

December 2017/January 2018

CONTACT

**The Magazine of
St. George's United Reformed Church
Newton Road, High Heaton,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7HP**



Thoughts from the Manse

This year is the 500th anniversary of the event said to mark the beginning of the Reformation, when Martin Luther, according to legend, pinned his 95 theses (points for religious debate) to the doors of All Saints and other churches in the university town of Wittenberg.

The period we now speak of as the Reformation was an incredibly creative period for theology – new ideas proliferated about how the church should be governed, how the Scriptures should be studied and taught, how the Sacraments should be understood and celebrated, and so on. One important thing to realise however, is that the Reformers did not think of themselves as creating anything new – quite the opposite. They thought they were directing the church back to its roots, and correcting misunderstandings that prevented Christians from coming to a full understanding of their faith.

The Reformed faith is often summarised in the form referred to as the **five solas**, or **solae** if you prefer the Latin plural. **Sola** means **alone** and the five solas are as follows:

- sola *Scriptura*, by Scripture alone
- sola *fide*, by faith alone
- sola *gratia*, by grace alone
- solus *Christus*, by Christ alone
- soli *Deo gloria*, to the glory of God alone

These statements can all be drawn from the writings of the Reformers – however the five solas were not brought together and set out in this way until the twentieth century.

Each of the five solas corrects an abuse the Reformers saw in the medieval church.

- *By Scripture alone*, because the medieval church gave as much authority to its own church tradition as it did to the Bible. It also of course denied ordinary people access to the biblical texts, by not allowing translations into the languages ordinary people actually spoke.
- *By faith alone*, meaning the individual's faith in Christ for salvation. We are 'justified', made right with God, by our own faith. The church cannot pretend to do it for us.
- *By grace alone*: nothing we can do, no good works or works of penance prescribed by the church, have any merit in themselves; it is only through God's gracious acceptance of us that we are saved. Even faith itself, the capacity to believe, is a gift of divine grace.
- *By Christ alone*: Jesus Christ himself stands before God and pleads for us; believers do not need priests to speak to God on their behalf, because the members of the Christian church are proclaimed in Scripture to be **a royal priesthood, a holy nation** (1Peter 2.9).
- *To the glory to God alone*: Christians should not venerate Mary, the saints or angels. When we use the term 'saints' in our church we mean those who are saved in Christ, including ourselves (we hope), not legendary figures slaying dragons or pulling thorns out of lions' paws.

The problem with all of these statements is that they are statements of opposition – opposition to the beliefs, practices or institutions of the Church of the Reformers' time. They can still be a barrier to cooperation and good relations between churches today, if we insist on them too strongly and with too little sensitivity to others' beliefs.

However, our ignorance of where our own faith has come from is a weakness. The Reformation, above all else, was a campaign for literacy – theological literacy of course, but also the basic skills of reading and interpretation that make it possible for us to read the Bible for ourselves, and profit from reading it. All of us need to look critically at how we read, how we think and believe, and see where our own faith needs its own reformation.

Your friend in Christ
Grant

Church Family News

Mary Wordsworth

It is with sadness that we learned that our friend and former member Mary Wordsworth passed away in October this year. Mary and her late husband Les had been faithful active members at St George's for many years, and their house in Jesmond Park West was the centre of many a social church gathering. Their children, Helen and Anthony were brought up in our Sunday School. In particular Mary supported the Women's Fellowship, the Christmas Fayres, and Les was our Treasurer for some time. He was also an accomplished musician who occasionally played the organ for us.

When the children moved on to university, and were married, Mary and Les downsized to a house in Castle Farm. Despite the smaller house, the grand piano moved with them, completely filling one room!

Following Les's death some years ago, Mary decided to move to Aberdeen to be nearer her daughter Helen and her family. She lived in sheltered housing then moved to a care home for extra support. Just before she died, Mary had fallen and fractured a hip, which was successfully treated in hospital. But sadly Mary died six days after getting back to the care home. She remained her cheerful self and was able to join her friends for a musical afternoon a day or so before she died. So her final days were once again full of chatter, joy and laughter.

