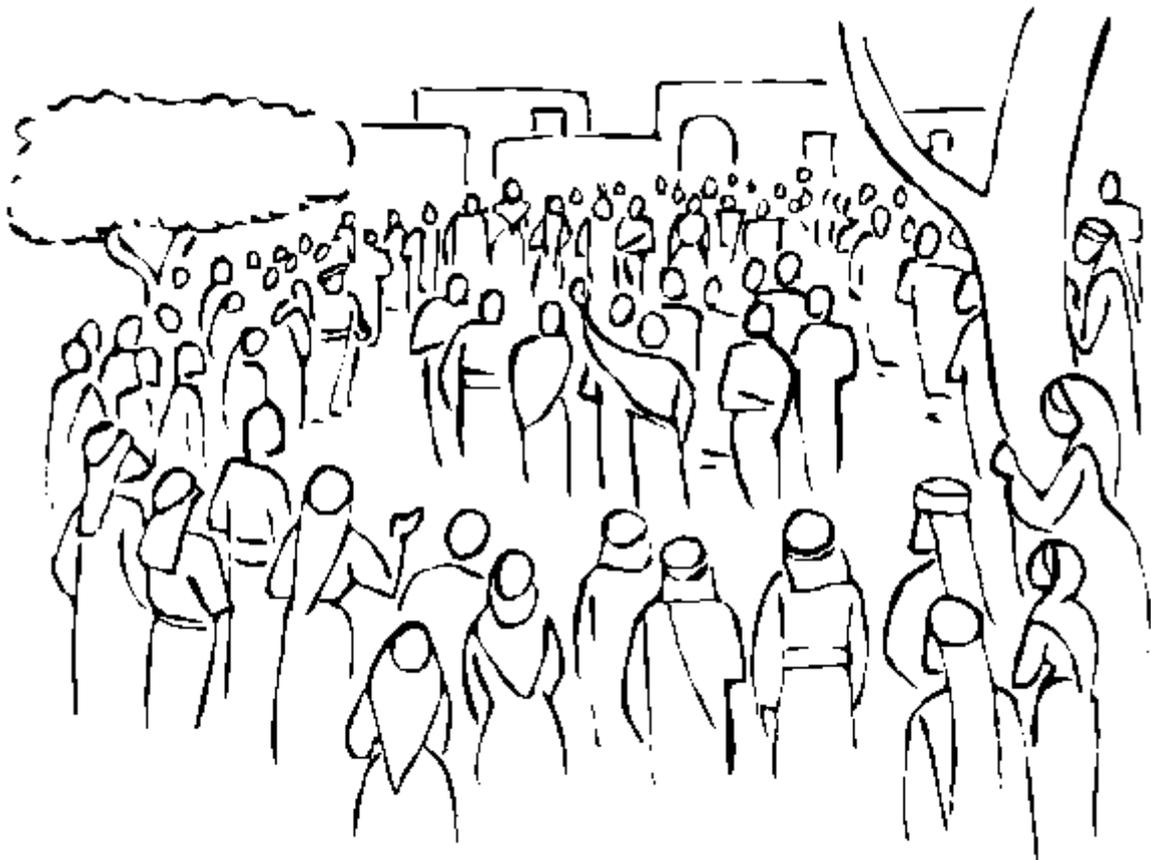


**June/July 2018**

# **CONTACT**

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



**"Fellow Jews . . . listen to me!" (Acts 2.14)**

## Thoughts from the Manse

When we read the Bible as a whole, we start with Genesis and work forwards. In actual fact however we should start with the Babylonian Exile and work backwards, because exile is the theme that shapes the whole of Scripture – Old Testament and New.

Even before the Israelites' arrival in the Promised Land it seems God knew they would disobey him, and was warning them of the punishment – exile:

*You shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.* (Deu 28.62-65, ESV).

After seventy years in Babylon the exiled Jews began to make their way home; but it no longer really felt like home. Partly that was because they were only given back part of their historic territory, partly because they had to pay crippling taxes, but most of all because the land was not really 'theirs' – it was part of the Persian Empire. And so it continued until the time of Jesus: one foreign empire succeeded another, but the Jews were never really free.

Where does the sense of exile begin? The first scene of exile in the Bible is when Adam and Eve are driven out of the Garden of Eden. They lose not only the Garden, but their previous close companionship with God. One of their sons, Abel, is murdered by his brother, Cain, who is then forced to wander the earth.

Abraham and generations of his descendants are lifelong exiles – nomads, wanderers, strangers in the lands where they live. What sustains them and gives them a sense of belonging is having God's three-fold promise: to give them a land and descendants, and to be their God. Surrounding these three promises is the much bigger promise God makes to Abraham – to bless all the peoples of the earth through his descendants.

As Christians we see this last, great promise fulfilled in Christ. But Jesus himself was a stranger on earth, a wanderer with no place to lay his head. He was rejected and condemned by his own people. He calls his followers to live, metaphorically at least, in the same way – setting out to follow where his Word leads, taking nothing for the journey.

