




*The Parish Churches of
Brookfield, Stainton &
Hilton*

DECEMBER 2019

THE MESSENGER



May you have the
spirit of Christmas
which is **PEACE**, the
gladness of
Christmas which is
HOPE and the
heart of Christmas
which is **LOVE**.

50p

Vicar: Position Vacant

**Like us on Facebook:
S Peter and S Paul Church Stainton
St Margaret's Brookfield
St Peter Hilton**

www.staintonhiltonbrookfieldchurches.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Brookfield:

Positions vacant

Stainton:

Vernon Clare 01642 592186

Colin Mason 01642 591667

Hilton:

Barbara Sowerby 01642 591532

Sally Hamlin 01642 590385

Wednesdays at Brookfield

10.00am – Holy Communion

10.30am – Coffee Morning

Stainton – 15th

11.30am Holy Communion

HALL BOOKINGS

For St Margaret's Church
Brookfield

Church Office 01642 597454

MESSENGER DISTRIBUTION

Brookfield

Betty Spragg – 01642 284841

Stainton

David Gatenby – 01642 290918

Contributions for Messenger to

David Gatenby

David.gatenby@ntlworld.com

Our Administrator is

Stephanie Barratt

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs 10:00 - 12:00 hours

Sat 09:00 - 11:00 hours

Tel: 01642 597454

Vivienne's Farewell

WE met to say goodbye to Vivienne and her family on Sunday the 10th of November, Remembrance Sunday. At Stainton the day began with a resounding act of Community Remembrance. An increased congregation joined by several former members of the armed forces sang the remembrance hymns with gusto. The church was decorated with a vibrant display of poppies, Playing of the Last Post introduced a two minutes silence which was brought to an abrupt end by the loud sounding of Reveille. Vivienne's address was a good one, meaningful, amusing and short. A goodly number of people joined us for refreshments in the Church Room.

At 4 pm, the 3 parishes joined together for Evening Prayer at the end of which the Churchwardens presented Vivienne with a cheque, and small gifts were given to Tanya, Olivia and Lily. Vernon wished Vivienne well from us all noting that she was moving to a very rural area. In her new post the distances between parishes were noticeably longer than she was used to here. and already there were Gritters on the road verges. He said that he was not suggesting that her cheque be used as a down payment on her own Gritter.

We adjourned to the church room to enjoy a shared tea and to say our personal goodbyes.

Joan Mason

A message from the editor

As most of you will know this December Issue of the Messenger is our last one.

We have been struggling for some time now with costs, losing money mainly due to the lack of advertising revenue.

It has been a pleasure to produce this magazine, and I would like to thank all of the people of the three parishes together with Stephanie and Michelle (of Quoin Publishing) for your contribution.

A merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

David Gatenby

Who would be a teacher?

Kirsty, a bright 4 year old confided in her Sunday School teacher, "I know everything that's in Mummy's Bible". "Well you must be a clever girl," said the teacher. "I am", insisted Kirsty. "There's a photo of me, two pressed flowers, and a recipe for shortbread."

A teacher was retiring from her job in a Primary School. When she explained to the children they were curious to know "What will you do next Miss".

"I'll have a nice long rest and some peace," she replied.

When the day of her retirement arrived she was given a large bouquet, with a card that read... "Dear Miss, we hope you rest in peace".

Services 3rd November to 29th December

Date	Brookfield 9.15am unless otherwise stated	Stainton 10.45am unless otherwise stated	Hilton Timings vary
3 November White All Saints Day Psalm 149 Luke 6:20-31	No service today	No service today	Joint Eucharist 10.30am
10 November Red Remembrance Sunday Job 19: 23-27a Luke 20:27-38	Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday	Community Remembrance Service Farewell Service for Vivienne 4pm	Village Remembrance Service 2pm at the memorial stone
17 November Red Patronal Festival of St Margaret of Scotland 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	Patronal Eucharist	Holy Communion	Morning Praise (Noel Harker)
24 November White Christ the King Psalm 46 Luke 23:33-43	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
1 December Purple Advent Sunday Romans 13:11-end Matthew 24:33-44	Joint Gift Service with Holy Communion 10.30am	No Service today	No service today
8 December Purple Advent 2 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Holy Communion Christingle 4pm (team organising)	Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
15 December Purple Advent 3 Psalm 146:4-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Holy Communion Joint Carol Service at Salvation Army – details to be agreed	Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Praise Noel Harker
22 December Purple Advent 4 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-end	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
24 December White Christmas Eve Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	No Service	4pm Crib Service 4pm (organised by team) 8pm 1 st Communion of Christmas	2pm Service of Hope and Remembrance (Julia Ardley)
25 December White Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-14	10am Holy Communion	No Service	No Service
29 December White Christmas 1 Isaiah 63:7-9 Matthew 2:13-end	No service	10.30am Joint Holy Communion	No Service

Wednesdays at 10am at Brookfield:

Holy Communion – all readings are those for the previous Sunday (except for Christmas Day) and no service on Wed 1st January 2020.

