

Welcome to the Stainton Church e-News for

Friday 2nd October 2026

Saint Francis of Assisi comes to Hilton!

Two weeks ago, the people of Hilton Village organised a Scarecrow Competition. The Church Family of **St Peter's, Hilton** made a splendid scarecrow representing **Saint Francis of Assisi** to commemorate the 800th anniversary of his death on 3rd October 1226. Your Editor is pleased to share with you a photograph of "the Hilton St Francis", looking out across the Village from the Church.



You can see that St Francis is cradling two birds in his arms; a little more difficult to see (because they are obscured by the plants in the foreground if the photo) is the group of animals around his feet.

A 'Constitution' for our Churches?

Vanessa's sermon for Trinity 17 at Stainton (*for those who weren't there*)

On 27th September at Stainton Church the service of Holy Communion was led by Revd Vanessa who preached on the Epistle of the day, Philippians 2:1-13. The sermon involved a flipchart and lots of interaction with the congregation! The key verses were verses 4 and 5:

⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus (...)

Vanessa asked us to think about the values that make up our 'Church Constitution', ie:

- **Who we are;**
- **What we do; and**
- **What we think**

To help us remember our conclusions she gave us the following acrostic: to have the '**same mind**' as **Christ** we must be people....

C (of) compassion;
H (of) humility;
R (with) regard for others;
I in the mind of Christ;
S (who are) servants (not masters); and
T together

Stainton Church Annual Gift Day and Harvest Celebration

**Can you help us to maintain our ancient Parish Church
with its history reaching back to the 7th Century?**

Our Church does not receive any Government help and relies on local fundraising and the generosity of its Members and Friends, especially those who live in our villages of Stainton, Thornton, Maltby and Hemlington. **In 2025 it cost about £29,000** to run St Peter and St Paul's Church in Stainton – that is **about £560 per week!**

On Saturday 3rd October 2026 we shall be holding our **Annual Gift Day; from 9.30am to 12.00 noon** our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, and our Churchwarden, Vernon Clare, will be at the Church gates in Hemlington Road to receive any very kind financial donations our Members and Friends may make. Do look out for a letter from Revd Laura and a donation envelope which we will deliver to houses in Stainton and Thornton in the next few days (we will welcome donations from people living in Maltby and Hemlington too, but do not have the resources to deliver copies of the Vicar's letter to those villages).

Stainton Church will be open that morning and we invite you to call in for **free refreshments**. We would also welcome donations of flowers in memory of a loved one and/or donations of non-perishable food – **tins, packets and jars** – which we shall use to decorate the Church for our **Harvest Festival Café Church Service** at **11.00am** the following day, **Sunday 4th October 2026**. The tins, packets and jars will eventually be donated to the **EcoShop in Hemlington**.

There are several ways you can give to Stainton Church

- **Using a donation envelope that will have been delivered to you or available at the Church gates on Gift Day:**
- **Make a Bank Transfer using the following information:**

Account Name: **Stainton in Cleveland PCC** Sort Code: **20-56-74** Account No: **80835374**

- **Donate by Credit or Debit Card:**

To make a credit card or debit card donation to Stainton Church please scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Alternatively, you can make a **Contactless or Chip-and-Pin card donation using the payment terminal** in the Church.

- **Donate by Text (SMS) Message** (maximum £20):

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text STANTONPCCNOINFO instead.

Text **STANTONPCC** "amount" to **70085** to donate £amount

e.g. Text **STANTONPCC 5** to **70085** to donate **£5**.

Text **STANTONPCC 12** to **70085** to donate **£12**.

Text **STANTONPCC 20** to **70085** to donate **£20**.

Thank you so much
for whatever you can give!

An opportunity to join Stainton Mothers' Union in supporting MY SISTER'S PLACE

My Sister's Place is a Middlesbrough-based specialist domestic abuse charity that provides confidential, non-judgemental support to anyone affected by abuse. You can find out more about their vital, often life-saving, work by visiting their website at this [link](#).



Here is an opportunity not to be missed - For **one week only**, between noon on 6th October and noon on 13th October, there is an opportunity for match funding of monies given, meaning that every donation made via the dedicated link below **will be doubled** up to the value of £7000:

<https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS00000GNhRGYA1>

“The Lord’s Prayer” comes to Middlesbrough – meet: Archbishop Stephen of York and Bishop Barry of Whitby

7.00pm on Friday 2nd October 2026, St Martin of Tours, Whinney Banks

We are delighted to welcome the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, to Middlesbrough on the evening of Friday 2nd October at 7pm as part of his **tour of the northern province (*)** of the Church of England, exploring the Lord's Prayer.

The event is at **St Martin's in Whinney Banks**, is **free** and our Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Barry Hill be hosting a question and answer (Q&A) session with the Archbishop on the prayer our Lord taught us.

For more details and to book your free place go to this link: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/event/12411/>

(*) The Northern Province includes the following CofE Dioceses: Blackburn, Durham, Carlisle, Chester, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Sodor and Man, Southwell and Nottingham, and York.