We are all exiles – we all feel alienated from God and our neighbour. We even feel alienated from ourselves. This is the result of sin, and no amount of self-righteousness can cure it. Almost the whole of Western politics at the moment seems to be driven by hatred and resentment, arising from feelings of alienation and fear, that make us willing to sacrifice any of our neighbours if doing so makes us feel less insecure. But this is not the way to end insecurity – the most fearful people live behind the highest walls.

Security only comes when alienation ends. It ends when we realise that in the body of Christ, we are not exiles any more. Paul says it best, in Galatians: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise* (Gal 3.28-29, ESV).

Paul seems at first to be talking about tolerance, but he means something much deeper than being nice to others in superficial ways. He is talking about the great universal restoration and reconciliation of all things in Jesus Christ: the reconciliation of all things to one another, and to God; the reconciliation made possible by the triumph of grace over sin, and life over death, won for us on the cross. We are still exiles – this world is not our home – but now we have this ministry of reconciliation. That is our mission; that is how we reveal to others who Christ is, and what he has done for us.

Your friend in Christ,  
*Grant*

## **Church Family News**

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Lynn Caines. Although she was not a church member she came to St. George's when Alan and Lesley Trafford (Pickles) were here. She moved away from the north east but when she returned to live here she became re-acquainted with all her friends in the area and at St. George's. She has come to church whenever she could over the years, especially over the last year. She has been unwell for some time and was finding it more difficult to get to church. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank Grant and all my friends at St. George's for their prayers for my sister Barbara following the death of her husband and her recent illness.

Barbara and I greatly appreciated your cards, good wishes and support, I am happy to say Barbara is now on the 'road to recovery.'

*Mary Foster*

Hi everyone

Just to update you all. We raised over £1,500 (including gift aid) for Fighting Ependymoma in memory of my friend's little brother, Oliver.

Thank you all so much for your kind donations.

*Ellie Hutton*

## **SEEDS OF HOPE MISSION 2018**

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6: 10)*

The Seeds of hope (World Ssubi seeds) as it is known in Uganda, aims to rescue orphaned and abandoned children, to raise them up in a loving and caring environment.

Poverty and disease are epidemic in Uganda and leave in their wake innocent, helpless children who are destitute and without hope for the present and the future.

Seeds of hope seeks to mature and grow in the work of the kingdom as it reaches out to help provide a local solution to this problem.

With your prayer and support Seeds of hope goes out every year to help with orphanages.

The time has come to head back to Uganda this summer for Holiday Bible Club.

The team needs a lot of prayers as this year two large centres will be covered. In each centre it is expected to hold more than 300 children so over 600 lives will be ministered to.

This doubles the number of last year 2017. It was only 300 children in one centre.

We request for you to prayerfully consider to:

- Joining the team this year, the team goes out on 20/08/2018 coming back 03/09/2018
- Feed a child for a week with £ 5.00
- Donate towards Air tickets. Return ticket + visas included is around £700.00

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Later this year, St George's celebrates the 80th anniversary of the opening of the church here in High Heaton. Below is a brief outline of our very early years. St George's became a United Reformed Church in 1972, when the Presbyterian and Congregational churches nationwide formally united on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **A Brief History of St. George's.**

St. George's Presbyterian Church, as it used to be known, originally met in a building in Gresham Place, at the end of Ellison Place, Newcastle. It opened for worship on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1863, and the minister was Rev. James G. Potter.

In 1900, as the membership was steadily falling and finances were difficult, it was decided to sell the building for £3000. The congregation then worshipped in a temporary structure at the corner of Akenside Terrace and Jesmond Road in Jesmond. While at Jesmond Road, the congregation bought an organ from Christ Church, Gateshead in 1912. This organ originally cost £45, and is still in regular use in our High Heaton building. The present pulpit and Communion Table, ornate baptismal pedestal and the two large stained glass memorial windows representing "The Good Shepherd" and "The Light of the World" were obtained.

In 1930, the minister, Rev. W. MacNichol, saw the possibilities in a developing area known as High Heaton. Presbytery built a hall free of all cost, and this initially housed a Sunday School. It was completed in 1932. Morning services were conducted as usual at Jesmond Road and the evening services in the High Heaton hall. In June 1935 all activities were transferred to the Hall.

All thoughts then centred on the building of a church on the land next to the hall. There were 22 trees on the site. Members and children from the Sunday School cut down the trees; the trees and stumps were sawn into logs and sold to help raise money.

The Foundation Stone of the church was laid on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1938, and the church was finally opened on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1938 by the Moderator of the General Assembly, The Right Rev. James Fraser. The total cost of the building, including architects' fees and the building and renovating of the organ came to £5260. The oak panelling which had formed the back of the platform at Jesmond Road was built into the front of the organ.