We extend our love and deepest sympathy to Helen, Anthony and all the family.

Jean Harvey

St George's is also sad to note the passing of one of our oldest members, Jean Harvey. Jean was a very active, faithful and much loved member of our church from her childhood onwards. She was a great baker- and her mouth-watering Lemon Drizzle cake was always the first to be sold out at Fayres. Though she had been unable to attend church for many years, due to ill health and mobility problems, she was kept in touch with church events by her visitors. She had a very positive attitude on life, and a great sense of humour and fun.

During the war, Jean joined the ATS, and until a few years ago, would not talk about her experiences. She had worked for some time at Bletchley Park, where Alan Turing and his team cracked the complex Enigma code. At Bletchley there is a Roll of Honour listing all the employees' names and service records, and also a memorial wall commemorating the work of the team. The wall consists of bricks; each brick recording a name. Jean's brick is next to Alan Turing's.

We shall miss Jean's warmth, her smile, and her friendship and love. We hold Jean's family in our thoughts and prayers.

Martha and Mary's- a Plea for Help

Could you spare two hours a week (or more) to help at Martha and Mary's community café on Chillingham Road?

In case you didn't know, Martha and Mary's is supported by Heaton Churches Together and all the staff who serve in the shop are volunteers, many of whom come from the various churches within Heaton. Some of their regular volunteers have left recently and the café could do with a few more helpers.

Volunteers get full training and are placed with an experienced member of the team until fully confident and even then you will never be on your own. Volunteer shifts are only a couple of

hours each time, so do not take up a whole day and you can do as many shifts as you like. (Even one two hour shift will help). It is a great way to meet people and serve the community, so if you have some spare time, please consider volunteering. Martha and Mary's is also looking for an on-line champion willing to show customers needing help to get online.

If either of the above volunteer opportunities sound of interest to you, please contact Elizabeth Screen- e@screenmail.co.uk or 07817010846, or pop into the shop and talk to one of the volunteers. They all enjoy what they do and would be happy to share their experiences with you.

David Wells,
Trustee, Martha and Mary's

Prayer Chains

Some of you may not be aware that St George's has two active prayer chains. Chain 1 consists of people who are mainly available during the daytime and chain 2 is for people who are mostly available in the evenings.

If you know of someone who is in need of prayer- who are perhaps going through a difficult time with health, or have other concerns, and they would like other people to pray for the situation, (ask them first), please contact either Elsie Bradley (0191 2921179) or Sandra and Norman Nossiter (0191 2365757) and they will start their chains. Or you may wish to thank God for answers to your prayers and that prayer can be passed on- it is not just for crisis prayer.

There are 7 people in each chain. When a call for prayer comes, the message is passed on to the first person on the chain. That person will then contact the next person on the chain as soon as possible. And so it goes on till everyone on the chain has received the message. Prayers begin as soon as a message is received. We have made a commitment to pray, day or night. The people who are praying do not need to know details of illnesses, and sometimes we do not even know the names of those who have asked for prayer- but we know that God knows. All requests for prayer are treated as confidential.

If this is something you would like to be involved in then please speak to Dorothy B initially for further details.

Marriage words – How True!

Julia and I recently celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary and I was reminded of an old story I read sometime ago concerning a wedding speech made by the best man. In his speech he said, "Marriage is an empty box. It remains empty unless you put in more than you take out".

Wise words for any married couple, young or old.

DW

Rend Collective

The Northern Irish Christian worship band from Bangor, Northern Ireland are at the Newcastle City Hall in Newcastle on Friday, Feb 9th.

Tom Smith from Soul Survivor and Guvna B are going to kick things off for this night of celebration and worship!

Some of us are already booked so if you are interested in going along please speak to Grant

Remember this bloke?

- Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it.
- Here's my strategy on the Cold war: we win, they lose.
- The most terrifying words in the English language are : I'm from the government and I'm here to help.
- Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the US was too strong.
- I have wondered what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress.
- The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examinations.
- Government is like a baby: an alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.
- The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.
- Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidise it.
- Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.
- No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenal of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.
- If we ever forget that we're one nation under GOD, then we will be a nation gone under.

All quotes are attributable to former US President Ronald Reagan. (Article from the Internet.)

Socks and Chocs/ Heaton Churches Together

On Saturday December 9th from 10 am till 12 noon, we hope to sort Socks and Chocs which have been collected from the Churches in Heaton. We intend to make up gift bags containing new socks, (or tights for the ladies), woolly hat and/or gloves/scarf, sweets, toiletries. The gifts are given to individuals at or around the Christmas party at the People's Kitchen. The People's Kitchen helps the homeless of Newcastle.

We are also appealing for men's boxer shorts, tracksuit bottoms, and sleeping bags- either new or in very good, clean condition. For ladies we appeal for sanitary products.

We have been saving our gifts for some time and it is always a busy time sorting into bags. Can you come along and help us? We need people too to make teas and coffees for the sorters. It's a great morning!

Angels

Heaton Churches would also like to give out knitted angels when they go carol singing on December 16th. If you would like to do some knitting for us, please ask for a pattern. Not much time to go now!

Carol singing

The carol singing will be outside Sainsbury's Local on Heaton Road, and at Martha and Mary's, the coffee shop run by the Heaton Churches on Chillingham Road. The band of the Salvation Army will join us there. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

DJB

Are you Listening?

There is an old story of six young men applying for one job at the telegraph office. They all knew Morse code so they confidently filled out the application the secretary had given them. Then they all sat and waited to be called in for interview.

A few minutes later one of the men got up and walked into the interviewers office. The others were amazed at his nerve. But the secretary explained, "while you have all been sitting there, the telegraph was repeatedly tapping out a message, which said, 'if you can understand this come in, you've got the job'."

The message was there for all of them. Each one of them could have deciphered it, but only one was listening.

It's intriguing to think that the world, and everything in it, might be a message sent to each of us, inviting us to play a part in God's grand Plan. Are you listening? Do you want the job?

DW

Youth Church Invite you to a Christmas Party

Dear Church,

Youth Church are very grateful for all the help and support you give us. We would like to organise a church Christmas party for the 9th December with games, songs and food. We will even perform!! We have great ideas for the table decorations. We are having some help to cook Christmas dinner. It will be traditional chicken with a veggie option. (We are having some help with the cooking - don't worry)

We just need to cover costs and would imagine no more than £5. If that is too much just let us know we can sort something out as we don't want anyone to miss out. Any profit will go to Seeds of Hope

Please let us know if you are coming by filling out the form below

Saturday Zone in November

We loved welcoming new and familiar families to our Zone in November. The theme was mighty works and so we had lots of space related crafts. Kids had a chance to make constellations from marshmallows and pasta, intergalactic slime starry biscuits layers of the earth models, computer stuff, lego, toys and much more. We had a nice time playing (who doesn't love play doh) and chatting to parents. We had a very kind donation of doughnuts and so there was a lot of happy chomping as well. Thank you to everyone who supports us in so many different ways.

Our next Saturday Zone is a Christmas special on 25th November 2017. It is going to be awesome so spread the word and come along.

Junior Church, Youth Church Christmas Appeal

This year Junior Church, Youth Church are taking part in the local Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

The gifts will be distributed to those in need via The Salvation Army's own local networks through local groups, charities and social services to ensure that as many families and children as possible benefit. The toys will be distributed without discrimination or prejudice Please note – We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas, and we are therefore unable to take

used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal. They would really like our help with the 13-16 age range

9-12:- games and toys, stationery, CDs, DVDs, books, T-Shirts, hair ornaments, gloves, scarves, hats

13-16:- CDs, DVDs, books, toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, T-Shirts, hair ornaments.

We hope to collect our gifts by the end of November if you would like to help.

