



St. Andrew's URC
Monkseaton, Whitley Bay

NEWSTAND

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WHICH way



ARE YOU LOOKING?

NEWSTAND is the church magazine of
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You can also download it from the website.



Dear friends,

A New Year brings with it immense challenges. There are always the issues about what resolutions to try – whether or not they are successful – and then there's the small, but difficult problem of remembering to write the new year when we put pen to paper. As a school child, the first few weeks of the New Year were characterised by plenty of crossing-out where the date had been written as part of the previous year.

The most significant challenge of a new year is the need to look forward and not backward. It is the clicking over of a new year that reminds us that time moves forward and, however much Dr Who we watch, the only time travel we do is forward in time, minute by minute. This can feel daunting, watching the clock tick forwards and the calendar progress month by month. Yet this is an opportunity too. An opportunity to try something new, to experience something different, to look forward with a renewed and re-invigorated horizon ahead.

This New Year is no different. With it comes challenges and opportunities. For Minister and Congregation, there lies ahead both the challenge of stepping further away from the known, but also the opportunities of the future. We may be frightened of what lies ahead, but we need to

be careful not to repeat the errors of the past, not to fall into a pattern of behaviour that perpetuates the problems and difficulties we need to address. We need to think about what gives us life and energy and what motivates and inspires us to go into the future.

Just after Christmas, we have the reminder of the Christ Child whose presence with us – Emmanuel – gives us an inspiration and a guide for the future. Through the coming of Jesus, we are reminded that God came and dwelt among us, and gave us a rule for living: love your neighbour as yourself, and love the Lord your God. He gave us inspiration to be people of ‘The Way’, and to be people who stood up to injustice and for compassion. As a babe in the manger we may not see it, but this was the man who was crowned with thorns, tried and crucified. This is a man who shows that Good Friday is not the end, but that the new morning of Easter brings with it new possibilities of unexpected signs of God’s presence.

As a New Year comes around, we turn over the calendar to a new year and to new possibilities for closer obedience to God’s will and God’s message to us. In the weeks ahead, we begin the year listening for all that God has to say to us and discerning how God will lead us in the year ahead.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew".

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends
gain ten pounds so I look skinnier.

JULIA ROBERTS

OWEN WILSON

JACOB TREMBLAY

Based on the best-selling novel, this heart-warming and uplifting film follows the inspiring story of the Pullman family whose son was born with facial differences. When he enters mainstream school for the first time, his extraordinary journey unites his family, his school, and his community, and proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

BASED ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WONDER

ARE YOU READY TO MEET AUGGIE PULLMAN?



Friday 18th January
2.00pm



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

CHURCH MEETING 18th NOVEMBER 2018



As the date of the Church Meeting was right on the December Newstand deadline much of the information is now out of date but of course it is still available in the copies of the Minutes and reports which are displayed on the Notice Board in the vestibule of the Church. However, In case you were not able to be present, here are a few of the main items from the meeting.

- Two Coast Partnership Services planned for 2019, dates to be arranged.
- Revision of frequency for holding Elders' Meeting, Pastoral Team and Executive Team meetings.
- Pastoral concern at some members' health and for families where there have been bereavements.
- Sunday 11.00 am services to be Café style quarterly, fifth Sunday to be Songs of Praise by Worship Group.
- Extra afternoon services by Worship Group.
- Sunday 9.30 am Praise Service to be reviewed – intention was to attract out with the church and this has not happened.
- Matthew was congratulated on completion of EM2 (post ministerial training).
- Elders' Meeting endeavoured to provide guidance to Matthew on work priorities.
- Some running repairs undertaken at the church and off-street parking progressed for the Manse.

To kick start my New Year: I took an IQ test
and the results were negative.

- Activities Team continuing with various social and fund-raising events – next was the annual Church Fair.
- Survey of church undertaken by Northern Synod satisfactory. Thanks to Chris Hales for keeping on top of maintenance.
- **Treasurer** reported finances looking good for 2018. Monthly ups and downs due to general bills but 6 out of 10 months have been in surplus. End of October - £4,600 surplus.
- **Safeguarding Policy** reviewed and some minor changes adopted.
- **Festival of Remembrance and Reconciliation** – report on success of the event especially the 3,500 poppies and Haul of Hope. Vote of thanks to all involved.
- **Churches Together in Whitley Bay** – statement by Valerie Taylor on purpose of the organisation and seeking views/ideas on future action.
- Elders Ann Hammond, Valerie Taylor and Barbara Watson re-elected.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary



I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year,
but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter

Church Fair — Thank You!