In the early stages of the war, the evening services were conducted in the hall. High Heaton was "visited" on several occasions by German raiders. A bomb fell on Cleveland Gardens nearby and demolished three houses, damaging several others, but the church was unharmed, apart from a broken window and some plaster cracks.

The present manse, next to the Church in Boundary Gardens, was built in 1959 at a cost of £4650. Many members gave interest free loans to help raise the required funds.

If you would like to read a more detailed account of our history, please contact the Church Secretary. A booklet to commemorate the first 50 years of St George's was written by a former Church Secretary, Mr Hugh Ferguson. God has blessed us in so many ways over the past years. As a former minister, Rev'd

Alan Trafford said, "Testing years lie ahead. Our Christian message becomes less palatable to a pagan world. My prayer for you is that the Lord will give you the grace to endure; the commitment to keep loving; the courage to keep on proclaiming Christ; and the faith to keep taking God at His Word".

### **Ministerial Comings and Goings.**

Rev James Potter, 1863 – 1894  
Rev J Boone Cantley, 1894 – 1900  
Rev J D Dowie, 1900 – 1908  
Rev W J Jack, 1909 – 1922  
Rev D M Nichol, 1922 - 1925  
Rev W MacNichol, 1927 – 1934  
Rev A B Hodgkins, 1935 – 1942  
Rev J Knox Dickie, 1943 – 1953  
Rev I Glyn Richards, 1954 – 1964  
Rev W J Blakemore, 1965 – 1982  
Rev A Pickles (later taking the surname Trafford), 1983 – 1993  
Rev G J Hoslett, 1994 – 1999  
Rev P Heckels, 2000 – 2012  
Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson 2013- present

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### **Hand Prayers**

To aid our focus whilst praying, try following these instructions to hold physical positions with our hands. We do this to engage our bodies within our prayers, allowing our minds to focus more freely on what we are praying about.

#### ***Praying Hands.***

*First place your palms and fingers flat together, with your hands pointing upwards; in the position traditionally adopted to pray.*

We come to be still before God. Our hands together, stopping us undertaking physical work. We take up the work of an intercessor, bringing our earthly concerns before our Heavenly Father.

Now pray.... **Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness. You set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer (Psalm 4.1)**

#### ***Fists***

*Separate your hands and clench them together to form fists. Hold them as tightly as you can, so that your focus is on your fists.*

Now pray.... **We pray for those parts of the world afflicted by violence. We remember those in violent relationships. Where talking has been replaced by fighting. Where peace has been replaced by aggression and unrest.**

#### ***Wounded hand***

*Open both your fists. Hold your left hand so your palm faces towards you. take the index finger on your right hand and push it hard into the centre of your left palm.*

*Jesus' hands were pierced as he was crucified. He was wounded to restore our relationship with God. He suffered to bring reconciliation and justice to the world.*

Now pray..... **We pray for situations and places where that reconciliation is needed, both in our own lives, our community and the wider world.**

### **Open hands**

*Open both of your hands, hold them open in front of you with your palms facing upwards. We recognise that all of humanity needs to receive good things. God provides for each of us physically, emotionally and spiritually.*

Now pray..... **We ask God for the things we need, and the things needed by others.**

### **Holding hands**

*Turn over your left hand, with your right hand gently take hold of your left as if holding someone else's hand.*

*Jesus embodied God's compassion. He met with the sick and the dying. He promised comfort to those who mourn.*

Now pray..... **We pray for those who are sick, suffering of mourning. We pray that they will know God's healing, comfort, compassion and love.**

### **Praying Hands**

*We return our hands to the first position we held. Palms and fingers flat together, hands pointing upwards; the position traditionally adopted for prayer.*

Now pray..... **We remember God's promise to hear our prayers. We pray to the Father, in the name of the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Andy Stinson. [www.engageworship.org](http://www.engageworship.org)

## **The Footsteps Launch from Northern Synod**

The Footsteps community toolkit programme was launched at Synod in March. The programme invites every church and every church member to embark on a Mission journey from Church to Community. It is a programme that seeks to inspire our Mission calling as Church with good news stories from around the Synod.

There are four parts to the programme:

1. A printed brochure, with Good news stories from around the Synod.
2. A website offering interactive communication between the Synod team and Church members.
3. A Facebook group, offering discussion and sharing of hopes and ideas for Missional Discipleship between Church members.
4. A relaunched newsletter, sharing Good News from around the Synod every month.

The brochure is in church on the magazine rack (beside the Cloakroom/storeroom) . Please do take it home, read it, and then bring it back for someone else to read. A downloadable copy is available from the website for any member who wishes to print a copy for personal use.

The website can be accessed at [www.footstepstoolkit.com](http://www.footstepstoolkit.com)

There will be a lead feature every month, member feedback and comments, a full version of the monthly newsletter.

The Facebook group: church members can sign up to join this "closed group" by visiting the website and following the links. If you have difficulty, you can seek help from the Synod team.

Relaunched newsletter: a full version of the newsletter will be sent electronically to each church secretary every month on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Abbreviated versions will be available for publication in local church newsletters/magazines. When possible it will appear in Contact, but as we have a bi-monthly magazine please look out for separately printed newsletters.