Baptisms: Stainton – 17 Nov – 12.30pm;

Brookfield (for Hemlington by Rev Rob Desics) 17th Nov (3pm and 5pm), 24th Nov (3pm)

Other Christmas Services: Midweek Carol Services: Stainton: 7pm 18th December at Memorial Hall (organised by team jointly with the Methodists) and Hilton: 7pm 20th December in church then village hall (led by Noel Harker).

Brookfield will host Acklam Whin's Year 6 Carol Service and Stainton will host Hemlington Hall's Nativity services.

'Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.'

PERHAPS you'll hear or sing that line by Charles Wesley in the Christmas hymn Hark, the herald angels sing.

What's in a name? 'Jesus' means 'God will rescue.' At the beginning of St Matthew's gospel story of Jesus' birth, we're told that Jesus is given that name because will rescue his people from everything that is wrong and bad. And, writes Matthew, this happened to fulfil words from centuries before, that a child would be born 'and he will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us"' — so Christians have always thought of 'Emmanuel' as an extra title for Jesus.

We love to hear the stories of Jesus' birth at Christmas, but they only make sense if we remember that they are part of a much bigger story: the love of God for his world.

'God will rescue' because as human beings we fail in so many ways, and we so often don't live out the love, peace, care and justice that God holds out to us as his will — love that was shown in all its glory when Jesus died on the cross.

'God is with us' because God will not abandon us

St Matthew ends his gospel book by telling us that Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter Day, and then he sent his followers to spread his message of hope with the words 'See, I am with you always, to the end of time'.

I hope that you have a blessed Christmas time, whether you will be with family or friends or at home by yourself — and that when the last decorations are down you will still know in your mind and heart that, in Jesus, God is always with us.

The Right Reverend Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

BROOKFIELD BRANCH

We meet on the second Tuesday each month at 2pm at St Margaret's Church Hall.

Branch Leader: Florence Harris (Tel: 01642 594272)

STANTON BRANCH

We meet on the third Monday each month at 7pm in the Parish Room of St Peter & St Paul Church, Stanton.

Our December meeting which will be an Advent Devotion and shared tea will now be held on Saturday December the 14th at 2pm.

This has been opened to all in Stokesley Deanery. Please come along and enjoy our fellowship together.

Branch leader: Judith Clare (Tel: 01642 592186)

What's on ...

December dates for your diary

Also – always check the weekly pewsheet

Weekly Events in our Group of Churches

Bible Fellowship Groups

Mondays at 2pm in the Church Office

Coffee and Kids Pop-In

Wednesdays 10am Stainton Church Room

Everyone Welcome Drop-ins

Tuesdays 2pm-4pm Stainton Church Room

Thursdays 2pm-4pm Brookfield Church Hall

Wednesdays 10am (term-time) Hilton Church Wardens Hour

Coffee and Kids

Pictures of Coffee and Kids preparing Nativity figures for their Nativity activity at the Christmas party on the 18th of December.

Vernon Clare





HILTON FILLING STATION

ON Tuesday 5th November our Filling Station Event went off with a bang!!

Whilst the evening carried on traditionally outside, we all enjoyed a rousing evening of singing lovely worship songs led by Naomi, talented daughter of Bob and Julia. We were also treated to 2 fascinating talks during the evening, the first from Alistair Fulton. Alistair shared an experience of running his own business during a very uncertain time, financially, some years' ago now. He shared how his faithfulness to God was tested but eventually guided him out of a very scary situation. Following this 'testimony' spoken from his heart, Alistair requested the hymn 'What a friend we have in Jesus' which was very apt and true and summed up his talk very nicely.

Naomi Smith, who is a regular worshipper at St Barnabas' Church, Linthorpe, gave our 2nd Instalment of wisdom with her theme of "Singing God's Praise". Her message was delivered with the aid of images she had found inspirational whilst developing her love of music, song and ultimately being involved in the direction of worship praise in her church. Naomi was articulate and captivating and demonstrated how the words/lyrics in the songs we sing are very pertinent and valid to our spiritual growth when we meditate upon them in our collective worship or even when alone and listening to the songs being sung.

