



The Spire



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your birthday wishes. I had a lovely day last Tuesday and a wonderful holiday on the Black Isle.

Love,
Betty

Our Editor Writes...

Now is *"the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"*, as described by Keats.

In the poem he talks of the bounties of the harvest, of the endless warm sunny days, ripening fruit trees and fields of grain and beehives "o'er brimming their clammy cells". At this time of year we turn our thoughts to our own harvest festival and how we give thanks to God for his abundant gifts and how fortunate we are to be able to afford to buy these gifts and know that we will probably never know hunger or want. This year the proceeds of our harvest festival will be donated to the food bank here in Blyth.

Yvonne has sent me an update and sadly it doesn't make good reading, especially the number of children in the equation. Food banks are having to help these unfortunate people who, through no fault of their own are desperate to feed their families. This congregation is the most generous one I know and it goes without saying that you will open your hearts and purses to help reduce their despair and indeed bring hope.

Our harvest festival is on the 12th October and we would be grateful for donations of money or food suitable for the food bank.

The following was written by an 8 year old boy called Danny Dutton who lives in Chula Vista C.A. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment to explain God. Thanks to Janet McSeveney for this article.

EXPLANATION OF GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, only babies. I think this is because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk, he can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers pray at times beside bedtimes. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy, so you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mom & Dad's head, asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Jesus is God's son and helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things that are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you, because they have got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun, like going to the beach. This is wrong and besides the sun doesn't come out on the beach until noon anyway.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like camp, but God can. It's good to know he's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim you get thrown to the deep water by the big kids.

That's why I believe in God

NEWS FROM THE MATTHEW PROJECT

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BLYTH

in partnership with Bedlington Christian Fellowship

HERE ARE OUR MOST RECENT STATISTICS

AUGUST

TOTAL REFERRALS 104

ADULTS 136

CHILDREN WITHIN THOSE REFERRALS 60

The referrals have come from

CAB and SOCIAL SERVICES

BLISS and SURE START

PROBATION, BARNARDOS

NORTHUMBERLAND RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

HEALTH VISITORS and SCHOOLS, NETS and this month

SOLDIERS OFF THE STREETS and LOCAL GP SURGERIES

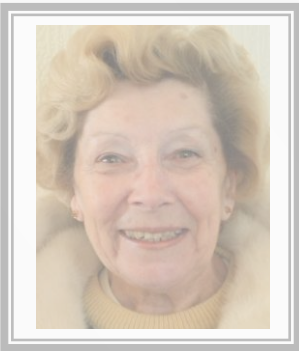
The numbers being referred are slightly down on last month although there has been a surprising increase in the number of homeless people referred to us. However through donations from the churches and other organisations we are managing to provide for those who are in need. It is hoped we can have another collection day at Morrison's supermarket in the near future. This raises the profile of the churches in Blyth and through the generosity of the community helps in boosting our stock

The plan to find a suitable constitution has now been with the churches in Blyth for a while and it is hoped that we can soon begin to move forward. I am aware that 5 volunteers have come forward to act as trustees all highly skilled and motivated people. Once put into place we can hopefully plan to both refinance and re-order our practice so that we are more efficient and able to continue to provide this worthwhile service to our community

A number of new folk have joined our 50 volunteers and we are beginning to share the work load not only within church groups but between church groups I believe we are moving towards really being Churches Together

Please continue to keep the Project and all who have received food and those who will be in need, in your prayers in the coming weeks

Yvonne

News from our roving reporter*Thank-You*

Eighty years is quite a long time to wait for one of my happiest birthdays but it was worth the wait!

My warmest and most sincere thanks to the congregation for giving me such a wonderful surprise party and equally unexpected presentation.

Such was the secrecy of the preparations that I do not know whom to thank for organising everything but I suspect that Beth and Marion played leading roles. Many others must have been involved in such elaborate arrangements so thank-you to all.

My years as Church Secretary were made smooth and pleasant because of the support and friendliness of the congregation and our ever dependable and efficient minister, the Revd. Yvonne Tracey.

