

NEWSTAND

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WHERE THE CHURCH IS



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NEWSTAND is the church magazine of St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay. NE25 8LU Church Payphone: 0191 297 1184

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Features and Regulars in this issue of NEWSTAND Musings from the Manse 3 Film Club – The Greatest Showman 5 Before the paling of the stars - Christina Rossetti 6 Churches Together in Whitley Bay7 Activities Team & Depaul UK appeal 8 Charity Scheme & Prayer for those who live alone 9 Advent: 'the coming' – Hope 4 team 12 Hope 6 – Budget update 13 58 Society update – meeting 2 & 3 summaries 14 Gift Aid appeal — increase the value of your donations 16 Newstand Subscriptions and Dates for 2019 17 Longest night service - remembering sadness and loss 18 Book of Remembrance & Prayer Diary 21 Monthly & Weekly Duties and Newstand Dates 22 Church CalendarBack Page

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Dear friends,

Back in April, we had a visit from Rev'd Kevin Watson, Moderator of Yorkshire Synod and, at the time, Moderator of the General Assembly. He spoke with us about the challenge to shout 'Glory to God in the High St' – with the need to be forever present in the context of the world around, not just on our terms, in our places of worship, or when it suited us.

His visit coincided with the Granny's Attic Shop that St Andrew's were holding in the centre of Whitley Bay and at the time many felt positive about his message feeling the Church was doing that. While the financial injection has been enough to balance St Andrew's through the year, expressions of intent from a number of regular shop visitors are yet to translate into church attendance.

But eight months on, with the shop a distant memory and with the frantic shopping period of Christmas looming, I wonder whether St Andrew's is doing enough to have a presence in the High Street.

At the time of year when Christmas is shown by mass spending, emphasised by 'Black Friday' sales, God is a long way from the High Street. Christ – the gift of Christmas – came to a lowly girl and a carpenter who had to spend the night in a stable. But our shopping culture emphasises the need to spend ever increasing sums to prop up our consumer environment. Never is God's presence in the High Street more needed than at this time of year – being a counter cultural experience for people to approach God at Christmas and without needing to pay a penny.

Last Christmas, Gary and I visited Berwick-upon-Tweed one day and found that Churches Together in Berwick had opened a shop called 'Christmas Presence' on the High Street. Everything they offered was free – gift wrapping, tea and coffee, 'make your own tree decoration', children's activities, quiet space – and they shared information of their services and their Church activities. It was a true presence of Christ on the High Street, sharing God without cashing in from it, and offering something of God's love to the world that needs to see and experience it.

As the Christmas consumer dash intensifies through December, it falls upon Christians to place Christ at the centre of our celebration and to share the story of our faith and the importance of the season. As we prepare for 'Immanuel' – God with us – it falls upon us all to share the story of God's presence as we celebrate 'Glory to God in the Highest'.

Blessings,

Matthew

What do elves learn in school? The Elf-abet!

HUGH ZAC MICHELLE REBECCA ZENDAYA JACKMAN EFRON WILLIAMS FERGUSON

Hugh Jackman leads an all-star cast in this musical which is filled with 'showstopping performances'. Inspired by the story of P.T. Barnum, the film follows the visionary who rose from nothing to create a mesmerising spectacle.

Friday 21st December 2.00pm

GREATEST SHOWMAN

All profits from the Film Club are in aid of church funds and charitable works.

Before the paling of the stars

Before the paling of the stars Before the winter morn, Before the earliest cock crow, Jesus Christ was born: Born in a stable, Cradled in a manger, In the world his hands had made Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep In Jerusalem; Young and old lay fast asleep In crowded Bethlehem; Saint and angel, ox and ass, Kept a watch together Before the Christmas daybreak In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast In the stable cold, Spotless lamb of God was he, Shepherd of the fold: Let us kneel with Mary maid, With Joseph bent and hoary, With saint and angel, ox and ass, To hail the King of Glory.

Christina Rossetti

Submitted by Jim Farley

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has Noel.