Ceilidh

We have just had an amazing Ceilidh to raise money for Seeds of Hope project in Uganda. Marina has been working for some time to collect the musicians and on the night they were terrific no other word for it.

We were also blessed by Maurice from Phoenix Folk who not only helped with his wonderful guitar playing but also brought along his gear to make everything so much more professional. Tony stepped in, dressed up and helped us through each dance and we loved to see hip hop and jig by Tricia and Tenicia. Barbara played beautifully and the singing group brought a tear to the eye. How many times did we hear 'that was great'...and it was. A great way to make new friends, talk to 'old' ones and support our friends in Uganda. Marina thank you for everything you did.... next one??

Youth Weekend

Some of you will have met Ali Greaves who joins us when she can at St George's. She has moved up from the North West to study and has 'willingly' become the North East Rep. If you see her please get chatting. She has already got some volunteers to attend from St G. Below is her first letter.

Hello there,

My name is Alison or Ali if you prefer I am somehow 19 and technically an adult, which scares me more than spiders! I come from Manchester but am currently training to be a Children's Nurse at Northumbria University in Newcastle. All I eat is chocolate, you can't keep me out of a swimming pool and I never stop singing. Travelling though is my biggest love, exploring people's lives, communities and the beautiful nature that surrounds them is where I will be in my holidays.

Wait, wait, wait, before I go on, I will explain why I am introducing myself to you all. Recently I have become the Northern Synod United Reformed Church's Youth Rep. In English this means I represent all you young people up to the age of 25 who live in the north east right from Northallerton up to Berwick, meet with a team of adults who support youth work within your churches as well as a small group of young people from across Britain to organise URC Youth Assembly.

Next question then. What is URC Youth Assembly? Basically, Youth Assembly is a weekend away where all the young people who go to United Reformed Church across the country meet up to celebrate their faith. The weekend is filled with food (very important of course), youth focused worship, incredible music, practical workshops and small discussion groups.

So, this little letter is your invite for you to join me and other young people from the North East area to Youth Assembly next year in January starting on the evening of Friday the 19th until Sunday afternoon the 21st. It happens in Whitemoor Lakes Conference Centre in Staffordshire. We will travel together, and you will get to meet young people from across the country. If you want any more details have a quick Google.

Wanting to come to Youth Assembly please get in touch with me! It would be great to have you there. If you want to be involved with young fun across the Synod get in touch with me too! Would love to hear from you!

A Craft Workshop

A craft workshop run by Chain Reaction has started on Tuesdays in the Minor Hall from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm. There is no cost for attending, all welcome. They are presently making Christmas Cards. This is run by a Community Group and there is a notice at church giving further details about it.

Name that carol! (not the usual sort of clues!)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bleached Yule | 11. Nocturnal noiselessness |
| 2. Castaneous-coloured Seed Vesicated in a conflagration. | 12. Jehovah deactivate blithe chevaliers. |
| 3. Singular yearning for the twin anterior incisors | 13. Red man en route to Borough |
| 4. Righteous darkness | 14. Frozen precipitation commence |
| 5. Arrival time 24.00 hours- weather cloudless | 15. Proceed and enlighten on the pinnacle |
| 6. Loyal followers advance | 16. The quadruped with the vermilion proboscis |
| 7. Far off in a Feeder | 17. Query regarding identity of descendant |
| 8. Array the corridors | 18. Delight for this planet |
| 9. Bantam male percussionist | 19. Give attention to the melodious celestial beings |
| 10. Monarchical Triad | 20. The dozen festive 24 hour intervals arrivals |

Answers at the end of the magazine, no peeking.

Bible a Month Club: Serbia.

“They shall be like trees growing beside a stream- trees with roots that reach down to the water, and with leaves that are always green” Jeremiah 17, 8. (CEV)

Serbia is a land-locked country in Eastern Europe and has borders with Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria. It covers an area of 77,474 sq km, which is approx. 32% of the size of the UK. It has a population of 7.1 million, about 11% of the UK. The literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 98%. Languages include Serbian, Hungarian, Bosnian, and Romani.

