach and attractions, where we played in the arcade. The rest of the day was spent crabbing. I fondly remember sitting in the tent overlooking the sea. Nothing could beat waking up to the crisp, fresh air every morning.

Abigail

"Staycations" in the past

In the mid-1950s we went to Shetland for our holidays and then in the 1960s to Holy Island and Skye. Going to Shetland was a thirty six hour journey – early morning train from Newcastle to Aberdeen (British Rail breakfasts were very good I seem to remember) and then overnight ferry to Lerwick and then bus south to Spiggie.

The ferry, the St Clair, from Aberdeen to Lerwick was not a roll-on/roll-off. Cargo had to be swung in from the dockside to the holds and coming home in late August/early September this meant that the holds were left open and were full of seasick sheep going to the markets in mainland Scotland and England, while cars were tied down on the deck. Sometimes the ship would be full of migrant birds hitching a lift to mainland Britain!

In those days, my father wore an old hunting jacket which had been his father's and must have been 30+ years old! On the ferry and in the hotel he was known as "the man with the coat"!

When we went to Skye, we drove and it took us two days. The roads were narrow and twisty and you had to be wary of coaches and wagons coming towards you round tight corners.

One of the things I remember about the B&B on Skye was that it was run by an elderly couple of crofters. During the summer months they lived in a caravan on the property. Milk was provided by the house cow and coal was delivered by boat from the mainland to Portree. The crofters farmed a few strips of land using a community owned tractor to plough and sow and later harvest the crops. So if they were last on the rota for ploughing they were last on the rota for harvesting – I don't think weather conditions came into it.

The lady who owned the B&B was of the school of thought that men needed feeding up so when there were boiled eggs for breakfast we got one and my father two. On one occasion he put the second egg in his jacket pocket for later (probably the same hunting jacket he had on Shetland) – unfortunately it was not hard boiled!

Shetland, Holy Island and Skye were holidays where my interest in bird watching was kindled.

Margaret



Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden – design tips for a calm green space Bible Society, £6.50

Sarah Eberle, winner of 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows, has designed the Bible Society's entry garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this month (September 2021).

The theme of the garden is Psalm 23, and this is the full-colour book of photographs to go with it. Based on the themes of rest and peace, it offers a place of refuge and restoration, which is reflected in the meditations and stories within the book.

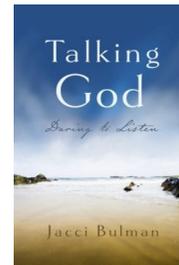
The book also offers tips from Sarah Eberle on how to create your own peaceful outdoor space.



Sarah Eberle's
Psalm 23 Garden

Design tips for a calm green space

Talking God – Daring to Listen By Jacci Bulman, Lion Hudson, £9.99



Listening is a valuable – and often neglected – tool for spiritual learning.

This book invites you to reflect on the personal beliefs many of us hold towards God through listening in on a series of 11 inspiring interviews with people of Christian or 'Jesus-connected' faith.

Each of these dedicated spiritual pilgrims give their response to searching questions about God, Jesus Christ, and Christianity, offering a wide range of perspectives on issues of faith and spiritual truth.

The Robot Will See You Now – Artificial Intelligence and the Christian Faith. Various authors, SPCK, £12.99

The last decade has seen dramatic advances in artificial intelligence and robotics technology, raising tough questions that need to be addressed. This book considers how Christians can respond to these issues – and flourish – in the years ahead.

Contributions from a number of international experts explore a range of social and ethical issues raised by recent advances in AI and robotics. Considering the role of artificial intelligence in areas such as medicine, employment and security, the book looks at how AI is perceived as well as its actual impact on human interactions and relationships.

This is a book for anyone who is interested in learning more about how AI and robots have advanced in recent years, and anyone who has wondered how Christian teaching relates to artificial intelligence. Whatever your level of technical knowledge, *The Robot Will See You Now* aims to give you an understanding of AI and equip you to respond to the challenges it poses with confidence and faith.





Prudhoe & District u3a

Now that restrictions are lifting, September sees the start of our regular monthly meetings. Meetings will be held in Prudhoe Parish Hall and will be hybrid meetings, i.e. some members will meet in the hall whilst others will be welcome to join the meeting on ZOOM. For details on how to join our meetings (both physically and via ZOOM) please contact u3a.prudhoe@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on Monday 27th September at 10 a.m. when Bob Pullen will talk about "Sleep and Dreams". Bob Pullen is a retired Lecturer who has spent many years giving lectures on the brain to students of Medicine and Pharmacy. During this time, he has learned many interesting facts about the human brain which he includes in this interactive talk.