It was a pleasure and privilege to serve a community where harmony and co-operation were predominant. To have received a presentation as well was royal icing on the cake!

The basket of flowers demonstrated Angela's floral flair, though in my opinion this improved on the weekly church arrangements by having a bottle of champagne tucked amidst the flowers.

I should like to thank Beth and Marion for their kind speeches about someone possessed of virtues unknown to me. Marion's references to my 'mouthwash' were a little inaccurate, for I swallow rather than rinse abstemiously the contents of the gold topped bottles!

My favourite occupation is reading so the book tokens are a particular delight. What pleasure I shall have in visiting bookshops, sitting down to read while sipping copious amounts of champagne and remembering the chocolates already eaten and enjoyed.

The only reason I am looking forward to icy winter days is that I shall be able to keep my hands warm in the elegant gloves.

If MI5 wishes to recruit agents in future, they need look no further than Blyth URC. The combined ability of this congregation to keep secret my party and presentation qualifies you all as ideal candidates.

Thank you all very, very much. It was wonderfully kind of you.

It is good to know that this church is in the most capable hands of Beth and I am particularly grateful to her for taking over as Church Secretary. She is the perfect choice and I am delighted that we are in her capable hands now.

With heartfelt thanks.

Eileen



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

We look forward very much to the arrival of our new minister, the Revd. Greg Thompson and his wife Adrienne, on October 4th. Greg will conduct his first service here on 12th October when we will hold our annual Harvest Festival. All donations of food or money will be given to the Blyth Food Bank.

More good news! Gary, son of Mavis and Colin Stafford, has just become engaged to Jane Handyside. We wish the young couple every happiness.

We congratulate the Revd's. Margaret Johnson and Ken Harris on their August wedding. Ken was a former minister and Margaret was a staunch member here prior to her ordination.

Mrs Dorothy Galliot is always pleased to have news of Blyth URC even though she has been in Albion Court for several years now. She sends her good wishes.

We were sorry to hear of Jim Harland's recent operation but glad to know he is being helped to recovery by the loving care of his wife, Rosemary. We send our best wishes.

Mrs Marjorie Sharples and Mrs Rita Hamilton-Green continue to live contentedly in Crofton Court Nursing Home and both enjoy visits from URC friends.

We miss Mrs Lydia Morrell from church but her health is such that she can no longer attend as regularly as in the past. We send our best wishes.

Although Mr Tom Haldane has serious health problems, at 94 he cuts a dashing figure on his motorised scooter. We were particularly delighted to see him at church recently, especially knowing how hard it is for him to get ready for the morning service. We send him our best wishes.

It was a real pleasure to have Mrs Isobel Nail, on a short visit to Blyth and staying with Miss Jacqueline Hold, attend our Friday Coffee Morning and Sunday service recently. We love to welcome back members who have moved to other places, even if their time with us is brief.

Mrs Irene Allen and Mrs Isobel Douglass remain in our thoughts as they can no longer attend church regularly. We miss them but send our best wishes and are glad that they are able to keep in touch through church friends.

Flower Rota

September	October	November	December
7th	5th	2nd	7th
14th	12th Les (for Florence)	9th Ruth Wilkinson	14th Ruth Wilkinson
21st Stella Hetherington	19th Angel Atkinson	16th Edna Tuck	21st
28th	28th Gwen Campbell	23rd Beth Young	28th
		30th	



Dear All,

Yes it is coffee time, so get the kettle on before we all die of thirst, with all our tongues hanging out. Not a pretty sight you'll agree.

Now for the birthdays and wedding anniversaries:-

September, 1st Angela and Bill Atkinson wed in 1984, 9th Betty Sheavils, 13th Rachael Milburn, 15th Betty Hardie, 30th Hazel Thompson.

October 11th the Young's wed in 1969, 13th Mavis Stafford.

