

# St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Monkseaton



## Church Profile December 2014

# Contents

## Page

<b>3</b>	<b>Mission and Vision</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Children and Young People</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Church and Community</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Locality</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Organisation and Structure</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Statistics</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Minister's Accomodation</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Church History
	Church Information Leaflet
	Annual General Meeting Agenda and Annual Report
	Newstand

# Mission and Vision

Our Vision is of a dynamic church fellowship, working together to provide a base in the local community from which we can reach out, communicate the Gospel, and demonstrate the love of God through both spiritual and practical support to our members, friends and the local community.

Our mission priorities focus around providing a safe and enabling environment (both within the church building and outside in the local community) in which people can experience the love of God, hear the Gospel and explore their own spiritual development through accessing opportunities for fellowship, worship and spiritual learning.

St Andrew's has developed a "Way Forward" team, made up of a cross section of church members. The aim of this team is to generate new ideas and explore new opportunities to further our mission both within the current membership of the church and beyond in the wider community. So far, the Way Forward team has introduced new activities such as a chess club which encourage intergenerational interaction and the formation of a church music group which looks to introduce a variety of new styles of worship music to church services. Looking forward, the group are currently exploring ways of taking worship and faith based conversations out of the confines of the building and into the local community. These range from discussions with a local supermarket to expanding links with local schools and residential homes.

We recognise the need both to focus on enabling children, young people and their families to explore faith and to ensure we continue to provide a ministry to older people in our church and local community. Opportunities are therefore to be found in supporting the local aging community through links within our congregation, local care homes and community groups; in supporting our own young people's faith journeys and through links with local schools, uniformed and other youth based organisations.

# Worship and Theology



**Harvest Festival Service, October 2014**

St Andrew's sits primarily to the left of centre on the theological spectrum although within our membership there exists a wide range of perspectives.

Our main Sunday worship, which includes family time at the beginning of the service and junior church for our children and young people, is primarily traditional with a strong focus on exploration of scripture, although we are open to exploring different spiritual styles within this context. Our Sunday congregations average 85 to 100 and we actively encourage opportunities for participation in worship through Bible reading, leading Prayers of Intercession and musical contributions both from individuals and our regular music group. We use Rejoice and Sing as our main hymn book although more recently have begun to introduce new music using a variety of sources. The addition of new technological resources has enabled us to explore and introduce different styles of worship music in our services.

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and also at 9.30am on the third Sunday, led by a team including the Minister, supporting retired Ministers and authorised serving Elders. Home Communion is also available to members who are unable to come to church.

In addition to our main Sunday service, there are a number of additional regular worship opportunities including, although not restricted to:

- A short reflective prayer service held each Tuesday morning at 9.30am, led by a team of church members.
- Messy Church, held every two months, for young children and their families.
- Special services during Holy Week including a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service.
- Additional Christmas services including Christmas Eve carols by candlelight.
- Joint ecumenical worship specifically in conjunction with St Peter's, Church of England.

- Afternoon services during Advent and Lent where transport is provided for those who would ordinarily not be able to attend regular worship.
- Services taken into the local community including local retirement and residential homes.
- Regular short story and prayer style worship, as part of our church led parent and toddler group.
- Remembrance Sunday Service is held at 10.45am to allow for the two minutes' silence at 11am and is attended by members of the uniformed organisations connected with the church.

St Andrew's has an active Worship Group, who meet to plan and lead worship. Most of its members have attended several Coast Partnership and Synod Training Days in recent times, and two of its members have completed the current TLS Course. A Biblical Book Club, led by the Minister, has met for teaching and discussion and we have plans to continue this.

Finally, after all services, refreshments are available in the Main Hall and Reception Area, where the majority of members and friends continue to enjoy fellowship.



# Children and Young People



**Messy Church at St Andrew's**

St Andrew's supports a Junior Church of around 12 regular members. The Junior Church Leaders work on a rota system leading, at present, two groups: below 8 and over 8 years old. The leaders' group provides continuity but is also flexible to allow a broader spectrum of helpers to support the children and young people.

Junior Church leaders follow the *Children and Young People's* version of 'Roots', the lectionary used at St Andrew's, that gives a shared meaning of worship. Through discussions in planning at appropriate age level, the leaders bring their own skills, through arts, crafts, play and music to provide opportunities for the children and young people to explore living in the Christian faith.

Understanding the significance and sharing in Communion is part of the guidance given to our young people. The children and young people share in the first section of worship in church each week and are encouraged to actively share in worship to bring fresh approaches to shared worship. As examples, the young children are keen to help each week with collecting the offertory; some young people have led prayers of intercession and taken part in dramatised versions of scripture readings. The young people initiated the setting up of a ukelele band and have played in church services. The creation of the band encouraged some of the members of the Wednesday Fellowship to also learn to play the ukulele and the groups have recently played together as part of Sunday morning worship.