Part 1: Describes the general structure of the brain, how nerves work and how different parts of the brain are responsible for keeping us awake and going to sleep.

Part 2: Talks about the different kinds of sleep we have and how we dream. The talk discusses dreams with the audience.

We look forward to welcoming current members, former members, new members and visitors to our meetings. Please check our website for more information:

<https://sites.google.com/site/u3a4prudhoe/>

Another quick and easy recipe from the EASY OJs

AS EASY AS 1-2-3

Shortbread

3 parts plain flour, 2 parts unsalted butter, 1 part sugar.

Allow the butter to reach room temperature. Combine the ingredients thoroughly but do not overwork. Roll out the mixture to about 1cm thickness.

Cut into rounds or fingers, place on a greased tray, prick with a fork and bake at gas 3 or 170deg until golden (about 20-25 minutes).

Transfer to cooling rack and sprinkle with caster sugar.



I usually mix rice flour or semolina with the plain flour (about 3 parts flour to 1 part rice flour) Sometimes I add lemon rind, ground ginger or cocoa powder to taste.



PRUDHOE WI

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm

The Parish Hall, Front Street, Prudhoe.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

At long last we are looking forward to being able to meet indoors (Covid safe, of course) so why not come along and join us and see what the WI can offer you?

Our meetings are interesting, informative and most of all enjoyable. It's a great way to meet new folk and make lasting friendships in a relaxed, warm and welcoming environment.

Contact Alison Scrimshaw, Secretary for more information on 01661 830071.

Next meeting held at 7.00pm, Wednesday September 15th

Prudhoe Parish Hall

"A Cuppa & A Catch-Up"



STOCKSFIELD WI

Stocksfield WI meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at SICA.

After what has seemed to be an endless break we have just started to meet again in COVID safe conditions.

Our Autumn programme is:

SEPT - Craft night small picture/card using watercolour

OCT - John Moreels - "A History of a nostalgic view of the North"

NOV - Chris Sheppard - "Who needs a will?"

DEC - Party night with music from Ash Humble a local musician.

We are a very friendly sociable group and you are bound to know somebody who is a member already. We would love to see you there. Come first as a visitor and hopefully you will like us so much you will stay.

For more info contact our secretary Lorraine Dickinson on 01661 842723, or me on 01661 843136.

Jessie Reisner (president)

Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society - Autumn Programme 2021

All events are currently planned to be on Zoom and are open to non-members, priced £3 – contact Sue Sinclair on:
stocksfieldpg@gmail.com

Alternatively, as a member of Stocksfield Community Association (£9 individual; £12 joint via www.stocksfieldca.org.uk), you can join the Society for a year's worth of events and activities for just £3 individual; £5 joint (via www.stocksfieldplantsandgardens.co.uk).

Tuesday 21st September 7.15pm for 7.30pm

Members' Evening

Summer Trials, Triumphs and Travel – a Visual Feast!

As an addition to our regular Autumn Programme, several members will give short, illustrated talks interspersed with photographs of this year's gardening highlights from other members



STOCKSFIELD LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY

Stocksfield Local History Society

Stocksfield Methodist Church
Mount View Terrace,
Stocksfield

Wednesday 8th September, 7.30pm

The Cocken (Durham) Project - The unearthing
of a WW1 training camp

Speaker - Mr Alistair Fraser

VISITORS WELCOME - £3.00

Can You Help??

Karen Webster (SLHS) has been contacted by a lady who is researching the early life of her mother-in-law for the purpose of writing a novel, and wondered if an article could be placed in this magazine to see if anyone living in the village has any information to assist her.

Mrs Joy Coutts is trying to find some information regarding Aubrey & Joyce Trail who lived at Batt House and in particular a Mrs Thomson who was at the house in the early 1950s.

Joy Coutts mother-in-law, Olive Walker at 16 years old would have been in service to the Trails in 1951/52, and while there participated in the National Houseworkers scheme with the National Institute of Houseworkers. She attained Diploma level with them in January 1952.

Any information on the Trails and Mrs Thomson would help Joy create the characters for the book, her contact details are:

prideandjoyeditorial@gmail.com, Tel:07792 565313



ANNIVERSARY OF BAPTISMS

We pray for the following children, the anniversary of whose baptism falls this month, and also for their parents and godparents.