If I'm lucky I get out three times a week, plus on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday I see NOBODY or speak to nobody unless I phone people up, and I keep them talking as long as I can. So refreshment Sunday is very important to me, hearing all the happy laughter and chatter is lovely. The only problem is, if there is someone sitting next to me when I want to get up from my seat, some kind soul has to use a crane or fork lift truck, but if the seat next to me is vacant, I can move the seat in front of me and hold the back getting up without feeling embarrassed.

Until we chat once more, take care, be happy and God Bless.

Love,

Love Pam xxx

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY	WORSHIP AND JUNIOR CHURCH	10:30 A.M.
TUESDAY	THE GUILD	2:15 P.M.
FRIDAY	COFFEE MORNING & GET TOGETHER WITH RAFFLE	10:30 A.M.

Please contact the Church Secretary, Beth Young (01670 361313) if you need the services of a Minister.

Door and Vestry duty rota:

DATE	DOOR	VESTRY	PREACHER	ORGAN	Coffee & Cake
7 Sept	Betty & Marie	Mavis	Mrs. Margaret Lambert	Dr. R. Carr	Refreshments
14 Sept	Rick & Beth	George	Mr. Trevor Nuttall	G. Robson	
21 Sept	Gwen & Rosemary	Anne	L.A.	Dr. R. Carr	
28 Sept	Elsie & Margaret	Joyce	Mrs. Maureen Baker	G. Robson	
5 Oct	Mavis & Moira	Margaret	Revd. Ted Marley	Dr. R. Carr	
12 Oct	Joyce & Eileen	Beth	Revd. Greg Thompson Harvest Festival	G. Robson	Refreshments
19 Oct	Betty & Marie	Rick	L.A.	Dr. R. Carr	
26 Oct	Rick & Beth	Elsie	Mr. Jack Lillico	G. Robson	
2 Nov	Gwen & Rosemary	Eileen	Mr. Michael Lavelle	Dr. R. Carr	
9 Nov	Elsie & Margaret	Mavis	Revd. John Macadam	G. Robson	Refreshments
16 Nov	Mavis & Moira	George	Revd. Greg Thompson	Dr. R. Carr	
23 Nov	Joyce & Eileen	Anne	Revd. Ian Farnsworth	G. Robson	
30 Nov	Betty & Marie	Joyce	Revd. Adele Moorhouse	Dr. R. Carr	
Holy Communion Servers:					

If you are unable to be on duty on the day given above, please would you arrange your own exchange and then tell Beth.

Robson's Ruminations



My favourite hymn or passage from the Bible!

Make me a channel of your peace

Hymn Chosen by Jess Jamieson.

Rejoice and Sing 629



*Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring
your love;
where there is injury, your pardon,
Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in
you:*

*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me
bring hope
Where there is darkness ,let me bring
your light
And where there's sadness bring
your joy.*

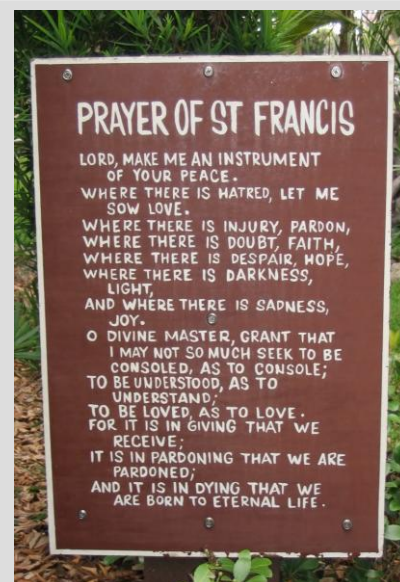
from a prayer sometimes attr. to St. Francis (1182-1226)
arr. SEBASTIAN TEMPLE (1928-)