Editor, Wendy Watson (Synod office manager and Moderator's PA)

[Wendy.watson@urc-northersynod.org](mailto:Wendy.watson@urc-northersynod.org)

## Further thoughts from the Manse

I recently conducted a service at the university, to dedicate a bench in memory of a student who tragically passed away last year. We also planted a rose bush, all of us taking it in turns to scatter a handful of soil and say a few words.

I was surprised and impressed by how many people came. There was a large turnout of students and staff, as well as several members of the family. It was a fitting tribute for a young man who loved company and was always the centre of attention when people gathered.

It was a moving occasion, and I was more conscious of tears being shed around me than I had been even at the funeral. But there is often unintended comedy in these situations too. The groundsman who planted the rose bush took his bag of compost away with him, and we had to call him to bring it back so that we had something to scatter. I said I hoped everyone would spend some time sitting there, reflecting and remembering, and a chorus of laughter began as people pictured everyone present trying to squeeze onto the bench at the same time.

There was coffee in the Union café afterwards, and as we made our way up the woman walking beside me said for some reason, she never felt it was right to sit on memorial benches – she said it felt somehow disrespectful. She realised this was slightly ridiculous, when that was obviously what they were put there for. We talked about places we knew, on sea fronts, cliff tops and lake sides, where relatives and friends had placed benches to mark favourite stopping points on their loved ones' favourite walks.

Why does the university place benches and plant rose bushes in memory of students who have died during their studies? I suppose in the pairing of the two there is a combination of the useful and the beautiful, which is sometimes said to define the ideals of higher learning in a university. There is also a combination of the fixed and permanent, and the living and growing. The bench doesn't change, apart from looking more weathered; the rose bush grows, and blossoms in summer.

If we look for it, there is a metaphor in here for the life of the church. It is not enough for the church to be beautiful, however you define beauty. For its beauty to be real, it has to be useful. It has to serve a living purpose – its Creator's purpose.

For the church to be useful it has to live and grow – which it means, it has to change. In my first year at university in Aberdeen, a lecturer on European history quoted a saying once used by Russia to justify its conquest of its neighbours: "That which ceases to grow begins to rot." Whenever the Russian empire was not expanding, it was crumbling. The church of course does not or should not aim at imperial power – the aim of the church is to reveal the kingdom, not build an empire – but it should constantly be revealing more of what God intended it to be, through the working of the Spirit within it.

Life is growth, but life is risky. All life is vulnerable. Every gardener knows that plants are under constant threat from pests and disease. Even if something that is alive acts as if it were dead, that does not make it any less vulnerable. Paper roses do not die, but only because they were never alive in the first place. They have neither the life nor the beauty of the real thing.

The beautiful rose has its roots in the soil. A cut flower only lasts a few days. The church does not preserve itself by insulating itself from its environment; it grows by drawing on the life of the place where it is planted. Only in this way, growing from its local roots, does it reveal what God intended it to be when he placed it there.

Beautiful and useful, frail and courageous, contemplative and purposeful, local and universal, commemorating past events that point to our eternal future – that is what our church is meant to be.

Your friend in Christ,  
*Grant*

## **Ministry in the midst of danger**

*By Claire Smith, Freelance Writer, Bible Society*

Anthony Lamuel arrives at the office. He passes the steel reinforced concrete planters, which prevent cars ramming the building. He notes the 16 CCTV cameras circling the building and walks through an airport-style scanner and down a narrow 10 ft long corridor lined with steel reinforced doors. In the reception area he greets security staff, who have guns slung over their shoulders, and stretches out his arms to be frisked while someone searches his bag.

This is Bible Society in Pakistan. This is what ministry looks like in one of the most dangerous countries in the world in which to be a Christian.

There is always fear. Christians are in the tiny minority in this country - some 2.5 million people, around 1.6 % of the population. Most are rural people, and 80% live below the poverty line. They are the cotton pickers, the factory workers, the cleaners and labourers. In the city they live in the slums and shanty towns. Most face exploitation, prejudice and oppression. Since the 9/11 attacks in America, pressure on Christians has intensified. Anthony says, "The problem is that we are identified as Westerners. At the same time, radicals label every non-Muslim as an infidel, - and killing them is a big honour. There has been a spate of deadly assaults in recent years. Back in 2009, a church and homes were torched, and 8 people were burnt alive. In 2013, 18 people were killed in a twin-suicide bombing at a Peshawar church. Two blasts at churches in March 2015 killed 14 people and injured more than 70. And last Easter Sunday, 75 people, including many children, were murdered when a suicide bomber targeted a Lahore park.

Bible Society's bookshop in Karachi was attacked too, just over 10 years ago. But Anthony is a high-profile figure in Pakistan and his reputation affords a level of protection. "Many Muslim groups take out magazine ads to try to discredit us, but we are a respected organisation" he said. "The government wants to protect freedom of worship and needs to show it is taking action against terrorists."