Tuesday 3rd of December will be our 'Christmas Filling Station Event' and will commence at 7.30 pm in Hilton Village Hall. We haven't arranged for a dedicated speaker to give a message at this event but our dedicated host team members will be sharing their 'Best Christmas Memory' and will pop up throughout the evening to surprise you! Christmas Goodies with mulled wine will be our offerings to our wonderful guests. You can look forward to comical videos and great seasonal worship throughout the event. A wooden Christmas tree will provide the opportunity for spontaneous prayer requests to be hung via special stars. These requests will all be prayed for in quiet contemplation and respect by host team members available the next day.

Please feel free to don your favourite Christmas Jumper and join in the party atmosphere as we celebrate the reason for the season that is the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It will be a wonderful informal praise and worship session to end what has been another eventful year for Hilton Filling Station.

Yet to come in the New Year our speakers are Julia Ardley, January, Kate Morris February and Host Team Members in March 2020. So please keep supporting our lovely rural Hilton Filling Station as exciting times lay ahead as we progress in this our 5th year. So for local informal praise/worship, good coffee, always homemade cakes, great fellowship and prayer; Hilton Filling Station Host Team extend a very warm welcome to all.

Angela Sayer

**Find our more at our Filling Station Webpage:
<http://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/hilton/>**

The power of Prayer

On Sunday 15 December at 10.00 am David Local will lead a special Service of Morning Prayer and Thanksgiving at St Margaret Church, Brookfield.

30 years ago on the 19th December I quite innocuously fell down stairs and suffered massive brain injuries. I was in a coma for 8 days, (including Christmas 1989) had major brain surgery after which Jennifer was informed. I had less than a 30% chance of surviving. Yet I survived without any major after-effects.

Everything I know of that event is what I have been told as I cannot even remember getting up that morning and those 8 days have remained a blank to me to this day.

The first I recall when coming out of the coma was that God had taken my hand and let me out of the darkness. Why would I think that? Apart from a realisation that I had woken in hospital I had no idea what had happened. This and many other questions kept coming back to me.

I learned later that having heard about my accident and possible consequences the people of St Margaret's, Brookfield where Jennifer and I had worshipped for many years prayed continually for my recovery. Also, of course, the love and support of Jennifer and my family and friends were a constant.

It took me many years before I realised the reason for that first recollection when coming out of the coma. Somehow the prayers being said for me in my critical state penetrated my subconscious and my recollection of God taking me by the hand and leading me out of the darkness was actually the answer to all the prayers being made on my behalf. This experience of mine leaves me with no doubt of the Power of Prayer, and to this day I have no doubts it was those prayers and the love and care I received that I survived.

For this reason I have been granted permission to lead a service of Morning Prayer and Thanksgiving at St Margaret Church, Brookfield on Sunday 15th December at 10.00 am to give thanks to God and to all those who helped me through that period 30 years ago and since.

David Local

Church history

May 13, 1080 – BREAKING NEWS – BISHOP MURDERED AT GATESHEAD

Walchere of Liege, Bishop of Durham has become yet another victim of the lawlessness of the far reaches of England's northern wilderness. Norman armies were now in charge of both York and Durham but many Northumbrian nobles who had fled to Scotland were now returning to try to reclaim their lands. This area was far from peaceful. In Durham a dispute arose between Liulf Lumley, a Northumbrian nobleman and officers of the Bishop of Durham's private army and Liuff was murdered by the Bishop's men. Tensions were high.

In an effort to settle the dispute Bishop Walchere agreed to travel to Gateshead to meet the local aristocratic families but he took along with him a large force of his household knights. The meeting didn't go well. Anger boiled over and soon turned to violence. The Bishop's peace-making words were drowned out by the mob shouting "slay ye the bishop" Bishop Walchere and his men were overpowered and locked in Gateshead church, which was then set on fire. Many died in the flames and any who escaped including Walchere were butchered as they fled. Over a hundred men were killed that day. Norman revenge was swift and thorough. In total 251 'perpetrators' were rounded up, tortured and executed. **Joan Mason**

The coldest town on earth

THE weather report on my phone tells me it's 6° outside and the weather forecast says it's going to get colder, but compared to a town in Siberia it is positively tropical. A recent TV program featured 'the coldest town on earth' where day time temperatures at this time of year reach down to -50° and the night time lower still. The lowest recorded there was -75°. People live every day with the knowledge that their ancient coal burning power plant is its life support machine. Without it there is no heat, no light, and no water supply. If it breaks down they have a maximum of five hours to fix it or face a cold slow death. The weather causes their coal supplies to be unreliable at times and they resort to burning anything that will burn. The man who operates the plant is a volunteer. His work is highly valued by the townspeople but they can't afford to pay him. Yet he works against all the odds because without his work all the people would perish and the town would cease to exist.