The word of God was recently brought to the Romani people through the four Gospels and a children’s Bible. Soon they will have the whole New Testament for the first time in their history.

Bible Society’s team in Serbia is now helping young Romani people acquire literacy skills as well as engaging them with the word of God. Romani children have difficulties in learning and integrating into society, which is why the team in Serbia are working hard to help them, through the Bible

Misa Bakic, who leads the work in Serbia, said, “It’s a great pleasure and privilege to teach children their native language through the Bible texts. They are very happy because they praise the Lord through this learning. Every time they meet me on the street they run after me, asking me about the next class. During these classes they learn Bible stories, they learn about the true values, morality, and family values. The Bible is the root that will give stability to these children throughout their lives”

There has been a four times increase in the number of children finishing their school grade since last year, as well as more young people completing Bible schools. These children now have a brighter future.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray that the Bible message would have a great impact on Romani children.
- Give thanks for the success of the literacy program in helping more children finish their school grade and engage with the Bible.
- Pray for the translation work on the New Testament in the Roma language, that all Roma people would have the word of God in their own language.
- Give thanks for Misa Bakic and pray for this work with Romani youth.

Thank you for your support which is bringing the Bible to life at home and around the world. From the Bible a Month bi-monthly newsletter

Northern Synod Prayers

We are asked to pray for the following churches, ministers and groups in the synod.

December

- 3rd The work of Ministries and Development Committee and its convenor, Rev'd Hilary Collinson; St Columba's URC, North Shields; St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton; Rev'd Dr Matthew Prevett.
- 10th Stamfordham LEP (Methodist/URC) , Rev'd Maureen Lloyd, Bellingham LEP (Methodist/URC) ; Falstone & Kielder LEP (Methodist/URC); Wark LEP (Methodist/URC); Deacon Anne Taylor (Meth).
- 17th St John the Evangelist LEP (Anglican/Baptist/Methodist/URC), Kingston Park, Newcastle; Rev'd Roger Mills.
- 24th Christmas worship across the Synod; PCM (Presbyterian church of Mozambique), their retired ministers and those newly appointed to posts; Northern Divisional Salvation Army Divisional Commanders, Majors Denis and Olive Lomax.
- 31st West End Refugee Service and the North of England Refugee Service.

Do you remember this?

Like youngsters at Christmas they went
without care,
Not knowing what cruel fate awaited them
there.
It was January 2nd, the year 71, The
Rangers had no goals, the Celtic had one.
The dying few seconds, Glasgow looked
green
When up popped a young man, by the
name, Colin Stein.
He gathered the ball and went to dispatch
A deadly, cool finish that would tie the
match.
Ibrox erupted and the fans began to sing,
Not knowing the carnage their cheering
would bring.
The fans that were leaving returned to the
stand

To cheer for the Rangers, the team that is
grand.
All of a sudden on stairway 13
The scene that unfolded would make you
feel green.
The stairway collapsed and the fans stood
in shock
As helpless supporters fell down the frail
rock.
66 died there and 100 were hurt,
This fatal disaster they could not avert.
As you go on, on this cold winter day,
Take a few moments and join me and
pray....
In London or Belfast, or Paris or Rome,
We'll pray for the fans who never came
home.

Author unknown.

News from Bluefields

Hello one and all!

There is always mixed feelings at this time of the year as I prepare to leave the people I have been among for 8 months, while there is great excitement knowing I am heading back home for another four months 'break' and seeing so many of the people I miss and of course, enjoying some home comforts!



As I write, this is my crazy time when sometimes I feel my feet are hardly touching the ground. My colleague from the SIFT office is here at the moment for 12 days & we have to see all of our 135 students in 8 schools & 2 universities to take a fresh photo of them for their sponsors, see their reports & book them back into school for the new year.



As always with so many children receiving a scholarship, there are proud moments and disappointments too. Some of our students are on the schools honour roll for being great achievers, while others don't always appreciate the chance that they have been given to study.