St Andrew's has been recognised as a Child Friendly Church. Junior Church has a link elder who visits regularly and talks to the children of their experiences of Junior Church. St Andrew's also has a Children's and Young People's Safety Officer who is responsible for safeguarding our children.

Junior Church leaders attend training organised by Northern Synod on relevant areas of working with children and young people. This provides opportunities for leaders to share experiences of our work with the children.

As a group, the leaders are keenly aware of the importance within the wider community of the church encouraging children and young people to feel part of the church community. All children and young people are welcome and there is an area in church with toys, art materials and books for children to play with during services.

The establishment of Messy Church is another way of being church. St Andrew's Messy Church springs into action five times a year. There are around 25 children plus parents, the majority not church members or church goers who regularly come along. Here, parents and young children and church helpers come together on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy being 'messy' through craft activities, games, songs and stories based on Bible stories. There is time to talk to the parents and build relationships with them and their children. Tea is provided before the children and their parents leave.

A thriving Holiday Club, open to all children aged 5 to 11 years, is held each summer and children from Junior Church, local churches, the uniformed organisations and local schools come together to share in activities centred around a biblical theme with a modern-day slant. Around 40 children attend and church members help and support the children and young people during the week's activities. Parents join together with the children on the last morning to share lunch. Feedback is very positive from the parents attending and many of the children return to become 'young helpers'.

As our children and young people are growing up, their needs to grow in faith are changing. The leaders and elders are aware of the need to respond to the changes to meet the future development of the faith not only for the members of Junior Church but also the children and young people from across the wider organisations that come to St Andrew's. This must be to the forefront of the next steps for the present and future of the children and young people who worship at St Andrew's.



**Holiday Club**

# Church and the Community



**Art Fair and Coffee Morning**

St Andrew's has recently created the new role of Community Elder aiming to provide a regular presence in the church for all those using the building and also to explore opportunities to link the substantial variety of organisations connected with the church through hall letting with the worshipping life of St Andrew's. Opportunities are currently being explored including taking worship, or even simply faith based conversations out into the community; not just in an attempt to draw people into church but to expand our reach as communicators of the Gospel.

We have close links with a local primary school and members regularly attend and lead assemblies for the children. At Christmas, the school holds its carol service for children and parents in the church.

The buildings are popular with many organisations, based both locally and further afield, for community or business use. Income from letting out the rooms makes a significant contribution to maintenance of the premises.

The rooms are also used by the uniformed organisations, i.e. the Rainbows (2 packs), Brownies (3 packs) and Guides. The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers meet in their own building a few streets away.

Many of the social and fund raising activities are aimed at the local community and are actively supported; such as Craft Fairs, Table Top Sales, Art Exhibitions, Open Door Coffee Mornings, Concerts and Film Club. These events also contribute towards the charitable giving scheme operated by the church whereby 10% of profit is "top sliced" for distribution to three charities annually, the selection of which is by members' nominations and voting. In addition, the Great North Air Ambulance is supported by annual carol singing around the local streets and the People's Kitchen by Harvest contributions.

# Ministry

We are a collaborative church and our Minister will be supported by a range of people including a retired associate Minister, an active worship group and a number of Elders who regularly lead worship and contribute to services.

Elders and Minister mutually support in terms of pastoral care with the majority of Elders taking responsibility for the care of a district of members.

A key priority will be encouraging and supporting the development of church members through the provision of learning opportunities such as Bible study and facilitating the creation of opportunities to explore individual gifts and callings.

Whilst we wish to focus on developing our work with children, young people and families, we acknowledge an immediate need to provide spiritual and pastoral care for older people within our church and community.

## **Type of Minister**

We are looking for a Minister with an informal attitude and a flexible approach who also has a good sense of humour.

They should both understand the spiritual needs of older people and be able to engage with children and young people.

They should be an enabler; willing to provide a leadership role whilst empowering church members to develop spiritually and in terms of their own sense of calling.

St Andrew's seeks to be an open and welcoming church. To this end we would be uncomfortable with a Minister whose theology sat at either extreme on the theological spectrum.

# Locality



**St Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay**

St Andrew's is in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay in North Tyneside.

The church is on a corner site surrounded by pleasant bungalows and semi-detached houses, built principally in the 1920s. It is close to bus routes and a short walk from two metro stations - Monkseaton and West Monkseaton with frequent metros to Newcastle and wider afield to Sunderland and Newcastle airport. Monkseaton has a library and post office. Whitley Bay has a larger library, several banks and building societies, restaurants, theatre and swimming pool.