As well as helping to install the security measures at our head office, the authorities dispatch two police officers every week to stand guard over Anthony's church. The armed officers sit in the tower of St Andrew's in Lahore, during services and visitors are questioned before entering.

So, what is Bible Society doing in the face of such tremendous challenges? Anthony has two key aims: to strengthen the Church and share God's word. "This is a marginalised Church", said Anthony, "so when Christians meet with others in open society, their beliefs are challenged. If they are well equipped, they can withstand the pressure"

In the two decades since he's been in charge, Anthony has produced two children's Bibles, two study Bibles, one New Testament with notes, a full Sunday school curriculum for children and has equipped seminary students. He focuses on young people because a staggering 46% of Pakistan's population is under 15 and a further 22% is aged 16 to 30. "The Church here is one generation away from extinction" he says. Anthony has also launched a Bible-based literacy programme because so many women and girls are illiterate. Only half of school age children go to school and half of those drop out within three years. "We focus on women because mothers are pivotal in Pakistani culture; a mother who reads the Bible to her children will bring light into the whole family.

Anthony's other key aim- to share God's word in this difficult context, is the work that puts him in real danger. "Constitutionally, I have a right to worship, evangelise and buy and sell Bibles- but it's not wise to do some things."

More than 40,000 Bibles a year are sold from Bible Society's shop in Lahore, to anyone who wants to buy one. And we are constantly replacing the stock of New Testaments in hospitals as so many are pocketed and taken home by patients. "For every Bible which goes out, it's my vision and prayer that the Holy Spirit will speak to the reader" says Anthony. "I could have left Pakistan many years ago, but this

work is a commitment, a calling. It's not easy, but if we leave, what will happen? Christians are fearful and need support. And for those who are seeking out the truth, we must be here to serve them"

**N.B. Pakistan is sixth in the world with "extreme levels of persecution" against Christians. It comes behind North Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Syria.**

*From Word in Action, the magazine of the Bible Society*

### **Points to Ponder**

- A moment of patience in a moment of anger saves you a hundred moments of regret.
- Of all the people on the planet, you talk to yourself more than anyone. Make sure you are saying the right things.
- A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.
- The process of finding happiness within one's own self may be difficult and slow but it cannot be found anywhere else.
- Health is not just about what you're eating. It's also about what you're thinking and saying.
- Every day is a sacred gift and a miracle.
- Some people will stay longer on your mind, than in your life.
- A little progress each day adds to big results.
- Balance in life is the key to everything. *Bryant McGill*
- Letting go is not always about the Past.
- The sun will rise and set regardless. What we choose to do with the light, while it's here is up to us. *Alex Elle*
- Realise deeply that the present moment is all you have. *Make the now* the primary focus of your life.
- It is during the worst times of your life that you will get to see the true colours of the people who say they care for you.
- If you're helping someone and expecting something in return, you're doing business, not kindness.

### **Northern Synod Prayers**

We are asked to pray for the following churches, and people associated with Northern Synod.

#### **N.B.**

LEP= Local Ecumenical Partnership

PCM= Presbyterian Church of Mozambique

#### **June**

3<sup>rd</sup> Environment Sunday. Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Gosforth; Rev'd Peter Holwell (Methodist) and Ms Mary Bellshaw, (Community Worker) who are part of the ministry team there. Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District, Rev'd Stephen Lindridge.

10<sup>th</sup> PCM, the churches in the Limpopo presbyteries in and around Gaza Province; the Anglican Bishop of Berwick, the Rt Rev'd Mark Tanner.

17<sup>th</sup> Refugee Week (England and Wales, 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June).

24<sup>th</sup> Stockton URC; St Columba's URC, Billingham; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's URC Hartlepool.

#### **July**

1<sup>st</sup> South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) (Methodist and URC), its president and officers.

8<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian Industrial Mission and Mrs Fiona Usher, Chaplain Team Leader.

- 15<sup>th</sup> The work of Synod Executive Committee  
22<sup>nd</sup> Synod Pilgrimage- Borders Abbeys Way Walk, 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July.  
29<sup>th</sup> PCM, their office staff at Church House, Khovo, Maputo; The Anglican Bishop of Jarrow, Rt. Rev'd Mark Bryant.

### **August**

- 5<sup>th</sup> The work of Pastoral Committee and its convenor, Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson. The Anglican Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev'd Paul Butler.  
12<sup>th</sup> Ponteland URC; St John's URC, Wideopen.

### **Summary of the Church Meeting held on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11.45 am.**

There were 26 members present with 10 apologies.

There were no printed Report Books this year but some groups chose to make verbal reports.

Mission. The Uganda Mission will take place later this year (originally 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August but date has now changed to August 21<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> September) and we are asked to keep this in our prayers.

There was some discussion about Seeds of Hope, and in particular donations which have been made. Authority from Church Meeting is required before we accept money for projects, particularly from sources other than St George's.