The weather has been so mixed up lately, but I reckon that doesn't just happen in Bluefields. We have had some tremendous flooding and extreme heat, but not in the correct seasons. Recently the Nicaraguan president put Bluefields on danger alert for hurricane Irma. Children in the schools were sent home & told not to attend the following day, when the forecast showed we would be hit, but thankfully we didn't get anything like was expected.

In September I was truly spoilt for my birthday. It is always humbling when I see the people who can least afford it, trying to make my day special. One gift was an apple & another, 2 small ice cream lollipops.

I made another trip to San Pancho last month with some of the church members to re-visit the health centre & maternity home, but not for another horse ride - I made sure I took my wellingtons! We were able to take more bed sheets, clothes and baby items. The nurse asked if there was any way we could help in making a door between 2 rooms - the labour ward & the delivery room. At that point, in torrential rain & a mud path, a woman about to give birth would have to leave the labour room, walk outside around the building in the rain & the mud, to get to deliver her baby. We were able to leave the money for a local builder to make the hole in the wall & I said I would meet the cost of the door with funding I still have - and that is in process right now. We also looked at where a well could be drilled, as we now have access to a drilling machine and I have made that my project for when I return in March. This will be of huge benefit to a health centre who has to depend on rain water or walk a distance in the dry season to use someone else's well. I took the opportunity while my SIFT colleague was coming out, to get him to order a fetal heart doppler - a small portable machine for the midwives to take out to the various communities for registering the heart beat of the unborn baby. Hopefully that will be delivered to San Pancho while I am back home. Thankfully, with people's generosity, my money pot has not run dry! Isn't God good?

So, with less than two weeks to go & lots of last minute things to get done, I will soldier on & look forward to catching up with many of you in the next 4 months.

With love & appreciation, I pray God's blessing on you all.

Margaret

Optimism

Alice Hertz-Sommer died in 2014 at the age of 109. The previous year she had been asked what was the secret of her long life and she insisted it was optimism

She said, "Everything is a gift" and "I look where it is good. I know about the bad, but I look at the good things. Lovely sentiments but a little simplistic perhaps?"

Oh! You should know that Alice was the oldest survivor of the Nazi concentration camps!

Perhaps optimism might be more potent than people realise.

Beauty Tips

The following beauty tips come in the form of quotations:-

- "There is no lotion or potion on earth that enhances a face like a smile". - *Anon*
- "Cheerfulness and contentment are great beautifiers and famous preservers of youthful looks". - *Charles Dickens*
- "If you live close to God and his infinite grace, you don't have to tell, it shows on your face" - *Anon*

Coffee Rota for December/January

Unfortunately due to lack of time I am unable to print the coffee rota for December/January in this edition of the Contact. I will try to do better in the next edition of the magazine but in the meantime I would be grateful if you could see Marina for further information about the rota.

Sandra

<u>Sunday Service</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Lectionary Readings</u> <u>December 2017 January 2018</u>
03-Dec-17	Isaiah 64 vs 1-9, Psalm 80 vs 1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1 vs 3-9, Mark 13 vs 24 -37
10-Dec-17	Isaiah 40 vs 1-11, Psalm 85 vs 1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3 vs 8-15a, Mark 1 vs 1-8
17-Dec-17	Isaiah 61 vs 1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126 (or St. Luke 1 vs 47-55) 1Thessalonians 5 vs 16-14, St. John 1 vs 6-8. 19-28
24-Dec-17	2 Samuel 7 vs 1-11, 16. Psalm 89 vs 1-4, 19-26 (or St Luke 1 vs 47-55), Romans 16 vs 25-27, Luke 1 vs 26-38
25-Dec-17	Isaiah 9 vs 2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2 vs 11-14 and Luke 2 vs 1-14 (15-20)
31-Dec-17	Isaiah 61 vs 10 to chap 62 vs 3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4 vs 4-7, Luke 2 vs 22-40