ADDRESS at the Church Meeting on 18th November

What is the job of 'Churches Together in Whitley Bay'? We're very fortunate in Whitley Bay to have a wide representation of the churches in the area. The meetings are regularly attended by approximately 20 people from the Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists, URC, Salvation Army, Society of Friends, Anglican, Acorn Church, Bay Church and so on.

We hear from the appropriate representatives who make up the activities which occur in and around Whitley Bay: Street Pastors, the homeless, SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education), Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian Aid Week, church presence in the Murton Gap Housing Development, Spiritual Care training, Summer Activity Lunches – the list is endless – we in the meetings exchange our church community activities.

However, at the last meeting of the clergy this question was posed: what is our vision for the future, which way can we move forward as an ecumenical group?

And this is where you, as a church community, come in – I know I've pounced this on you, but I would like you to give it prayerful consideration. How do we engage with the Whitley Bay community as Christians? If you have any suggestions, ideas or an inspirational way forward please share it – either with me or Matthew.

At our next Churches Together in Whitley Bay gathering in February we'll gladly verbalise any ideas you give us.

Valerie Taylor

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 4.2 kg? Because they had a weigh in the manger Unfortunately Harmony Choir has had to cancel the Concert planned for Thursday 13th December owing to the illness of the Musical Director, Reg Chapple. We wish Reg a speedy recovery.



We look forward to various festive events this month. On **Friday, 14th December at 7 pm** a Community Carol Service, with refreshments afterwards, takes place to which all are welcome. The afternoon of **Monday 17th December at 2 pm** sees our annual Afternoon Carol Service which is especially for those who find difficulty in attending the usual Sunday morning services but all are welcome.

Carol Singing in the area – the Activities Team (and anyone else who would like to come along) will be going out carol singing around the area on Thursday 20th December from 6 pm and as usual we will be raising money for the Great North Air Ambulance. The following night, Friday 21st December, a Longest Night Service takes place at 7 pm.

Lastly, but not least, tickets at £10 are now on sale for the New Year's Eve Party on Monday 31st December, 9 pm.



Once again we have been asked to help to make up Christmas Gift Bags for vulnerable homeless and disadvantaged young people who are looked after by Depaul UK in North Tyneside.

This year we have been asked to donate 60 tubes of Pringles. A collecting box is available in the Reception Area to receive the donations or, if preferred, monetary donations can be given in lieu.

> Michael Spicer Church Representative

What is the best Christmas present ever? A broken drum - you can't beat it!



We are once again seeking from church members suggestions of charities, preferably with a local or personal connection, to receive

the 10% charity money which will be raised from the social events held during 2019 (to be presented in early 2020).

Nominations to me, with some background information on the charity if possible, by the end of December please following which voting papers will be issued early in 2019.

A reminder that the charities chosen for the current year and to be presented with cheques in early 2019 are:

Motor Neurone Disease Association, Macmillan Nurses and Alzheimer's Society.

Ray Hammond

harity Scheme

A prayer for those who live alone

I live alone dear Lord; stay by my side. In all the daily needs be thou my guide. When I am feeling low or in despair lift up my heart and help me in my prayer.

I live alone dear Lord yet I have no fear, because I feel your presence ever near.

Amen.

Dear friend.

If I had a flower for everything you made me smile or laugh at, I'd have a garden to walk in forever.

Submitted by Christine Clarkin

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you all for attending my final service on 4th November, my 86th birthday, and after 30 years as a minister, 17 of them at St. Andrew's. I have been reliably informed that 101 people received communion. Thank you too, for attending the lunch, and thanks to those who prepared it.

A big 'thank you' for the very generous cheque (£1,245), and for the many retirement and birthday cards, and presents. (I have received a large bottle of whisky but there is no name attached. If the donor would either give me a ring or have a word with me at church, I will be able to write my letter of thanks.)

I am sure I have not deserved any of this, but 'thank you' and God bless you all.