Church Meeting agreed to support the university fees for Ambrose (in Kenya).

Church Meeting has asked for clarification at the next Church Meeting of the status and work of Seeds of Hope, as other aspects of work in Uganda in addition to the orphanages have been mentioned.

Finance: members received copies of the accounts for 2017, and copies of the first quarterly report of 2018. The accounts were approved and accepted with our thanks going to John Hutton, Treasurer.

Property: Future expenditure is likely to include extensive work on the storeroom at the back of the large hall, the installation of a toilet in the church sanctuary area, and some work on the Swell Pipes of the organ. (the Great Pipes were cleaned last time)

### **Minister.**

- Interviews for the Youth Internship are expected to be in June.
- Church Meeting was asked to consider paying someone to lead the Little Fishes Toddlers group.
- Church Meeting agreed that St George's should work towards a Child Friendly Church award.
- A Vision Day is being planned to discuss our mission.
- Funds for a new orphanage in Uganda. Discussion is deferred until the July meeting.
- Church Meeting agreed to fund a new laptop for the minister, with half the cost coming from the Methodist Circuit.

Secretary. Time of the Church Meeting. There was some discussion about this. Church Meeting agreed that for the July and October meetings this year, Altogether Worship would be from 10 till 11 am. Church Meeting would start at 11.15 am.

Church Meeting agreed to fees being offered to a (visiting) keyboard player/organist for July 29<sup>th</sup>, when neither Barbara B nor Dorothy B are available to play.

Date of the next meeting: **Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 11.15 am.**

A full version of the Minutes is available from Dorothy Barker or Tony Hall on request.

<b><u>Sunday Service Date</u></b>	<b><u>URC Lectionary Readings 2018 Year B</u></b>
03-June-18	1 Samuel 3 vs 1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139 vs 1-6, 13-18, (or Deuteronomy 5 vs 12.15) Psalm 81 vs 1-10, 2 Corinthians 4 vs 5-12, Mark 2 vs 23- chap 3 vs 6
10-June-18	1 Samuel 8 vs 4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (ch 11 vs 14-15) Psalm 138 (or Genesis 3 vs 8-15) Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4 vs 13- ch 5 vs 1, Mark 3 vs 20-35
17-June-18	1 Samuel 15 vs 34 - ch 16 vs 13, Psalm 20 (or Ezekiel 17 vs 22-24), Psalm 92 vs 1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5 vs 6-10 (11-13), 14-17, Mark 4 vs 26-34
24-June-18	1 Samuel 17 vs (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49, Psalm 9 vs 9-20, (or 1 Samuel 17 vs 57 to ch 18 vs 5, 10-16) Psalm 133, (or Job 38 vs 1-11), Psalm 107 vs 1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6 vs 1-13, Mark 4 vs 35-41
01-July-18	2 Samuel 1 vs 1, 17-27, Psalm 130 (or Lamentations 3 vs 23-33), Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8 vs 7-15, Mark 5 vs 21-43
08-July-18	2 Samuel 5 vs 1-5, 9-10, Psalm 48, (or Ezekiel 2 vs 1-5) Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12 vs 2-10, Mark 6 vs 1-13
15-July-18	2 Samuel 6 vs 1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24 (or Amos 7 vs 7-15) Psalm 85 vs 8-13, Ephesians 1 vs 3-14, Mark 6 vs 14-29
22-July-18	2 Samuel 7 vs 1-14a, Psalm 89 vs 20-37, (or Jeremiah 23 vs 1-6) Psalm 23, Ephesians 2 vs 11-22, Mark 6 vs 30 -34, 53-56
29-July-18	2 Samuel 11 vs 1-15, Psalm 14 (or 2 Kings 4 vs 42-44) Psalm 145 vs 10-18, Ephesians 3 vs 14-21, St. John 6 vs 1-21
05-August-18	2 Samuel 11 vs 26- ch 12 vs 13a, Psalm 51 vs 1-12, (or Exodus 16 vs 2-4, 9-15), Psalm 78 vs 23-29, Ephesians 4 vs 1-16, St. John 6 vs 24-35

	<b><u>St George's Coffee Rota</u></b>	
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Set up</u></b>	<b><u>Serve</u></b>
03/06/2018	Tony and Babs	Tony and Babs
10/06/2018	Clare	Clare and Sandra
17/06/2018	Kim and Mitra	Carole and Ivy
24/06/2018	Solomon and Youth Church	Solomon and Youth Church

**Please see Marina for dates for July and August**

### **Smile!**

- Paddy in Wetherspoons: "How much is your lager?" Barman: "£2 a pint and £7 a pitcher". Paddy: "I'll just have a pint, forget the photo"
- Saturday night and I'm about to hit the gym!!! Sorry, typo- I meant gin.
- Always trust a glue salesman. They always stick to their word.
- I always carry a picture of my wife in my wallet. It reminds me why there's no money in there.
- Today I have invented a new game- Quiet tennis. It's pretty much the same as normal tennis but without the racket.
- That awkward moment when you tell a chemistry joke and you get no reaction.
- I've just cleaned my Hoover. Does that make me a vacuum cleaner?
- There's a pretty young lady grouting in the bathroom! Singing, "It's a heartache, nothin' but a fools game" I think she's a Bonnie Tiler.
- My mate had an operation to change him into a duck. He's been left with a massive bill.
- Marriage is a relationship where one person is always right and the other is the husband.