We take so much for granted don't we? We expect warmth, light and water. I think the church in this country has become 'one of those things' that we take for granted.

People expect that the church will be there when they need it .It could be their life line in times of trouble or their special place on joyful occasions. But the system that supports the church could so easily break down.

The cost of repairs and maintenance for lovely old churches is spiralling. As we know only too well at Stainton. People quite rightly like churches to be warm, clean and tidy. But who does the work to keep it all going and who pays the bills?

More especially now that our parishes are in vacancy we need to rely on volunteers -who understand how vital it is that we keep our churches going and in good heart and who give willingly of their time and effort. Who are these volunteers? Do we value their work?. Do you know who keeps the wheels turning in your church? As fellow members of our church groups we have equal responsibility to work together for the good of the church as a whole and for the communities in which we serve. It is vital that we do so.

Joan Mason

1. Corinthians 13 – a Christmas version

IF I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure forever.

Joan Mason

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



TODAY some people are trying to remove any public mention of Christ at Christmas, while others seem bent on secularising it completely.

So let's look at the meaning of some of the Christmas symbols.

The small holly berries are thought to have originally reminded Christians of the drops of Christ's blood caused by the crown of thorns he wore at Calvary.

The evergreen trees speak of the promise of never ending life resulting from his resurrection.

The Celtic cross has a circle surrounding the intersection of the vertical and horizontal axis of the cross. Some people believe it integrated with St Patrick, who upon seeing a round symbol of the moon goddess drew a Christian cross over it – changing a Druid symbol into a new symbol for Irish

Christianity.

In the same way that St Patrick adopted a pagan circle and gave it a new meaning, so other Christians adopted the evergreen wreath and gave it a new meaning.

When early Christians changed the Roman winter solstice of the rebirth of the sun (originally on December 21st) to a celebration of the 'Son of Righteousness,' the evergreen wreath was adopted.

Instead of simply being a garland, the round Christmas wreath now speaks of the never-ending unity and fellowship we have with God through Christ.

So when you hang a wreath over your fireplace or on your door this Christmas, remind yourself that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

David Gatenby

The 20 Best Cathedrals in England

6. St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Cathedral, London, is an Anglican cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London and the mother church of the Diocese of London. It sits on Ludgate Hill at the highest



point of the City of London and is a Grade I listed building. Its dedication to Paul the Apostle dates back to the original church on this site, founded in AD 604. The present cathedral, dating from the late 17th century, was designed in the English Baroque style by Sir Christopher Wren. Its construction, completed in Wren's lifetime, was part of a major rebuilding programme in the City after the Great Fire of London. The cathedral building largely destroyed in the Great Fire, now often referred to as Old St Paul's Cathedral, was a central focus for medieval and early modern London, including Paul's walk and St. Paul's Churchyard being the site of St. Paul's Cross.

The cathedral is one of the most famous and most recognisable sights of London. Its dome, framed by the spires of Wren's City churches, has dominated the skyline for over 300 years. At 365 feet (111m) high, it was the tallest building in London from 1710 to 1967. The dome is among the

highest in the world. St Paul's is the second-largest church building in area in the United Kingdom after Liverpool Cathedral.

Services held at St Paul's have included the funerals of Admiral Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Sir Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher; jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria; peace services marking the end of the First and Second World Wars; the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer; the launch of the Festival of Britain; and the thanksgiving services for the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees and the 80th and 90th birthdays of Queen Elizabeth II. St Paul's Cathedral is the central subject of much promotional material, as well as of images of the dome surrounded by the smoke and fire of the Blitz.

The cathedral is a working church with hourly prayer and daily services.

David Gatenby

Cruising in 2019

The First of 3 Cruises for the Price of Two.

THE first of 3 was Seven Night River Cruise travelling on the beautiful Rivers Rhine and Moselle. Never having been on a river cruise before this was a good experience. We flew from Manchester Airport on Thursday, July 4th 2019 to Dusseldorf. On arrival at the airport, we felt hot and tired in an outside temperature of 23° C. To our relief, our group was met by our Fred Olsen reps in mini coaches to take us to the River Rhine Cruise Terminal to meet the S.S. Brabant which eventually sailed at 11.50 pm. On the lowest deck our small cabin was cool, cosy and comfortable. We showered and changed into cooler clothes then made a cup of tea. We enjoyed a good evening meal and retired early.