Douglas

Many thanks for all my lovely cards on my 90th, especially on Remembrance Day. It certainly was a wonderful day thanks to Matthew and crew. Also for my lovely bowl of flowers and presents. Thanks also to Catriona and support to make that day very special. My sincere thanks to all involved.

Derek Lowdon

I wish to thank all the members and friends who attended the memorable Thanksgiving Service for Sheila, on the 30th of October. The large number gave enormous support to myself and the family, both on the day and later and the singing during the service was inspiring.

Many, many thanks to you all.

Paul Hartley

Poppies from the "Haul for Hope" display that was the centrepiece of the Remembrance and Reconciliation Festival are available in the church for a small donation each for anyone that would like some. Money from donations will be split evenly between Royal British Legion and Peace Pledge Union.

> How do you know when Santa's in the room? You can sense his presents.

If anyone finds even the large print hymn books/orders of service difficult to read, and would like hymns, responses, etc. in this font and type size, please see Jean Jackson

Why is Christmas just like a day at the office? You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit. It is so easy to become caught up in the bandwagon in the preparations to celebrate Christmas, to fill this time of Advent with



parties, endless to-do lists, queuing and shopping, it is all too easy to worry about all that needs to be done and is still to do.

Advent: 'the coming' is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth to hear the story of angels, shepherds and wise men coming to the little town of Bethlehem to worship a baby born in a stable, wrapped in strips of cloth lying in a manger. That was the story of 2000 years ago. Now we wait, watch and

listen for Christ's coming again. Our Lord wants to come into our lives and this makes Advent a time of challenge for Christians. In the dark winter months, we are challenged to watch, wait and listen for and perhaps find it in unexpected places. In the darkness are those who live on the margins of society: the huddled figures in shop doorways; those who live each day with mental and physical disabilities; those who have no space to have their voices heard and those who believe they have no value in society. This is the challenge for Christians at Advent to watch and bring healing; to wait for the unexpected and stretch out our hands; to listen to those whom no one will listen to. This is Advent: the coming of Christ anew into our lives.

The 3 stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus. At this Advent time Holy God, we offer our prayers:

Holy God before us, beside us, within us, it would seem the world has captured this Holy season pushing the hope and joy of Your coming to the edges of our lives and we fail to see the true story of Christmas as it is now.

Holy God this Advent help us to watch for you, to wait for the unexpected and to stretch out our hands to those in need. Help us to listen to those whom no one will listen to. May we receive Christ into our lives anew.

Holy God, there is no place without you; help us to recognise your presence in the dark places, the difficult places of our lives; even as we sing of your glory in the light.

Amen.

Chris Polhill 2016 adapted. Submitted by Hopes for 2020 – Hope 4 Team

Δ	Hope 6 — Budget		
Month	October	Year to date	
Income	£6,296	£93,036	
Expenditure	£7,739	£88,384	
Surplus/Deficit	-£1,443	£4,652	

Why did the child's grades drop after the holidays? Because everything was marked down!

58 Society 2nd meeting – 29th October 2018 'Harold's War', a talk given by Alison Houston

on her family history research focusing on the history of her Grandfather, Harold Clayton.



Harold was born in Keighley, the youngest of seven children. He had a grammar school education, was very musical, becoming the church organist at the age of twelve. He was 19 years old when he signed up for the Special Reserve for six years. The initial training was fun – the real thing was very different. In 1915, near Ypres, he suffered a serious chest wound and was missing for three days. He ended up in Tynemouth to recuperate. He returned to fight in the battle of the Somme in July 1916.

After being wounded for the third time, he returned to England. He was married in 1918, was promoted to lieutenant and eventually demobbed in 1919. In December 1919, his son was born. He got a job working down a mine, but in 1920 was motivated to do more duty, heading to Ireland on his 24th birthday. Sadly, he was the victim of an IRA ambush during the Clon Finn Outrage, was severely wounded and died two days later. His funeral was a political event but with full military honours. He was buried in a war grave in Preston Cemetery. Harold's wife wanted to put up a headstone, but it was not allowed as it was not a military killing. Alison felt this was unjust, but eventually the War Commission agreed to provide a Harold's wife had to go to Dublin, to fight for headstone. compensation. She was given £3,500, to the children and a pension for life.

