

## Stockton Road Church News July 2023



### **Mark 12: 30-31**

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall  
love your neighbour as yourself”.*

We are a union of Presbyterian and Congregational churches at the heart of Sunderland city life, growing from a past rich in mission and hospitality. We embrace this heritage utilising the Five Marks of Mission to guide and enable us to take forward current opportunities for mission and service.



**Church Related  
Community Work**  
*Creating Change in Communities & the Church*



**The Rainbows and Grindon Sewing Group  
Banner Dedication and Promise Making  
Celebration  
On the 4th of July 2023 at 6.00pm**

Carers and Church Members came together to celebrate the Rainbows' Banner Dedication on 4 July. With everyone gathered in the church the Rainbows carried in the banner, the flag and the Rainbow symbol and, following a warm welcome to everyone, the Rainbows sang their special song which they sing at the start when they meet each week:

Look at the world around.  
Learn everything you can.  
Laugh as you go along.  
Love this world of ours.

Look, Learn, Laugh, Love.  
Rainbows have begun.  
We're all here now.  
Come and join the fun.

This was followed by the Promise making and then the blessing:

**Blessing of the Banner** — *Our Church Related Community Worker, Alison Dalton, led the blessing:*

- Whenever you enter a place the welcome you receive is very important, hence our welcome to you earlier.
- For me this means the banner we have all made together over the last 7 or 8 months is so very special. Those of you who have made it happen in any way have used your creativity, your light, your 'True Colours' to welcome everyone, whoever they may be as they enter this place.
- Just a quick recap for those who have not been part of our journey together, or who may have forgotten...
- Last year this church began a project to help us find ways of sharing the beauty of this place, to value all those who already bring so much to the community here but also to find other ways to share the gifts of ourselves, the church, and those who are already here, whilst also finding new ways to welcome others into this place.

- Last autumn you, the Rainbows, were kind enough to let me come to your meetings for a few weeks so we could explore this special part of the building together.
- You, the Rainbows then painted for us the things you found that you thought were special. This was the starting point for our Welcome banner. They showed their love, their welcome for all, their creativity through these glorious colourful images you see here.
- I planned to make these images into a banner but found that I ran out of time, life got in the way!
- Our friends from the Grindon Church Community Project have a sewing group who very kindly volunteered to make the Welcome banner up for us. For me this offer and the work it entailed showed their love, their creativity and skill.
- Then a Church member, Raine, gave freely of his time to ensure the Welcome banner can be put in its place straight after this blessing this evening.
- This Welcome banner will then share all of our welcomes to all of those who come through the glass doors or use the space in this amazing building.
- You will be able to see it every time you come to Rainbows and remind your family and friends you helped to make this special thing happen, thank you!

## **A thought**

We bless this banner,  
 We bless the people who have so freely shared their  
 creativity,  
 their skill to make this lovely thing,

the Rainbows, the sewing group based at Grindon Church Community Project, and those linked to the church.

We bless all those who enter this place through this banner, whether they come once or one hundred times.

We hope they feel the welcome of this place, the love we aim to share today, tomorrow and every day.

Let this banner remind us of our promises we make to ourselves,  
to the church, or as a Rainbow Guide,  
and so, help us to keep those promises, whenever we see it,  
whenever we meet our Rainbows or church friends,  
or as we live our lives each day **Amen**

**Bible Reading: Mark 12: 30-31** (*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*)

*<sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” <sup>31</sup> The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’*

- This reading is very special to this church, it expresses how we try to be as a church community.
- This is why when your Rainbow Leaders were looking for a new home a few years ago we said yes and so welcomed you here.
- But we want you to be more than just welcome here, we want you to feel this is your home, and to feel at home we need to get to know each other to understand and help each other.
- To give and receive **love**.
- As a symbol of the love we offer you, and to say thank you for all you give us, we have some glass

pebbles which are heart shaped to say thank you and these will be distributed to each of the Rainbows.

**Prayer:**

For the love you have shown us since the moment of our birth;  
the path you open up for us to be your example here on earth;  
for the footsteps that we follow, and the words that we may share;  
for the seeds that we hope to scatter by sharing the gifts you have bestowed on us as we walk your way;  
as we try to share your love for each of us and for the benefit of all

**Amen**

**Finally:** Thank you for inviting us to be part of your special evening of promise making, thank you for helping us make this Welcome banner. We would love to do something together again in the future, so if you have any ideas just let us know and I'm sure we can work something out? Maybe something at Christmas time, who knows?