Early on Friday, we awoke to sounds of adjustments to the gangway adjacent to our cabin. Excited and curious, I tried to climb up but our cabin window was too high up to see through. While having breakfast, through the dining room landscape windows, bathed in sunlight, Cologne Cathedral spire was just visible. From a map, we were pleased to find that it was within easy walking distance from the ship. The main body and spires of this magnificent Cathedral are partly obscured by scaffolding while repairs are on-going. The old town and the main square were busy as the area was preparing for the onslaught of thousands of visitors including the imminent arrival of a huge march of Gay Pride supporters. There was insufficient time to go inside the Cathedral but we viewed the stories of the war-time damage as depicted photographically on huge hoardings outside. This showed war at its worst. It was almost unbearable to think of the thousands killed or maimed. It was mind-blowing. Written in 1914, this prayer by an author unknown, I quote "We pray for an end to violence, war and death. Grant us this, peaceful God. Grant us a peaceful world.

Quietly we strolled back through the cobbled market area and along the river-side back to the ship for a very pleasant lunch. We sailed away at about 1.00pm. and in searing heat we arrived at the Remagen Bridge remains. To our horror, a crowd of teenagers was messing about on the top of the remains of one stanchion. How very sad that they had no idea of the history and respect for the memories of soldiers and citizens who had died there. Even if I had learned German, would I have had the courage to approach and speak to them? It is doubtful. Together with some new companions from the ship, I bent my head and thought of a prayer for the lost souls. Here is one which I have looked up since I returned home. For all those who died at Remagen Bridge and all those who have died or been injured in conflicts.

Quote: "The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen."

Next morning, Saturday, we were awoken by sounds of our ship entering two locks. Outside, two of the crew were ensuring that the ship's sides were not grating on the walls of the narrow passage. Once through these, we were on the River Moselle which is much narrower than the Rhine. It was a beautiful day. Travelling through seven more locks was fascinating, as rising up through the mountains, more superb scenery came into view. The river banks were edged with many pretty villages and each church displayed elegant spires topped each topped with a cross. Further on, the banks became much steeper, patterned with many miles of rows of grape vines in different vineyards. From a distance they resembled striped patchwork quilts in differing shades of emerald green. We discovered that special pulleys were used to haul adapted tractors, looking like army tanks going up and down for the workers to tend and collect the grapes. How they stayed put on those sheer banks was a mystery to us. On the ship's top deck, we were delayed going under low bridges where at the prow, the Captain's bridge, a viewing cabin had to be collapsed concertina-

like downward then opened up again from deck level meant that we were two hours late arriving at our next river port – BernKastel-Kues. BernKastel-Kues.

Looking like colourful illustrations from a fairy-tale story book, this delightful old town was built of old-fashioned, warped, timber framed buildings where elves and fairies might have lived. In the past, local people once met to gossip, exchange news, buy and sell goods. Although the public square is still meeting place for many, the place is now somewhat over-run by inquisitive tourists, ourselves amongst them. The local retired headmistress-cum-wine-merchant's daughter was our excellent tour guide. While we gazed in awe, she gave an enthralling account of the past history of storms causing huge river floods, the various heights of which were indicated by unbelievable, indelible markings made on the walls, the measures of which caused families to squabble arguing that "our flood level was much higher than yours" and other disputes. Feeling rather heated from the hilly walk we were glad to enter one of the cool wine cellars. Of course, it was compulsory that we sampled just a few of the 150-plus wines available.

The guide was hoping we would buy some and I daresay some people did. Unfortunately, we were limited by our flight – 20 kilos of luggage weight restriction but we could dream! Later we were entertained by a local and international representative - Martin, who gave 3 evening talks about his travels as a wine merchant. He emphasised that the best wine was German demonstrating the best ways to test, taste and drink wines from different areas. Amusement was provided with the help of one of the bar staff, aptly nicknamed "Manuel" acting just like Basil's side-kick in TV's Faulty Towers. Armed with a bucket and clean wine glasses, he wandered between us so that we could taste and spit out the different wines! There was a lot of clowning and banter between Martin and Manuel. Needless to say, there were some who only pretended to "sniff, examine, taste and spit" and a few of us were more than slightly tipsy by bedtime!! One joker produced some vinegar and pretended to give it to us but we smelt it before we tasted it. It was all very entertaining.