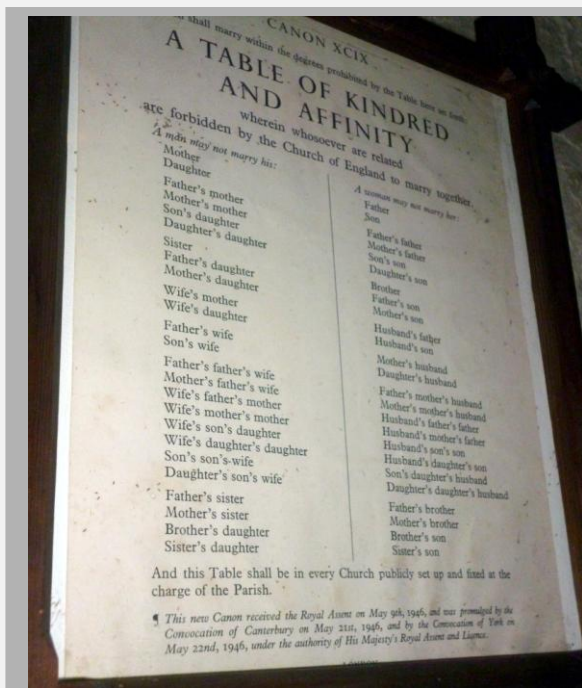
Make me a channel of your peace

Like so many people I have quite a few favourite hymns. This depends on , perhaps the time of year, my mood at a particular time, or one which may be in the forefront of my thoughts depending on what may be happening in the world.

I have chosen the hymn "Make me a channel of your peace" for the latter reason as I feel the words are appropriate for the world at the moment.

I am sure you will all agree that we would like to see an end to the many wars , the legacy of hate that is being passed from generation to generation and the truly evil actions of many people in the world today. Realistically and sadly this will never happen , but perhaps in our small way in our small corner of the world we can make small differences even if it is only by our prayers.





I am assisting in drawing up a user-friendly visitor guide to Whalton's churchyard and the church interior. There are many really interesting things to see - not least the gravestone of a Martin Taylor who lost his wife Isabella, small daughter Ann and even smaller son Martin in March 1821. They each succumbed to a *malignant sore throat which raged through this parish*.

But I thought my friends at the URC might be interested and amused by THE TABLE OF KINDRED AND AFFINITY which hangs on the south wall. It was published in 1946 and sets out very clearly indeed those a man is not permitted to marry and those a woman is not permitted to marry.

If any of you aspire to marrying your daughter's daughter's daughter's son or your daughter's, daughter's, daughter's wife - HARD LUCK!!

Where same-sex marriage fits into this - well, I'll leave that for you to muse over.

George Robson

The URC was strongly represented at St. Mary's Strawberry Tea in aid of Christian Aid on Friday 11th July.

Here are Eileen, Elsie and Marie, with Sarah Moon, a Christian Aid Officer from the Newcastle CA Headquarters, who came especially to see us.

She spoke of Blyth's churches being a shining example to other towns in the North East - - so organised and working together to good effect.

Not surprisingly, Francis Armstrong won a raffle prize (a bottle of wine)!



A SHORT BUT NOBLE LIFE

The north wall of St. Mary's Church in Nottingham displays many impressive tablets and memorials to eighteenth century worthies of the city. One eye catching tablet reads:

In honour of Lieutenant James Still, R.N.
who
in the 22nd year of his age

fell victim to the ravages of yellow fever on board his majesty's ship *The Pheasant*, while stationed off Sierra Leone on the 12th of October 1821. For four successive years he had been employed in the fatal service of enforcing obedience to that sacred law, which, to the honour of his country, and in the spirit of Christian love, forbade the traffic in human blood. That he possessed the best feelings of the heart was manifested in his unwearied watchfulness. The withering like the blighted shoots of spring left their blessings upon him. That he was endued with the spirit of enterprise was proved by the testimony of those who had witnessed his skill and admired his gallantry. He was characterized by suavity of temper and prepossessing as apparent from that regard, excited in every breath which held him forth as an ornament of social love. Beloved a son! how endearing a brother! how esteemed a friend! Evidenced in the poignant grief of his sorrowing family and in the unfeigned regret of the many who cherish the remembrance of his worth and who in heartfelt tribute of him dedicate this tablet to the memory of his virtues.