Every blessing,  
Alison Dalton,  
Church Related Community Worker  
07908110121 [crcw.alison.dalton@gmail.com](mailto:crcw.alison.dalton@gmail.com)

**And we are featured on the URC national website  
Ctrl+Click below to follow link and read the article**

<https://urc.org.uk/around-the-urc-in-seven-days-13-20-july-2023/>

## **Lectionary Readings July**

**2 July.** Jeremiah 28: 5-9; Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42.

**9 July.** Zechariah 9: 9-12; Psalm 145: 8-14; Romans:7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30.

**16 July.** Isaiah 55: 10-13; Psalm 65: 1-13; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9,18-23.

**23 July.** Isaiah 44: 6-8; Psalm 86: 11-17; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43.

**30 July:** Kings 3: 5-12; Psalm 119: 129-136; Romans 8: 26-39; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52.

# Church Services July

Services at 10.45am in the Sanctuary unless indicated otherwise



- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 2  | Jeff Ledger, coffee & croissants in lower hall                               |
| July 9  | Elisabeth Meikle   |
| July 16 | Revd Jane Rowell   |
| July 23 | Barbara Ledger   |
| July 30 | Revd Jane Rowell, Joint Pastorate Service at Stockton Road <b>at 10.30am</b> |

## Discipleship Development Opportunity

I am planning to take a group from the Synod to Greenbelt this August. I still have a small number of fully funded places available so if there is anyone within your church who you think would be interested in and benefit from this discipleship development opportunity, please let me know or pass them my details to get in touch as soon as possible. We will be planning our trip as a group and staying together in pre-pitched bell tents complete with beds and bedding so don't let the thought of basic camping put anyone off!

Lucy Cooke  
Learning & Development Officer  
([lucy.cooke@urc-northernsynod.org](mailto:lucy.cooke@urc-northernsynod.org) or 07752 385 197)



## Christian Aid renews Ukraine appeal

Following the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam on 6 June and the resulting floods, Christian Aid is renewing its Ukraine appeal. The destruction led to the flooding of 37 towns and villages and 16,000 people leaving their homes. One of Europe's largest reservoirs is also now drying up leading the UN to announce that drinking water supplies could be affected for more than 700,000 people, mostly in Russian-occupied areas. [Learn more about the appeal.](#)

**Come, rest a while and “be”...**

... with others  
... with yourself  
... with God.



**Monday 11 September 2023 - 11am - 5pm**  
**St Cuthbert's Centre - Holy Island**  
*(causeway open 3.30am - 12.05pm & 4.15pm - 12.15am)*

You are invited to join us for a day of peace, space and a chance to rest a while with God.

Your base for the day will be the St Cuthbert's Centre - the URC's presence on the island. You will be guided and accompanied throughout the day, though you will be free to use the time in any way you choose, at your own pace.

The day is free to attend and light refreshments will be available - please bring a packed lunch or be prepared to seek out sustenance on the island!

Transport can be arranged for those who need it.



*To find out more, or to book a place please get in touch:*

*Lucy Cooke*  
*Learning and Development Officer*  
*lucy.cooke@urc-northersynod.org or 07752 385 197*

# Wishlist July 2023



## Clothes (boys and girls):

- Newborn up to 3months - all clothes pyjamas
- 6months - 16 years - all clothes and pyjamas
- All ages - Underwear (new only)
- Summer jackets - newborn - 3months

## Beds and Bedding:

- Cots and Cotbeds (No mattresses please)
- Toddler beds (No mattresses please)
- Toddler and single pillows (new only)
- Single Bedding



## Equipment:

- Safety Gates - (pressure fit only)
- Double Prams
- Travel System Prams and Strollers
- Sterilisers - cold water or microwave only
- Highchairs
- Fireguards
- Baby bouncers and swings



## Toiletries (unopened only please):

- Nappies - Sizes 4, 5, 6 and 6+
- Adult toiletries



## Other:

- Baby bottles - all sizes (new only)
- Changing mats
- Toys - all ages
- Books for 0-6 months

We kindly ask to please only donate items on wishlist as space and resources are very limited

# Thank you for your support



Check website for more information and equipment safety sheet. [www.loveamelia.org.uk](http://www.loveamelia.org.uk)

# THE STEPHENSON TRAIL EXHIBITION



## AT SEVENTEEN NINETEEN

CHURCH STREET EAST, SUNDERLAND SR1 2BB

**FROM THURSDAY 20TH – SATURDAY 22ND JULY  
10AM-4PM EACH DAY**

With free creative activities on Thursday and Friday.

**Thursday 20th** - Trinity Folk Music from 1-4 pm.

**Friday 21st** features a railway-themed ceramics session.

**Saturday 22nd** A Toy Fair from 10am-3pm. Free entry.

### COME AND JOIN US FOR...

An exhibition of photos relating to the Stephenson Trail!

Postcards of the winning image will be available to take!

Hear the song created by Marty Longstaff 'Stephenson's Engine'!

A podcast 'Nelly's Letter' created by artist Tracy Gillman!

'Train of Thought' - by Nat Wilkins and Carl Joyce who have created a booklet so people can get a sense of stories, songs and sounds linked to The Stephenson Trail. Free copies of the booklet are available to take.

Newly produced maps of The Stephenson Trail will also be available to collect.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Sunderland  
City Council**



Copy for next Newsletter  
by 23 July to [rosina.anderson1503@ntlworld.com](mailto:rosina.anderson1503@ntlworld.com)