*With thanks to LIVErNEWS, the Liver Patient Support newsletter*

## **Children say the funniest things**

- Two little girls were chatting. “So, why don’t you come to the same Sunday school as me?” said the first. “Because I belong to a different abomination” replied the second.
  
- A Sunday school teacher was questioning her group. “If I sell everything I have and give the money to the poor, will that get me into heaven?” “No,” said her group. “What about if I’m kind to animals and my neighbours?” “No” said her group. “And if I clean the church and help local charities, will that get me into heaven?” “No” said the earnest little girl, “You have to be dead!”
  
- One Sunday after church, a young boy announced to his mother, “Mum, I’m going to be a minister when I grow up”. “Great. What made you decide that?” “Well” said the little boy, “I have to go to church anyway, and I think it will be more fun to stand up and shout than to sit still and listen”
  
- A father was at the beach with his children when his 4 year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. “Daddy, what happened to him?” the son said. “He died and went to heaven” the father replied. The boy thought for a moment and then said, “Did God throw him back down?”
  
- On a walkabout in Chichester, a few days before this enthronement, Archbishop Justin Welby was greeted with a party of smiling, waving schoolchildren. “Do you really know my name?” he asked. “Justin Bieber” piped up an enthusiastic 7 year old.
  
- At Sunday school, Tom had heard the story of how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week, he didn’t feel at all well....”I have a pain in my side and I think I’m going to have a wife!”
  
- In the early 80’s when “wicked” and “well wicked” meant something truly amazing, one little girl at a London holiday club drew a wonderful picture of Jesus. Under her picture she wrote, “Jesus is Wicked!”.

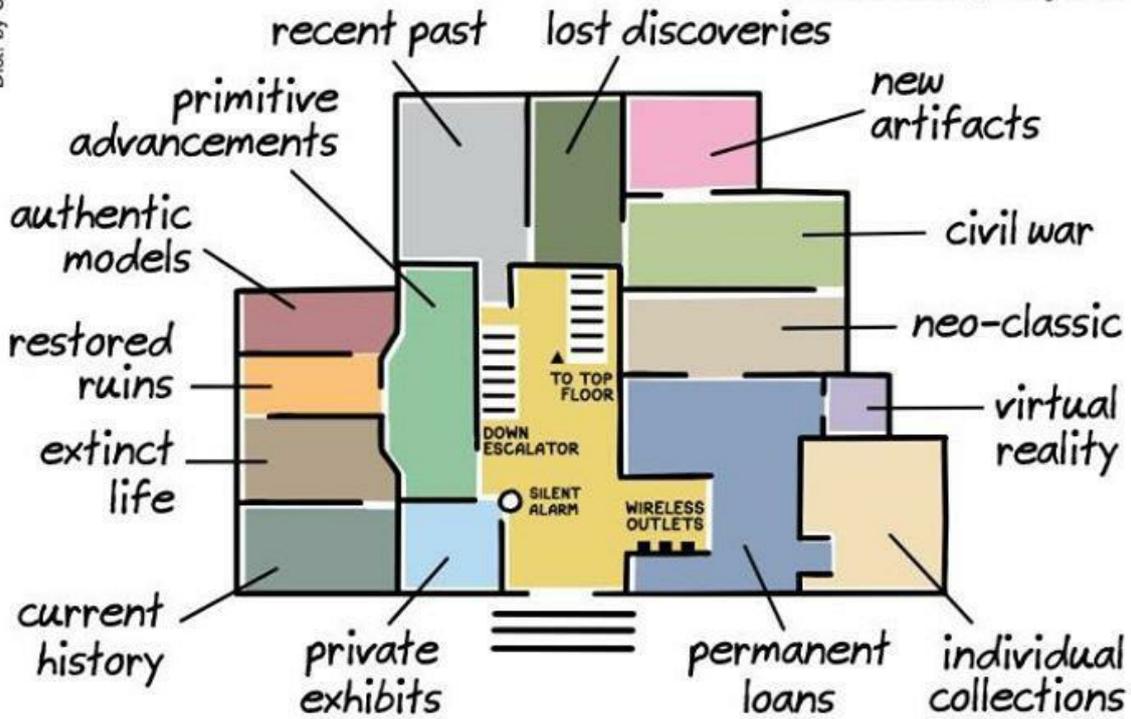
*From Bloopers and Blessings, printed by the Leprosy Mission.*