Teesside churches unite to open up Bible conversations

Across Teesside, more people are asking questions about Jesus, exploring Christianity, and stepping through church doors. This autumn, churches across the region will respond together through **Bible Conversations: Teesside**, an initiative led by the [Bible Society](#) in partnership with [Transforming Teesside Together](#).

Churches across Stockton, Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland, **including the three Churches in our Church Family**, are creating opportunities to continue those conversations by hosting courses, small groups, one-to-one conversations, and relaxed spaces where people can explore the Christian faith together.



You will be able to find out what is happening where and when, and book free tickets, [by clicking on this link](#) or by scanning this QR Code with your smart-phone.



From 15th September 2026, our Church Family will be hosting **The Bible Course**, an 8-week course with videos and informal discussion that aims to give an **overview of the Bible and its 'big questions'**. This is open to **everyone** from our three Parishes (and beyond...) – no experience necessary! The course will be held at St Margaret's Church, Brookfield on Tuesday evenings at **7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, beginning on 15th Sept 2026** and then each Tuesday evening until 3rd November. [Editor's note: Our Vicar, Revd Laura, has asked me to include the following link which will take you to **the YouTube website where you will be able to watch the whole set** of the *Bible Course* videos – here is the link: [\(49\) The Bible Course Collection - YouTube](#)]

We are excited to be holding **Bible Conversations** – an opportunity to chat and share our understanding or questions about the Bible with others - in each of our three Parishes as follows:

- **St Peter's Church, Hilton** Thursdays at 11.00am from 10th Sept to 1st Oct 2026
- **St Peter and St Paul's Church, Stainton** **Mondays at 1.30pm from 5th Oct to 26th Oct 2026**
- **Community Living Room, Hemlington** Thursdays at 12.00noon from 22nd Oct to 12th Nov
- **St Margaret's Church, Brookfield** Wednesdays at 11.15am from 4th Nov to 25th Nov 2026

Pease join us in praying for Teesside, for churches preparing to welcome people, and for everyone who will encounter God's Word through the campaign.

Services and Events in our Churches over the next two weeks

On **Saturday 3rd October 2026** it will be **Stainton Church Gift Day** when our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, and our Churchwarden, Vernon Clare, will be at the Church gates on Hemlington Road **from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon** to receive any kind donations towards the work of the Church in our local community. The Church will be open and refreshments served. You are also invited to help decorate the Church for Harvest – **tins, packets and jars of food and/or flowers given in memory**, will be most welcome.

On **Sunday 4th September 2026** it is **Trinity 18**. There will be services as follows:

At 9.30m at Hilton Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Pioneer Priest, Revd Vanessa Kirby, will preside;

At 9.30am at Brookfield Church a service of **Holy Communion to celebrate Harvest** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside;

At 11.00am at Stainton Church a **Café Church to celebrate Harvest** at which Revd Laura Wild, will also preside – this will be a service of informal worship with simple refreshments, quizzes and discussion [Editor's note: There will NOT be Holy Communion at this service]; and

At 4.00pm at Brookfield Church a **Church Family at 4 service for Harvest** led jointly by Revd Vanessa and Revd Vanessa.

The Diocesan Reflection for Trinity 18 is given by **the Most Rt and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, our Archbishop of York**. Archbishop Stephen reflects on the Gospel passage set for that day (Matthew 21:33-46). The Reflection is available at this [link](#).

The scripture passages set in the Lectionary for **Trinity 18** are:

- Isaiah 5:1-7
- Psalm 80:9-17
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- Matthew 21:33 - 46

The scripture passages set in the Lectionary for **Harvest Thanksgiving** are:

- Deuteronomy 8:7-18 **or** Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- Psalm 65
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Luke 12:16-30

On **Monday 5th October 2026** at 1.30pm in **Stainton Church** there will be a **Bible Conversation** session.

On **Tuesday 6th October 2026** at 9.30am at **Stainton Church** there will be a half-hour **Church Family Prayer Gathering**

On **Tuesday 6th October 2026** at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) at **Brookfield Church Hall** there will be **the third session** of our seven-week **Bible Course** led by our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild.

On **Wednesday 7th October 2026** at 10.00am at **Brookfield Church** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside.

On **Sunday 11th October 2026** it is **Trinity 19** and there will be services as follows:

At 9.30am at Brookfield Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Pioneer Minister, Revd Vanessa Kirby, will preside;

At 11.00am at Stainton Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside; and

At 4.00pm at Hilton Church a service of **Evensong** led by Revd Laura.

The scripture passages set in the Lectionary for Trinity 19 are:

- Isaiah 25:1-9
- Psalm 23
- Philippians 4:1-9
- Matthew 22:1-14

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On **Tuesday 6th October 2026** at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) at **Brookfield Church Hall** there will be **the fourth session** of our eight-week **Bible Course** led by our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild.

On **Wednesday 7th October 2026** at 10.00am at **Brookfield Church** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside.