Harold's story has been made into a history project – 'What was Harold's War like' that was reported in the Keighley News. 37 members and visitors enjoyed this very interesting talk.

Richard Varley gave the vote of thanks.

Santa's elves are just a bunch of subordinate Clauses.

58 Society 3rd meeting – 12th November 2018

'African Adventures' with Ann and Ray Hammond took us on their recent holiday adventures to South Africa and Kenya. They illustrated their talk with some interesting photos including some beautiful views and close up shots of the wild animals.

In South Africa, they spent several days in Cape Town, where they sampled lots of different types of food and saw fur seals swimming in the harbour. They also went to Robben Island where the maximum security prison for political prisoners is located. They went on the cable car, which rotated up and down, and saw a lot of African penguins, as well as visiting fifteen vineyards in three days! They then travelled to the Savanna Private Game Reserve, staying in a lovely farmhouse and went On Safari. The game drivers were superb and the animals were used to the jeeps so were close up to them.

In 2017, Ann and Ray visited Kenya, staying in a 1960's colonial house in Nairobi. They enjoyed visiting the coast and Sand Island, before travelling to Biji Camp, which was very basic and quite primitive. They had to sleep in tents near the river, where there was little security. It was nerve racking. An elephant walked through the camp past their tent and seemed quite at home! Each day, the game drivers took them to different locations, including Mudanda Rock, a famous view point, and Crocodile Point, but there were no crocs! There was a tourist point on the river, where the crocs came out of the river, but stopped to order! They visited the Dame Daphne Village. Elephant Seldrick Orphaned These orphaned elephants are eventually released back into the wild but bring their young back to the orphanage to show them off. Sadly, Ann and Ray had just heard that Biji Camp had been washed away in the recent floods.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it. Before returning home, they went back to Nairobi, where they visited Karen Blixen's house/museum. The film, 'Out of Africa', was based on her book and was filmed nearby.

Forty three members and visitors enjoyed Ann and Ray's talk. The next meeting is Monday, 26th November at 7.30pm. The speakers are Hilary East and Hazel Graham, talking about 'Cobles, Creels and Clogs'.

Celia Purves

You may have come across Gift Aid in connection with Museums, Charities and in our Church offertory.

It is a government scheme where, if a taxpayer makes a donation to a charity, the charity can then claim back from the Inland Revenue an amount equal to 25% of the donation. This represents the amount of tax which has been paid on the amount donated.

We already have 56 people in the congregation who are part of the scheme and who last year donated a total of over £23,000. This meant that over £5000 was able to be claimed back for the Church though the scheme.

If anyone else [who pays income tax at source, including on pay and pensions] wishes to join, please contact Kevin Ames. There is no need to change what you are currently giving, but it means that he can make a claim on this, and increase the amount by a quarter for Church funds.

Kevin Ames (as given at last Church Meeting)

Which of Santa's reindeers needs to mind his manners the most? "Rude"olph A reminder for Newstand subscribers that the annual payment will shortly be due, and I shall be grateful if you will arrange for the money to be paid to your distributor, or to myself if you normally pay me direct, before the end of January, please.

The annual payment for 2019 remains at \pounds 6.60, i.e. 11 issues at 60 pence, plus 1 issue free (or a combined issue in the summer — will be confirmed in May/June edition).

Should anyone else wish to change from monthly to annual payment and have their copy of Newstand delivered to their home, or a reserved copy put in the pigeonholes, please contact me.

Thank you.