07-Jan-18	Isaiah 60 vs 1-6, Psalm 72 vs 1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3 vs 1-12, Matthew 2 vs 1-12
14-Jan-18	1 Samuel 3 1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139 vs 1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6 vs 12-20 St John 1 vs 43-51
21-Jan-18	Jonah 3 vs 1-5, 10, Psalm 62 vs 5-12, 1 Corinthians 7 vs 29-31, Mark 1 vs 14-20
28-Jan-18	Deuteronomy 18 vs 15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8 vs 1-13, Mark 1 vs 21-28
04-Feb-18	Isaiah 40 vs 21-31, Psalm 147 vs 1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9 vs 16-23, Mark 1 vs 29-39
11-Feb-18	2 Kings 2 vs 1-12, Psalm 50 vs 1-6, 2 Corinthians 4 vs 3-6, Mark 9 vs 2-9

Summary of the Church Meeting held on October 15th 2017

A full copy of the Minutes is available from Dorothy B or Tony Hall on request.

23 members attended with 13 apologies for absence.

- It is good to note the beginning of the new Toddlers group- Little Fishes.
- Internships. Synod has agreed to pay for young people to work with churches for 5 or 15 hours a week. St George's is preparing an application for this funding as there is enough going on to provide useful experience for an intern.

Finance.

The accounts are encouraging, though some invoices have not yet been received.

Synod policy on manses has changed. Previously any money raised by renting the manse could not be used in the church, but just on the manse itself. Now, any balance over £5000 at the end of the year can be used for supporting manses in joint pastorates and for general church funds. Any such funds due to St Georges in this way will go initially into General Funds.

Property

Extensive work has been done on the premises during the summer. Plans are tentatively forming for an extra toilet in the church area or area near the Quiet room. It is hoped to overhaul the storage cupboard area at the back of the large hall.

From Elders

- Voula Foscolo-Avis, Phil Dixon and Victoria Johnson are to become members.
- Members are reminded that if they wish to use or book the halls or church they must first speak to Harry Fawcitt, the Hall Lettings officer, who will know if the rooms are vacant.
- It was agreed to open the church for prayer every Wednesday evening from 6-7 pm.
- The frequency of Elders meetings has changed.

Elections.

All the people whose term of office had come to an end were re-elected. This includes Web master, Contact editor, cradle Roll secretary, Flower Secretary, Synod rep, Hall lettings, Property and Finance committee members(not all), Pastoral visitors, Pastoral and Development Elders, FWO organiser, Assistant Church Treasurer, Church Treasurer, Assistant Church Secretary, and Church Secretary. It is sad to note that there have been no new nominations. But St George's is **very** grateful to those people give so much of their time and talents to help keep the church and its activities going.

Minister.

- We are sad to record the deaths of two members- Nellie Burton and Jean Harvey.
- Our minister has been involved in more Synod work as the Synod Moderator continues to be unwell.
- Church Meeting learned more about the mission to Uganda in the summer.
- Women's Fellowship numbers have reduced greatly so they have decided to close their meeting.

Heaton Churches.

The annual appeal for Socks and Chocs for the clients of the People's Kitchen has started.

Next meeting: **Sunday January 21st 2018 at 11.45 am.** (Worship will be at 10.30am).

Dates for your Diary: Meetings in 2018.

Development Elders Thursdays. All at 7pm.

18th January (with Pastoral Elders)
15th March
17th May
12th July (with Property Committee)
18th October (with Pastoral Elders)
15th November (with Finance Committee)
13th December (meal out???)

There may be other meetings during the year which will be arranged as and when required.

Church Meetings Sundays . All at 11.45 am. Altogether Worship will be at 10.30am, and teas/coffee will be served when worship finishes.