There are two high schools, three middle schools and eight first and primary schools in the area. Whitley Bay has many societies and excellent amateur musicals and plays are staged. The town has a splendid beach and playing fields and access to waggonways for use as paths and cycle tracks.

Monkseaton has a Methodist church and the Parish Church of St Peter is only yards away from St Andrew's. A Roman Catholic Church is at West Monkseaton. We have close contact with St Peter's Church holding joint social and religious activities as well as sharing resources such as tables, grounds and buildings.

There is an active Ecumenical Church Social Committee of the churches in the parishes of St Peter and St Albans, Earsdon which organise annually a cheese and wine evening with concert in the Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church and a coffee morning in St Andrew's.

St Andrew's supports DePaul Trust which took over a locally founded scheme, started by the local churches, which supported, among other things, young homeless in the area, with a house for young people, rent guarantee scheme and advice.

St Andrew's is represented on the Whitley Bay and District Churches Together which among other things established the Street Pastors Scheme which operates in Whitley Bay and Tynemouth, and which St Andrew's fully supports.

# Organisation and Structure

Church Meeting is the main decision-making body for St Andrew's which take place quarterly. The day to day running of the church is vested in Elders' Meeting and the Executive Team.

## Elders

Elders are elected by Church Meeting and their responsibilities include:

- Duties associated with church services including weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- Pastoral care of members in their district including visiting.
- (with the Minister where appropriate).
- Links with organisations and regular users of the premises.
- Links with the community (Community Elder)
- Representation on the Church Teams.

## Executive Team

Composition of the Team (as agreed by Church Meeting) comprises Church Secretary (Secretary to Team), Conveners of the Church Teams (Finance, Premises Maintenance, Activities and Development). Executive meets monthly, overseeing the work of the Teams and agreeing and authorising action as appropriate. Executive reports monthly to Elders' Meeting and to each Church Meeting on its work, decisions taken etc.

## Teams

Members of the Teams are elected at the Annual Church Meeting. Elders' Meeting nominate two Elders to serve on each Team.

## Duties

- Premises Maintenance - to arrange for the general cleanliness and housekeeping matters in the church and supervise the contract cleaners. To arrange for the general maintenance and repair of the building and manse. The church gardens, flowers in the church and catering at large church events are organised by specialist teams of volunteers. Premises Maintenance Team holds a meeting annually with church organisations and regular users, to discuss relevant issues regarding the facilities and organisation of the premises.
- Finance - along with the Church Treasurer to oversee all the financial matters associated with the running of the church.
- Development - to organise any agreed development or major repair, renovation or refurbishment.
- Activities - to organise social activities and fund-raising for church and charitable works.

## Development Fund Management Team

The Church's Development Fund has a management team consisting of the Conveners of the Church Executive, Finance, and Development Teams, together with the Church Secretary and the treasurers of the Church and the Development Team.

# Statistics

June 2014

Members on Roll	166
No. of Adherents	43
No. of Households	162
Elders	21
Stewards	27
Rota of Readers	28
Rota for Prayers of Intercession	8
Leaders of Tuesday Prayers	7
Lay Presidency	5

## Age of Members

Under 25	1
25 – 44	5
45 – 64	18
65 – 79	80
Over 80	62

## Changes to Roll

	2009	172
	2010	173
	2011	173
	2012	163
	2013	162
	2014	166

**Ethnic mix** Congregation is almost exclusively white British

## Sunday Services

Weekly at 11.00am - average attendance: 85 to 100

Monthly communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - average attendance: 85 to 110

Monthly communion at 9.30am on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - average attendance: 12

## Other Services

Tuesday weekly at 9.30am - average attendance: 10

Messy Church bi-monthly on Sunday at 3.30pm - average attendance: 25

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae - average attendance: 40

Christmas Evening Carols by Candlelight - average attendance: 90

Easter and Advent Wednesday afternoon services - average attendance: 45

**Biblical Book Club:** 12

**Junior Church:** 12 Sunday at 11.00am (initially in church)

**Baptisms:** In the last four and a half years there have been 10 infant and one adult baptisms. We have an open policy towards baptism.

**Services of Thanksgiving:** In the last four and a half years we have had one of blessing for a child.

**Weddings:** In the last four and a half years we have had two weddings.

**Funerals:** In the last four and a half years there have been 60 funerals, usually associated with the Church.

# Minister's Accommodation



The Manse, at 50 Beech Grove in Whitley Bay, is approximately one mile from St Andrew's Church, situated in a pleasant area of the town. It is within easy walking distance of the main Whitley Bay shopping centre, the sea front and Monkseaton Metro train station.

The building, which is a semi-detached corner house, is in very good decorative order. The property was substantially upgraded prior to the last minister taking up residence. It consists of two ground floor reception rooms, study, cloakroom with WC and kitchen. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms a bathroom and separate WC.