Sunday morning was spent at Cochem pronounced "cockum" or even naughtier words by some of the men, until we were all educated in correct pronunciation. Cooling rain had fallen overnight so it was damp but warm outside so we donned waterproofs and walking shoes. After gazing at the Winneburg Castle on top of the distant hill, we walked past a row of 3 other vessels, mainly from the very good Viking Cruise company and clambered up a flight of stone steps to the top of the Skagerrak Bridge. From the bridge we could hear and see the scarlet clad members of a brass band, with drums and timpani collectively known as an "Umpah" Band down on the square at the far side. They were playing loudly and cheerfully, entertaining all the visitors. Many more attractive, half-timbered houses came into view and the whole town took on a festive air. Happy holiday makers were strolling and browsing through the very busy narrow streets with market stalls and shops doing a roaring Sunday trade occasionally interrupted by a chorus of church bells reminding us that it was supposed to be a day of Church and rest. The sun came out at lunch-time just as we were about to have our lunch. I was surprised that there was no Sunday service on this ship. That evening we sailed for KOBLENZ.

Quote:

For Joy in God's Creation. O Heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty; Open my eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that rejoicing in your whole creation, I may learn to serve you with gladness, faithfully managing your bounty; for the sake of him by whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Read more at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/prayers_before/prayer_of_gratitude.html

Koblenz was reached on Monday morning. It was windy and rather cold being situated on the confluence i.e. the bend between the Moselle and Rhine Rivers. But we ventured forth and found

our way through parkland to the cable car which was by far, the best way to view the city from the air. We alighted and wandered around carefully avoiding getting caught up with guided tours of the castle fortifications. We saw fields bordered by gardens of tall grasses and scented flowers and after watching a lone, mewing cat disappear possibly caring for kittens in one flower bed, we discovered a ramp to the highest viewing point. Some German visitors asked us to take photos of them and we were pleased to accept their offer to take ours too. The views up there were fantastic. Back on S.S.Brabant, we sailed at lunch-time along the widest part of the huge River Rhine then through the narrower gorge where many castles are visible on the banks. The scenery was almost as good all the TV advertisements show but not quite as colourful after the recent heat wave. The weather had turned cloudy, grey, slightly cooler and fresher than we had hoped for. But that evening, another wine tasting lesson gave us a rosier glow. At 6.00 am on Tuesday, we arrived in Speyer, (pronounced Spire) one of Germany's oldest cities in warm sunshine. We were told it was founded by the Romans. Speyer had a history of being destroyed during barbarian invasions, rebuilt in the 7th century, it became the seat of the high court of the Holy Roman Empire until 1689. During the Middle Ages it became home to one of the most significant Jewish communities and after a long period and many problems, the community was wiped out in the Holocaust during 1940. Speyer has many churches and on entering the town, an Old Gate as well as a beautiful Cathedral in which the tombs of German kings and eight Holy Roman emperors are buried.

As soon as we disembarked, we could see the tall turrets of the Cathedral. This being a historical walk, two parties were guided separately through an attractive green, park area adorned with little statues. We strolled towards the Cathedral shining in brilliant sunlight which is unlike any that we have visited previously. Smooth, warm looking, decorative brickwork built in Romanesque style, it looked simple, beautiful and inside, extremely peaceful. There I sent a prayer for all my friends back home. We walked into the town centre where, from a stall known by our guide, we were given pretzels to nibble with instructions not to choke, like Ronald Reagan did once upon a time. The guide then proudly led us to his own Lutheran church of the Holy Spirit, the interior of which was very ornate and fondly cared for by its congregation. After a visit to see an old Jewish Ritual Bath place, we were allowed to wander around the town which had a very good selection of well supplied shops. In C&A, I bought a tea shirt for Ken. The young German lady assistant spoke perfect English which put me to shame. Schoolgirl French was not much use here. By prior arrangement, at midday two of us met both guides back at the Cathedral. The rest of the party had disappeared so we were given both guides' interesting personal life stories while being accompanied back to the ship. That evening, we were entertained on board by a wonderful "Umpah" Band trio who told very amusing local and rather risqué tales interrupted and demonstrated noisily by a piano accordion, trumpet and some loud, rather impolite trumpet blasts at chosen moments. Once more, well lubricated with good humour and generous glasses of wine, we were invited to join their energetic version of a Conga all around the ship. Several of us slightly drunken pensioners joined in even though we were not so fit, many of us clumping around on flat-feet, even those supported by walking sticks trying to stay upright! Imagine how we all felt next morning, Monday when what followed was a "short" walking tour around Strasbourg.