In 1807, Parliament passed the Slave Act which abolished the slave trade throughout the British Empire. Further, the Act permitted any British warship to stop and search any ship, from whatever nation, suspected of carrying slaves. Any slaves discovered were to be taken to the nearest Freeport and released. It was not until 1833 the King William IV approved the Slavery Abolition Act which finally brought an end the institution of slavery in all parts of the extensive British Empire. Between 1807 and 1833, British warships, masters of the High Seas, liberated many thousands of erstwhile slaves. It was within this scenario that James Still lost his life.

George's article on Lieutenant James Still and his fight to enforce the Slave Act of 1807 is very interesting and I've no doubt many of you think this fight is now history as we all know slavery has been abolished for over two hundred years--- or has it?

Slavery still exists today in the form of Human Trafficking. It is estimated that 600-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and there are thought to be at least 5,000 in the UK alone. Many of these people are fleeing persecution and violence or simply want to try to make a better life for themselves and their families. These people are unfortunately targeted by traffickers who lure them with promises of making a fortune by working hard thus enabling them to help their families back home. They lend them their fare and promise accommodation and jobs. The reality when they arrive is that their passports are taken off them until they pay off the loan which will never happen due to horrendous interest rates, they are stuck in dormitories, or worse and share beds. They work very long hours doing jobs no-one else will do, for a pittance. They live in squalor and experience hunger, depravity and despair. Their "masters" find work for them in fields, harvesting crops, in factories and in some cases make them take up prostitution, all the while threatening them and their families back home if they don't do as they are told. Fortunately there is a **Modern Day Slavery Bill**, working it's way through Parliament and various organisations including "Hope for Justice" who do fantastic work, gathering intelligence and helping to rescue victims within the U.K.

The fight against slavery is by no means over until these unscrupulous people are stopped and we all share the responsibility of helping that aim, but then it couldn't happen in our neck of the woods -----**could it!!!**

Editor



Rick's Rants

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side.

I think I'm going to have a wife.'

TOLD YOU! YOU CAN NEVER RELY ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY!

The mother-in-law arrives home from shopping to find her son-in-law Paddy in a steaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase.

"What happened Paddy?" she asks anxiously.

"What happened!! I'll tell you what happened. I sent an email to my wife (your daughter) telling her I was coming home today from my fishing trip. I get home... and guess what I found? Yes, your daughter, my wife Jean, naked with Joe Murphy in our marital bed! This is unforgivable, the end of our marriage. I'm done. I'm leaving forever!"

"Ah now, calm down, calm down Paddy!" says his mother-in-law. "There is something very odd going on here. My daughter would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I'll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened."

Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. "Paddy. I told you there must be a simple explanation She never got your E-mail!"

A preacher finished the service one morning by saying, "Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. As a preparation for my sermon, I would like you all to read Mark 17."

On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to begin. Looking out at the congregation he said, "Last week I asked you all to read Mark 17. If you have read the chapter, please raise your hand." Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Smiling, the preacher said, "You are the very people I want to talk to!"

Mark has only 16 chapters.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human, it was physically impossible. The little girl said, when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah. The teacher asked, what if Jonah went to hell. The little girl replied, then you can ask him.

Wishful Thinking!

One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most, would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in the offering.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate. A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three handsomest men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."

COURT REPORTERS KEEP STRAIGHT FACES

These are from a book called Disorder in the Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget..

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

Old Age is Golden

Old age is golden I have heard it said
But, sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up
Ere sleep overtakes, I say to myself,
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf.

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I was older my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.
Now I am older my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the 'Obits',
If my name is missing I know I'm not dead,
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

EPITAPH

*Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.*

*To which someone replied by
writing on the tombstone:*

*To follow you I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.*

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

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Friday Coffee Morning Bookings

Please contact Mrs Joyce Smeaton (01670 366272) if you want to host one.

Flowers

Please see Mrs Angela Atkinson (01670 363289) if you wish to provide flowers.

Organists

Dr. Reg Carr & Mr George Robson

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WEEKLY WORSHIP. SUNDAYS
10:30 a.m. in St. Wilfrid's Convent Chapel.
Marriage and Baptism by arrangement with the Minister.