### **And finally.....A Prayer for (London) Commuters**

Our Father who art in Hendon, Harrow be thy name,  
They Kingston come, thy Wimbledon, in Erith as it is in Hendon.  
Give us this day our daily Brent, and forgive us our Westminster’s,  
As we forgive those who Westminster against us.  
Lead us not into Temple Station, but deliver us from Ealing,  
For thine is the Kingston, the Purley and the Crawley,  
For Esher and Esher, Crouch End. *Anon*

# at the oxymoron museum

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## Diary for June/July 2018

### June

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	Worship led by Rev'd John Paul, retired URC minister. Holy Communion during Praise worship.
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Harry Fawcitt
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Mr Peter Waugh, member of Trinity Church Gosforth.
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson.
23 <sup>rd</sup>		Heaton Churches Together Open House
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Praise Worship led by Angela MacKenzie, Norman and Sandra Nossiter.
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Professor John Derry, URC Accredited Lay Preacher.

### July

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson. Holy Communion during Traditional worship.
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Alphonsi Solomon
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Mr Ian Patterson, URC Accredited Lay Preacher.
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Development Elders plus Property Committee.
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson.
	11.15 am	CHURCH MEETING
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Judith Das, member and Elder here.
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Alphonsi Solomon
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Sharon Cowey, member and Elder here.
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Mrs Pat Gurr, Methodist Local Preacher.

### August

5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.30 am</b>	Altogether worship led by Rev'd John Durell. To include Holy Communion.
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Harry Fawcitt
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Rev'd Harold Stuteley, retired Methodist minister.

#### Dates for Articles for June/July 2018 Contact

13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Hard Copies  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Emails

**Hire of Halls, Rooms and Church** - Our premises are available for letting as follows:-

#### **Regular Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session**

Large Hall: £45  
Minor Hall: £30  
Meeting Room: £15  
Church: £45

#### **One-off Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session**

Large Hall: £60  
Minor Hall: £40  
Meeting Room: £20  
Church: £80

If you want to book any of the above, or require further information please telephone Mr Harry Fawcitt, telephone number 2403129.

## Duty Rotas

	June			
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
Duty Elder	Mrs S. Cowey	Mrs J. Das	Miss A. Hall	Mrs B. Hall
Door Steward	Mr and Mrs R. Renton	Mrs J. Das & Mrs. L. Cadwallader	Mrs A. Matfin & Mr A. Armstrong	Mr T. & Miss A. Hall
Communion Stewards	Mr. Hall & Miss Clough			
Computer Rota Setting up	Stewart Barclay	Bob Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Lucy Dixon and Alison Hall
Computer Rota Operating	Alison Hall (Stewart to help)	Bob Renton	Stewart Barclay	Lucy Dixon and Alison Hall
Sound Desk				Norman Nossiter
Offering Counting	Sharon & Steve Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise & Harry Fawcitt	Sandra & Norman Nossiter
Flower Donations	No Donor at time or printing	Renee Croft	Lesley Cadwallader	No Donor at time or printing
Flower Arranger	Dorothy Barker	Ivy Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Karen Wilkes
Flower Distribution	Julia Watson	Deborah Ward	Dorothy Barker	Lucy Dixon

**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

	July					August	
	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Duty Elder	Mrs S. Nossiter	Mr A. Solomon	Miss A. Clough	Mrs R. Croft	Miss D. Coates	Mrs L. Dixon	Mrs D. Barker
Door Steward	Miss M. Foster & Mrs J. Cartman	Mr & Mrs H. Fawcitt	Mr & Mrs S Cowey	Miss D Coates & Miss A Clough	Mrs E Cowey & Miss M Applegate	Mr & Mrs R. Renton	Mrs J. Das & Mrs L. Cadwallader
Communion Stewards	Mrs Hall & Mrs Das					Miss M. Applegate & Mrs E. Cowey	
Computer Rota Setting up	Stewart Barclay	Sandra Nossiter & Alison Hall	Bob Renton	Stewart Barclay	Bob Renton	Lucy Dixon	Stewart Barclay & Alison Hall
Computer Rota Operating	Harry Fawcitt	Sandra Nossiter & Alison Hall	Anthony Armstrong	Stewart Barclay	Bob Renton	Lucy Dixon	Stewart Barclay & Alison Hall
Sound Desk	Norman Nossiter	Norman Nossiter	Norman Nossiter				
Offering Counting	Ivy and Bob Renton	Sharon and Steve Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise and Harry Fawcitt	Sandra and Norman Nossiter	Ivy and Robert Renton	Sharon and Steve Cowey
Flower Donations	No Donor at time of printing	No donor at time of printing	Judith Das	Renee Croft	No Donor at time of printing	Anthony & Fiona Armstrong	Dorothy Barker
Flower Arranger	Clare Hutton	Dorothy Barker	Ivy Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Karen Wilkes	Clare Hutton	Dorothy Barker
Flower Distribution	Jean Cartman	Renee Croft	Audrey Matfin	Norman Nossiter	Denise Fawcitt	Lilian Willford	Ann Clough

**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.**