Please pray

... for the people of Middlesbrough and the surrounding area following the recent deaths after the crash on the A66 and the house fire.

To help guide our prayers – yours and mine - here are four specific areas [that Bishop Barry has mentioned]:

1. **The timing of recent events coincides with a major ecumenical outreach across Teesside, funded and supported by the Bible Society.** As Christians, we know the life-changing difference knowing the love, identity, hope and call of Jesus Christ makes individually, and in a community, **so please pray that much fruit and transformation will result [from the Bible Conversations Teesside campaign] that will last many years across our region;**
2. **The emergency services continue to face extraordinary pressures. Please pray for** Firefighters, Paramedics and Ambulance Crews and Police Officers [who] continue to serve the community as they deal with their own grief and trauma;
3. **In September quite a number of new clergy will be licensed [to Parishes] across the archdeaconry.** Within Middlesbrough this includes Revd Marion Barella in Eston and Normanby on 29th September and Fr Gareth Gladman into Berwick Hills, Park End and Pallister Park on 9th September. Both of these parishes have been significantly impacted over many years by what we have seen in recent weeks. **Please pray for** all the clergy and lay leaders of Middlesbrough Deanery;
4. **And finally, as a community many people have lived in fear for some years and for others recent events have highlighted and heightened anxiety. Please pray for** a spiral of de-escalations rather than a pattern of escalating violence. May God's peace and protection be known across our community.

... for Nepal and Tibet following the recent flash-floods that have occurred.

Here is a prayer from [Christian Aid](#):

We weep with the people of Nepal and Tibet. Images of devastation tell a story of terrible loss.

We cry out to you for the bereaved, for all who could not save their loved ones.

We grieve for those who have seen their homes swept away.

God, keep safe those waiting for rescue, renew the strength of emergency workers, and turn our shock and sorrow into action.

Make us your hands and feet, reaching out and standing with our neighbours in their deep distress and urgent need.

In Jesus name, Amen

... and for Venezuela following the recent double-earthquake that hit the city of Caracas and the state of La Guairá and especially for the aid-agencies seeking to support the Venezuelans at this difficult time.

The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a Venezuela Appeal on 1st July 2026 and by 19th August the Appeal had raised £20million but more donations are requested urgently. [Click here](#) to make a donation.

In the latest update DEC said: Thousands of people are injured, and the country's hospitals remain under extreme pressure. The UN estimates that millions of people have been affected, with more than two million people living in the worst impacted areas. The headline figures on the DEC website are that:

- **6,300 people were killed** in the earthquakes and many others are still missing; and
- **680,000 children** are in need of humanitarian assistance according to UN estimates

The earthquakes caused damage to homes and businesses in Caracas and across several states, with particularly serious impact reported in the La Guaira and Greater Caracas areas. Families are sleeping in makeshift tents on the street, with little protection from the heat and rain. Power lines and roads have been destroyed, and people are cut off from essential supplies.

... for Ukraine and Russia for an end to the war started by Russia.

... for Israel and Palestine, for Lebanon, for Iran and the wider Middle East

especially for the war between America and Iran and its proxies, and that the fighting between Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah would endure and become a lasting Peace. Please pray too for Jewish and Arab Christians, and especially for the Iranian people at this time of civil unrest.

Please join us in praying for our Churches to Grow

Our Bishop Barry and Archdeacon Amanda have asked us to pray fervently for people to come forward to fill a number of clergy vacancies in our Archdeaconry. Praise God for the vacancies that have already been filled, and pray for all involved in the recruitment leading up to the Licensing of Priests in remaining Parishes/Benefices.

Can we invite you to use our **Revitalise** "prayer for growth" in your personal quiet times with God?

Revitalise us Lord,
Enthuse in our congregations the desire for mission. Give
Vision to our planning and
Inspire our thoughts as we seek Your will.
Teach us to be more like You, Christ
Abiding in You and
Loving one another.
In growing healthy churches,
Sharing our faith, living Christ's story
Every day, help us to be faithful disciples and bear much fruit. Amen.

This autumn the Parishes in our Stokesley Deanery and the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) will begin the preparation of a revised Deanery Plan to help us all Live Christ's Story. **We are asked to use this prayer often:**

Gracious God,
You are the source of all wisdom and the giver of every good gift.
As we gather to plan for the life and mission of our deanery,
fill our hearts with your spirit of discernment and peace.
Guide our conversations so they may be rooted in love,
our decisions so they reflect our desire to live Christ's story together,
and our vision so it may serve the needs of all in our communities.
Help us to listen well, speak kindly,
and work together in unity for the sake of your kingdom.
May all we do bring glory to your name and bear fruit that will last.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Pastoral Support - Here are the contact details for our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild:

Address: The Vicarage, 89 Low Lane, Brookfield, Middlesbrough TS5 9EF
Phone: 01642-598621
E-mail: rev.laura.wild@gmail.com

Laura's normal "day off" is Friday - if you need to contact her on that day, please leave a message on the answerphone.

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