Carole Mallett

Edition	Published	Hard copy by	Email copy by	Of
January	23 December	16 December	17 December	ns
February	27 January	20 January	21 January	an
March	24 February	17 February	18 February	b
April	31 March	24 March	25 March	H
Мау	28 April	21 April	22 April	a
June*	26 May	19 May	20 May	ates
July*	30 June	23 June	24 June	
August*	28 July	21 July	22 July	ne/ tion
September	25 August	18 August	19 August	ned Ju Ist edi
October	29 September	22 September	23 September	ombir /Augu
November	27 October	20 October	21 October	* may be combined June/ July or July/August edition
December	24 November	17 November	18 November	* ma July o

What goes "oh oh oh"? Santa walking backwards.

Christmas time can be difficult when we have sadness in our life. We can feel disconnected from the joy and happiness of the festivities, or

can have a sense of loss or emptiness. In a season of great joy, there seems to be little space for sadness and grief.

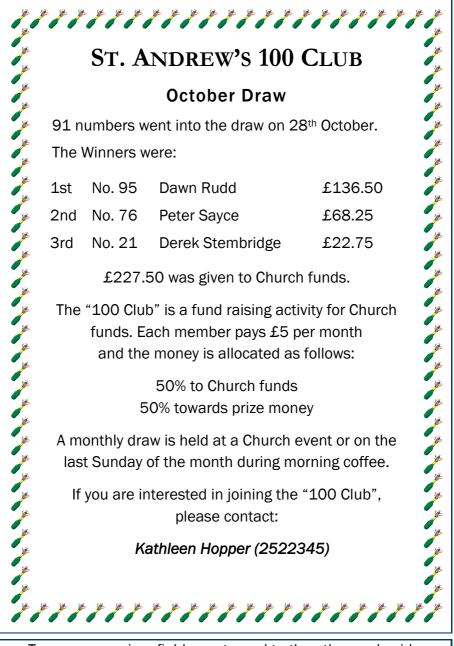
The Longest Night Service (also known as a "Blue Christmas" service) is an opportunity to come together in a simple, reflective service to remember those known to us who have died, and to recognise our sadness and our loss. Whether that be a recent bereavement – or one long past – we remember those dear to us and take time to be in God's presence in our vulnerability.

White stars are available to write the names of those who we may want to remember at this time. These might be the names of those who have died, or the names of family, friends – or even ourselves – whose sadness we want to mark in this service.

Our *Longest Night Service* takes place on Friday, 21st December at 7pm, lasting about 45 minutes. The Church will be open for reflection from 6.30pm. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

You are invited to complete one or more stars, either before the service or on the day, and we will add them to the stars we have collected. Cards are available to give to friends and neighbours who might be interested in being involved – either by writing on a star, or by being present. Stars are available on the memorial table at the back of the Church, or by asking Matthew.

> Who is never hungry at Christmas? The turkey - it's always stuffed!



Two snowmen in a field, one turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but I can smell carrots!"

		^
urcn kegister	DEATHS HARTLEY	Sheila, aged 79 years, on 21 st October 2018. Committal at Whitley Bay on 30 th October followed by service at St Andrew's, conducted by Revd Dr Matthew Prevett.
CD ک	MALLOCH	Joyce, aged 95 years, on 23 rd October 2018. Service and committal at Whitley Bay on 6 th November, conducted by Revd Gordon Connacher.
	BATES	George Anthony (Tony), aged 93 years, On 24 th October 2018. Service and committal at Whitley Bay on 8 th November, conducted by Revd Dr Matthew Prevett.
	BROWN	Mavis Doreen, aged 82 years, on 9 th November 2018. Committal at Whitley Bay on 16 th November followed by service at St Andrew's, conducted by Revd Dr Matthew Prevett.
	What ki	ind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