2017	Lucy Hollie Rebecca Hart
2019	James Andrew Kennedy
2019	Jack Alan Newton
2020	Abigail Pentolfe

ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGES

Married in St Peter's church, September 2018
Matthew Richard Coulson & Jessica Sarah Meekel

Married in St Peter's church, September 2020
Stuart Keith Wilkinson & Catherine Ann Saxon

Married in St Peter's church, September 2020
**Edward Matthew Macleod Thorne
& Rachel Chloe Hawkesford**

FUNERAL SERVICES

"May they rest in peace and rise in glory"

Service held on 23rd July

Janet Slater

Service held in St George's church on August 12th

Tommy Nicholson

YEAR'S MIND for SEPTEMBER

This list of names of the deceased is compiled from church registers.

Families or friends of those who have died ask for their loved ones to be commemorated on the anniversary of their death.

In addition to being published on this list, these names are also included in prayers at the main service the week before the date falls.

If you would like a loved one commemorated in this way, please contact any Churchwarden.

2nd	1992	Robin Bisset
3rd	2016	Jane Miller
5th	2001	Steven Mather
6th	1995	Michael Ryan (Priest)
10th	2005	William Bouch
16th	2018	Norman A S Peart
11th	1994	David Robson
12th	2020	William John Davison
17th	2002	Bett Stoker
18th	2003	Alfred Samuel Greene
19th	2012	Kathleen Beech
20th	2001	David George Beech
23rd	1996	John Wallace Hope
24th	1989	Kenneth Findlay-Selman
26th	2005	Don Crocker
27th	2011	Blanche Thompson
30th	1989	William Craig
30th	2018	Dorothy Patricia (Pat) Peers

All In The Month of September...

It was:

100 years ago, on 8th Sept 1921 that Sir Harry Secombe was born. This Welsh comedian, actor, writer, singer and TV presenter was one of the stars of the 1950s radio series *The Goon Show*.

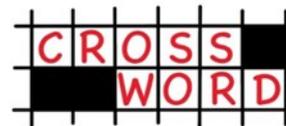
80 years ago, on 1st Sept 1941 that Nazi Germany ordered all Jews in Germany and its occupied territories to wear a yellow Star of David badge.

65 years ago, on 16th Sept 1956 that Play-Doh went on sale in the USA. It was originally sold as a wallpaper cleaning compound, but was then relaunched as a modelling compound when the inventor's nephew discovered that nursery school children were using it to make Christmas ornaments.

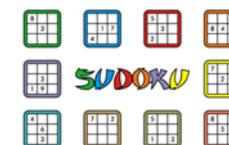
30 years ago, on 6th Sept 1991 that the Russian city of Leningrad was renamed St Petersburg, restoring its original name.

20 years ago, on 11th Sept 2001, that the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA took place. 2,973 people were killed.

Puzzle Solutions



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



Index of Advertisers

Bathroom Design & Installation

19 Serenity Bathrooms

Builder/Joiners

26 Steve Melville
27 Ian & James Davison

Business Administration

24 Star Duck Administration

Car Servicing & Repair

21 New Ridley Road Garage

Carpet Supply & Fitting

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25 PC's@Home

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25 G & S Electrics

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18 North Acomb Farm Shop
22 Whitelaws Family Butchers
26 Branch End Service Station

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21 E Peart Ltd

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19 Trevor Jones, Tree Surgeon
21 Tim Green
25 Brian Ballantyne
27 Tyne Valley Garden Centre

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23 SGH Services

Hair Salons

22 CK Hair Design
25 Oaks Hair Studio

Hall Hire

25 St John's Hall

Haulage & Earthworks

27 Thompsons of Prudhoe

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MAGAZINE

To include material in this magazine, please contact:

Joy Marshall

Email: marshall_mickley@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07801 131422

Note: The deadline for material for the October 2021 magazine will be:

Thursday, 9th September 2021

Please forward any contributions to Joy Marshall

Email: marshall_mickley@yahoo.co.uk

We are always seeking more articles, stories and information. Thank you!

ADVERTISING

To advertise in this magazine please contact either:

Mrs Joy Marshall

07801 131422

Mrs Anne Hazon

01661 842483

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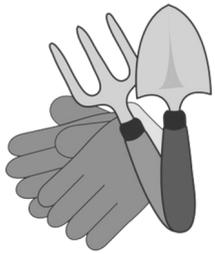
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