The Strasbourg tour was led by a grim-looking female guide who, it transpired, had not been properly informed of the proposed itinerary or the average ages of most of her followers being over 75. Like a very, bossy headmistress with her mischievous pupils, she herded us out of our coach. We trooped after her, wearily wondering when she was going to guide us "a short distance" to the gondola style canal boats, which were to take us on a canal tour around the city. She was lucky that I didn't poke her with my walking stick!

I prayed for forgiveness for my wicked thoughts of violence.

After walking some distance, two of the less able people asked if they could be allowed return by

taxi to the ship. They were supposed to be on a shorter tour. One lady had received knee surgery 6 weeks earlier and we were really worried about her. The guide listened then firmly ignored the request saying that the lady should have read about the proposed route and that it wasn't much further. No taxis were to be seen. Then we proceeded to be led for a long half a mile jaunt around to the Cathedral area which was packed with tourists, heaving with traffic and altogether rather unpleasant. Suddenly the exterior of the beautiful Strasbourg cathedral came into view. Like Cologne Cathedral, it was shrouded in scaffolding for on-going post-war repairs to be carried out. (Did our air force do all that damage?)

For a while, we all stood around trying to concentrate, listening to the history of the town and the Second World War damage to their wonderful Cathedral. (Was she trying to punish us, the British for the damage?)

Some of the tourists were not born but most of us were only very young when it happened and we had very carefully avoided mentioning the War.

The prayer "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" taken from Luke 23 & 24 came to mind.

Finally arriving at the canal boat station, we stood in a very long queue before climbing into the boats in which we were taken on pleasant canal tour. Given ear phones and receivers, we were guided by different leaders giving translations in several languages of the commentary on the history and details of the many and varied, beautiful buildings. We were lucky to arrive back at our ship which was waiting to depart only minutes after we returned.

There were many complaints about this particular tour but I was glad that I had managed to see this famous and beautiful Cathedral which was not on the itinerary for that booked tour.

We had to pack up and leave our cabins by 8.00 am the following day, Thursday, as we were homeward bound via Basel airport flying on to Amsterdam then transferring to another flight back to Manchester. There our poor taxi driver was directed by airport police to a new meet and greet area so we were all searching for each other for an hour. We were two very weary travellers who arrived home in Middlesbrough at 11.00pm that night.

Quote; Lord, thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives.

Read more at:

https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/prayers_before/prayer_of_gratitude.html

Betty Spragg.



Cologne Cathedral.



Koblenz Cathedral



Strasbourg Cathedral

SHARING WITH A WORLD IN NEED

The cash collected for our charity from St Margaret's Service on the last Sunday in October went to:



We raised a total of £96.00

Rules for Growing Christians

Don't neglect your prayer time –

It is the breath of the soul (Luke 18:1).

Don't neglect your Bible –

It is your sword for conquest, your hammer for construction, your guiding light for dreary days (Rev. 1:3).

Don't neglect your body –

It is the capital on which you are to do business for the rest of your life (1 Cor. 6: 19, 20).

Don't neglect your mind –

It is your channel for reaching up to the very thoughts of God (Phil. 4:8).

Don't neglect your laugh –

Bible teaches that "A merry heart does good like medicine" (Prov. 17:22).

Don't neglect your reputation –

It is the gold with which you will meet the demands of a complex civilization (Mt. 5:14-16).

Don't neglect your influence –

It will point others to the living God whom you serve (Prov. 11:6).

David Gatenby

Schedules and Rotas for December 2019 St. Margaret's, Brookfield

Sidespersons

- 1 Janet Henwood & Linda Nixon
- 9 Sheila & Victor Spencer
- 15 Florence & Ray Harris
- 22 Janet & Malcolm Granville
- 29 Joint Service at Hilton

Lectors

- 1 June Warin
- 8 Betty Spragg
- 15 Ray Harris/Victor Spencer
- 22 Jill Fox
- 29 Joint Service at Hilton

Offertory

- 1 Flower Guild
- 8 Sheila & Victor Spencer
- 15 Mothers' Union

- 22 Judy Cook & Margaret Shippey
- 29 Joint Service at Hilton

Sunday morning Coffee

- 1 Karilyn Saddington & Grace Whitehead
- 8 Janet & Malcolm Granville
- 15 Margaret Andrew & Olwyn Hopkins
- 22 Linda Nixon & Margaret Routledge
- 29 Joint Service at Hilton