The names of those we remember thís month are

George Charlton

NO CO CO CO CO CO CO CO

Cynthia Workman

Robert Smith Niven

Alístaír Fraser

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

2	Advent as we prepare for Christmas. PCM and the
	work of Mozambique Council of Churches Independent
	Churches' Representative, Dr Mark Bonnington.
9	The work of Ministries and Development Committee
	and its convenor, Revd Hilary Collinson; St Columba's
	URC, North Shields; St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton;
	Revd Dr Matthew Prevett; Human Rights Day (10 th).
16	Stamfordham LEP (Methodist/URC), Revd Harold
	Stuteley (Methodist); Bellingham LEP (Methodist/URC);
	Falstone & Kielder URC; Wark LEP (Methodist/URC);
	Deacon Anne Taylor (Methodist).
23	St John the Evangelist LEP (Anglican/Baptist/
	Methodist/URC), Kingston Park, Newcastle. Christmas
	Worship across the Synod.
30	PCM, their retired ministers and those newly appointed
	to posts with PCM. Northern Divisional Salvation Army
	Commanders, Majors Denis and Olive Lomax.

Monthly Duties		
Elders	Vestry: Reception: Communion:	
Stewards	J.Jackson, J.Ho	poper
Flowers	Kathleen, Ann	S & Catriona

Weekly Duties			
Sun 02-Dec-18	Readers: K.Hopper, I.Ord Prayers of Concern: V. Taylor	Organ: Pete	
Tues 04-Dec-18	Prayers: Matthew		
Sun 09-Dec-18	Readers: Unif. Orgs. S.Clark Prayers of Concern: H.Hall	Organ: Helen	
Tues 11-Dec-18	Prayers: Ann		
Sun 16-Dec-18	Readers: Jnr. Church, P.Hartley Prayers of Concern: Worship Leader	Organ: Alex	
Tues 18-Dec-18	Prayers: Una		
Sun 23-Dec-18	Readers: K.Ames, C.Lynch Prayers of Concern: Una Ketteridge	Organ: Pete	
Tues 25-Dec-18	Readers: C.Fenwick, B.Burgess Prayers of Concern: Worship Leader	Organ: Pete	
Sun 30-Dec-18	Readers: M.Walton, S.Pine Prayers of Concern: A.Cooke	Organ: Hymnal	

Newstand Dates			
Next edition, published 4 th Sunday of month	Sunday 23 Dec 2018		
Hardcopy contributions in Editor's box	Sunday 16 Dec 2018		
Email copy to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	Monday 17 Dec 2018		
Earlier contributions are appreciated!			

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Disclaimer: Details of events, contacts and other material were correct at time of publication based on information received by the Newstand publishing team.

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Open Door Coffee Mornings every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to Noon

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec 2018 / Jan 2019

A short **Act of Worship** is held in the Church Foyer every Tuesday at 9.30am

Sunday	2	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.30 am
		(Advent 1) Communion Service;	11.00 am
		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	
Tuesday	4	Worship Group Meeting	7.30 pm
Thursday	6	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	7	Friendship Club Christmas Lunch <u>1.00 for</u>	1.30 pm
Sunday	9	(Advent 2) Children's Christmas Festival Service;	11.00 am
_		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	
		Messy Church	3.30 pm
Monday	10	Fifty Eight Society Christmas Dinner – Note Time	<u>7.00 pm</u>
Friday	14	Community Carol Service	7.00 pm
Sunday	16	(Advent 3) Communion Service;	9.30 am
		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	
		Morning Worship; Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	11.00 am
Monday	17	Afternoon Christmas Service;	2.00 pm
		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	
Thursday	20	Carol Singing in the area	6.00 pm
Friday	21	Film Club – 'The Greatest Showman'	2.00 pm
		Longest Night Service	7.00 pm
Sunday	23	(Advent 4) Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Monday	24	Carols by Candlelight;	<u>11.00 for</u>
		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	11.30 pm
Tuesday	25	Communion Service; Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	9.30 am
		Christmas Day Family Worship;	10.30 am
		Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	
Sunday	30	Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	31	New Year's Eve Party	9.00 pm
JANUARY 2019			
Sunday	6	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.30 am
		Communion Service; Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	11.00 am
Monday	7	Fifty Eight Society – 'Queen Victoria'	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Thursday	10	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	11	Friendship Club	2.00 pm