There is a detached garage at the bottom of the fair sized back garden, which is accessed from the lane at the side of the property. The garden is mainly lawn and gravel with some shrubs and trees. It also contains a summer house.

The front and side gardens are laid down to shrubs and paving.

The property meets the standards recommended by the URC.

# Appendices

# Church History

1932 – 2014



The pattern of life of this congregation has in many ways followed the social and economic development of our country and community. Established in the Depression, there followed World War Two, many years of austerity, the Swinging Sixties and subsequent materialism and freer attitudes to living. The life of the congregation continued successfully, albeit with reduced numbers of people, particularly children. Meeting the requirements of changes in the law - Health & Safety, Child Protection, Disabled Access etc - stimulated fresh thinking.

When the halls were opened, there was only a large and a small hall, kitchen, toilets and vestry. As part of the Presbyterian Church of England, after two years as a “preaching station” under a temporary minister the congregation was strong enough to call its own minister. Money was hard to come by, but the area was rapidly expanding with new houses and becoming a dormitory area for Tyneside and Newcastle upon Tyne, thanks to the electric railway. To build a church was very important and just prior to the outbreak of war, work had begun. War meant full stop. The minister also immediately became an army chaplain. Since the materials were all ready, permission to complete the building was obtained. So, while young men and women were gradually departing for the forces, the new church was opened, after two years of delay. As the war seemed to be going to continue, the minister resigned and his successor led the congregation through those difficult later war years. Worship and the life of the congregation - Sunday School, Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Brownies, Ladies’ Meetings, Choir Practices, Social Events etc. - continued strongly.

Post-war we shared in the “booms” of the times. Returning service people brought large numbers and a great enthusiasm, led by a new minister. Increases in births meant that in due course, in a totally residential area, we were inundated with children. Good leadership at all levels meant that we were a vibrant, very active church bulging at the seams in terms of accommodation, a very real influence in a community which was growing. During the post-war years the hall was re-floored, the kitchen was twice extended and toilet arrangements adjusted. Ideas for further extension were considered but did not come to fruition.

1972 saw the formation of the United Reformed Church, and in preparation this congregation devised a new system of organisation for itself based on small committees supporting an Executive which reported to the Elders’ Meeting. Over the years this has proved to be very effective being so flexible. As need has ceased or arisen committees have been dissolved or created.

A very long ministry was followed by a further long ministry this time by a minister of Congregational background. Minister and people learned much from each other. It was a period of consolidation and contraction, for in common with all other churches attendances at services and the number on the roll gradually reduced. We continued, however, as a church of varied activities, still a friendly, welcoming fellowship. The next vacancy was quite long. The commitment of those holding office was such that confidence developed. Though the following ministry was relatively short it saw the beginning of a process of revitalisation. redecoration and refurbishment - curtains, carpeting, new chairs in the church etc brought a freshness to the buildings. A club for elderly people of the area was new.

This was a time when the deployment of ministers was a concern. At the next vacancy, St Andrew's was not allowed to call its own minister. The vacancy proved very long and was not filled until Newcastle District formed its first and only ever, 'Group' of churches. Though a covenant was signed and working arrangements for finance etc were achieved this was a difficult time for shared ministry and the arrangements were not sustained. Nor were 'groups' ever established elsewhere. Subsequently the whole of Newcastle District was divided into larger 'Mission Partnerships' and we were in the Newcastle East and Coast Partnership. For a year or two we had the services of one minister full time and the support of a retired minister as associate minister.

When the next vacancy came St Andrew's was allocated only 75% of a shared ministry in the partnership and in recent years changes have continued apace. District Council no longer exists and a Partnership of six churches is now the Coast Partnership of only two churches. Two having closed, one having joined an LEP and the other transferred to a more suitable partnership.

The approach of the millennium led to forward thinking for the 21st century. Major changes to the buildings could enable our witness to be more effective. Suggestions for covering in the cloisters and joining the church and hall buildings began to be considered. After several years of planning, costing etc in the spring of 2005 the congregation adopted proposals for development.

A Development Team oversaw the project, a Development Action Team spearheaded fund-raising and a Way Forward Group planned for the life of the congregation, these in addition to the normal committees which ran the life of the congregation. Our project 'Building for the Future' energised the people of St Andrew's. Progress exceeded expectations and in 2009, a year ahead of schedule, the building alterations were completed just in time for the induction of a new minister, still 75%. Vastly improved facilities have enabled the witness of worship to continue and service to the people of this community to increase.

From its foundation to the present day St Andrew's Monkseaton has been surrounded by a residential community. The need and opportunity for service and witness is as great now as ever it was. A hardworking congregation has enabled us to be as well equipped as we have ever been.