Wednesday Coffee

- 4 Sheila Spencer
- 11 Margaret Andrew
- 18 Valerie Bell
- 25 Christmas Day



100 club winners October 2019

W/E 6th	(64) Mrs M Oddy	(35) Mrs Newbury	(113) Mrs B Spragg
W/E 13th	(61) Mr R Rowell	(10) Mrs D Laville	(22) Linda Hastings
W/E 20th	(8) Mrs F Andrew	(104) Mrs Lena Jackson	(173) Mrs A Wills
W/E 27th	(118) Mr P Herbert	(5) Mrs J Warin	(49) Mrs M Routledge

St. Margaret's Church Centre User Groups

For letting enquiries contact the Church Office on 01642 597454
or email: letting@stmargaretsbrookfield.org.uk

Group Name	Meeting times	Leader/contact
Brookfield Toddlers	9:30am to 11:30am Mondays	Val Thompson 01642 821068 during term times
Elderberry Ladies Ballet	1.00pm to 2.00pm Mondays	Maggie Lawrance 07956816956
Yoga	6.30pm-8.00pm Mondays	Emma Lawrence 07944 593441
Tai Chi	10:30am Tuesdays	Pam Hedge 01642 532800
Weight Watchers	5.30pm-6.30pm Tuesdays	Dawn Stanway 07767 454707
The Wine Club	7:30pm on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly	Val Harris 01642 592079
Mothers' Union Branch	2.00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month	Florence Harris 01642 594272
St Margaret's Carpet Bowls Club	1.15pm-3:15pm Wednesdays	Ann Stones 01642 593960
Brookfield Ladies	7:30pm 1st Wednesday each month	Jean Kiddell 01642 761418
The Art Group	10.00am-1pm Thursdays	Ray Harris 01642 594272
Pilates	6.00pm-7.00pm Thursdays	Christine Johnson 07999384668
Line Dancing	7:30pm-9:30pm Thursdays	Judy Cook 01642 290487
Keep Fit	10.00am -11:30am Fridays	Brenda Hockney 01642 487703



Middlesbrough Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:-

- UHT/Powdered milk
- Long-life fruit juice/cordial
 - Sponge Puddings
 - Coffee
 - Rice Pudding
 - Packet Mash or Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Carrots, Sweetcorn, Mixed Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Meat (Ham, Spam, Corned Beef, Hotdogs, Pies, Stews and Curries.



TODDLER GROUP

9:30am to 11:30am Mondays*
At St Margaret's Church Hall
The Oval, Brookfield

£1/first child & 50p/extra child
(Includes hot drink & juice)

NO CHARGE FOR ADULTS!

***TERM TIME ONLY**

THE OVAL PHARMACY

Your local independent chemist

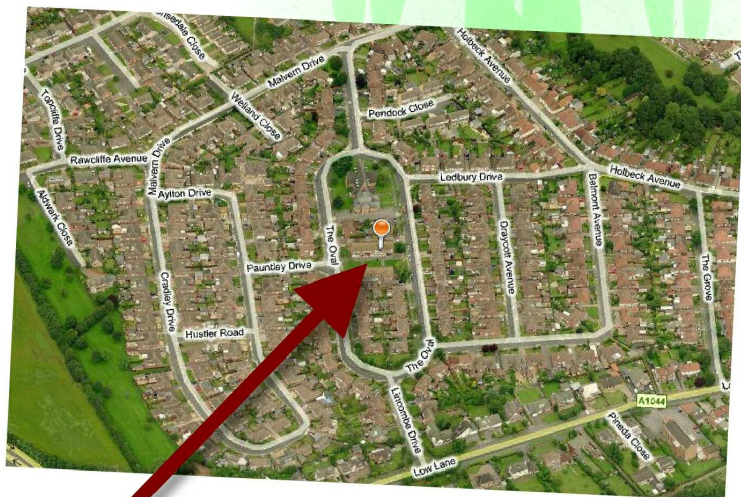
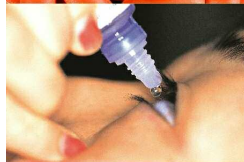


FREE... Collection & delivery

FREE... Healthcare Advice

FREE... NHS Services

FREE... Private Consultations



5 Centre Court, The Oval, Brookfield. TS5 8HP

Tel 01642 284087

Open Mon - Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm, Closed Sunday