21st January
15th April
15th July
21st October

Answers to Carol Quiz

1. White Christmas
2. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.
3. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.
4. O Holy Night
5. It came upon a midnight clear
6. O come, all ye faithful
7. Away in a manger
8. Deck the hall
9. Little drummer boy
10. We three kings
11. Silent night
12. God rest ye merry gentlemen
13. Santa Claus is coming to town
14. Let it snow
15. Go, tell it on the mountain
16. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer
17. What child is this?
18. Joy to the world
19. Hark, the herald angels sing
20. The twelve days of Christmas

From the Internet

Room for Heaven here?

In the stillness of the night
the gift was given
and we
closed the doors of our inns
And offered Him a stable

The gift was given
walked among us as light
but we
preferred our darkened corners
and hid from His searching eyes

The gift was given
to fill our need
and we
refused to admit our weakness
and hung Him on a tree

The gift, once given
is given again

shall we again
close the doors
hid from the light
refuse His love?

or shall we
prepare our hearts
to receive Him again
as we receive each one
who comes in need
receive as the gift from heaven?

(Reading by Martha Keys Barker)



With all good wishes for Christmas and the coming year

Duty Rotas

	December					
	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	25 th	31 st
Duty Elder	Miss A. Clough	Mrs. D. Barker	Mrs. S. Cowey	Mrs. J. Das	_____	Miss A. Hall
Door Steward	Mrs J Das & Mrs L. Cadwallader	Mrs. A Matfin & Mr. A. Armstrong	Mr & Mrs T Hall	Miss M. Foster & Mrs. J. Cartman. 6.00 pm Volunteers Please	10.45 am Volunteers Please	Mr & Mrs. H. Fawcitt
Communion Stewards	Miss D. Coates & Mr T. Hall					
Computer Rota Setting up	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay	Bob Renton	Lucy Dixon	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay
Computer Rota Operating	Anthony Armstrong	Harry Fawcitt	Bob Renton	Lucy Dixon	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay
Sound Desk	Norman Nossiter	Norman Nossiter			Norman Nossiter	
Offering Counting	Bob & Ivy Renton	Sharon & Steve Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise & Harry Fawcitt		Sandra & Norman Nossiter
Flower Donations						
Flower Arranger	Sandra Nossiter	Karen Wilkes	Clare Hutton	Sandra Nossiter	_____	_____
Flower Distribution	Lillian Willford	Lucy Dixon	Renee Croft	Flowers Stay	Flowers Stay	Flowers Stay

If you are unable to do any of your duties, or they clash with something else you are doing in church, please arrange your own swaps in advance. Please do not leave it till the day of your duty as it is not always possible to get replacements on the day.

Duty Rotas

	January				February	
	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	4 th	11 th
Duty Elder	Mr. T. Hall	Mrs. B. Hall	Mrs. S. Nossiter	Mr. A. Solomon	Miss. D Coates	Mrs. L. Dixon
Door Steward	Mr & Mrs S. Cowey	Miss D. Coates & Miss Clough	Mrs Cowey & Miss M. Applegate	Mr & Mrs. R. Renton	Mrs. J. Das & Mrs L. Cadwallader	Mrs. A. Matfin & Mr. A Armstrong
Communion Stewards	Mr & Mrs T. Hall				Mrs J. Das & Mrs. R. Croft	
Computer Rota Setting up	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed
Computer Rota Operating	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed	To Be Agreed
Sound Desk	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Offering Counting	Ivy & Bob Renton	Sharon & Steve Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise & Harry Fawcitt	Sandra & Norman Nossiter	Ivy & Bob Renton
Flower Donations	No Donor At time of Printing	No Donor At time of Printing	No Donor At time of Printing	No Donor At time of Printing	No Donor At time of Printing	No Donor At time of Printing
Flower Arranger	Clare Hutton	Dorothy Barker	Ivy Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Karen Wilkes	Clare Hutton
Flower Distribution	Lucy Dixon	Renee Croft	Julia Watson	Audrey Matfin	Denise Fawcitt	Lilian Willford

If you are unable to do any of your duties, or they clash with something else you are doing in church, please arrange your own swaps in advance. Please do not leave it till the day of your duty as it is not always possible to get replacements on the day.