A very big thank you to everyone who gave their support in so many ways to the Church Fair. A lot of time and effort was involved but it resulted in a very successful day with a grand total raised so far of £4,603. Sales after the Fair and the match funding due from Barclays for the Tombola will take the total to over £5,000, something of a record!

For many years the match funding has been organised by Dorothy Postle through Barclays Retired Employees Fund and we are very grateful to her as the match funding makes a substantial contribution to the final result. Dorothy has now retired from that role and we're fortunate in that Neil Cockburn, also a past Barclays employee, volunteered to take over and was obviously enjoying doing so on the day! We're also very grateful to Gary Staker (our local Funeral Director) for his contribution by way of an excellent raffle.

The summary of Fair proceeds received is as follows:

Bookstall £199.05

Boutique £203.21

Bric-a-brac £410.44

Crafts £88.00

Door donations £258.15

58 Society Cake Stall £225.65

Flower Committee £1,060.12

G&S Christmas Stall £142.60

My resolution was to read more so I put the subtitles on my TV.

Gary Staker's Raffle £210.00
 Grand Tombola £383.00
 Guides/Brownies Donations £150.00
 Jewellery Stall £256.10
 Kath's Krafts £67.20
 Refreshments £706.63
 Scarves Stall £125.00
 Toys £37.85
 Other donations £80.00
TOTAL to date £4,603.00

The anticipated Barclays match funding and other later sales are not included in the above total.

Ann Hammond
Activities Team



Hope 6 — Budget

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

My wife still hasn't told me what my New Year's resolutions are.



At the end of the communion service on Sunday 3rd January, Revd Dr Matthew Prevett gave a final address where he indicated his intention to leave ministry at St. Andrew's to follow a different calling. The text of his address, including his reasons, is included below at the request of a number of people, both those who were present at the service and others who were not.

Matthew is currently on sick leave till at least the end of January. Please hold him in your prayers at this difficult time.

My soul magnifies the Lord

The song of Mary states for her the importance of her role in responding to God's call upon her life. Her inmost being declares her calling to be given her special role. Her Spirit rejoices at what she has been called to do.

We are each called to listen to God's call upon our life, to discern what God is saying to us, and where God is leading us to rejoice, proclaim and serve.

We have to recognise that answering the call is not always easy – that we will have to do things that are hard and unpopular, that we will experience disappointment and sadness, that we will find ourselves as lone voices in a wilderness – but that we must listen, discern and respond to the call of God upon us. This is a duty laid upon all of us – lowly and powerful – and all those between.

New Years Eve forecast: Mostly drunk with a slight chance of passing out.

I have felt that my calling has been to challenge the Church to consider how to look outward, to engage with those who are pushed aside, those who have not yet found a voice, those who haven't yet discovered the mystery of God's unending grace. I have felt my calling to ministry is to be creative and innovative, to explore exciting and challenging types of worship, to keep refreshing our perspective of God who is both wholly known and always new, and an unapologetic believer of God's love to be shared by all who love.

When I was called to St Andrew's, I believed this to be the vision of the Church too. I was excited about the possibilities that could come through innovative worship, creative projects, through a new way of being Church and about how my passions for outreach could become part of a Church outreach strategy.

But as time has gone on, Elders' Meeting, Church Meeting, and vocal individuals have gone on to show that they have not shared that same vision for how the Church should be in the world. I have been shown time and time again that St Andrew's values ministry that is focused on the existing but diminishing congregation – on traditional worship in traditional rows, and pastoral visiting – with little or no drive to pursue outreach and mission. Discussions within our fellowship have too often been concerned with 'the Club' and not with the Kingdom.

What does a ghost say on 31st December?
Happy New Fear! Or Happy boo year!

This was not the ministry that I felt called to exercise when I applied to become a minister, or when I accepted the call to be the minister at St Andrew's.

After much prayer and discernment over the past 18 months, I have decided that I must now take the bold step of following my calling. I therefore give notice that I shall be leaving St Andrew's, with my last service being Sunday 3rd March 2019.

I'm still exploring where my calling will take me next. My health and wellbeing have detrimentally suffered over the past 18 months while I have worked tirelessly to help members and Elders understand the opportunities of an outward looking Church. My ministry through this time has not been life-giving and flourishing, and as these efforts appear to have been without widespread encouragement or success, I must now seek out life-giving and flourishing ways to use my ministry. It will be the responsibility of the Moderator and Interim Moderator to work with the Church to work out what this means for St Andrew's in the future.

This will have come as unexpected news this morning, and will take some time for it to sink in. I shall be available as usual at the door at the end of the service but there will be further opportunity to talk further about this in the coming days and weeks.

As we begin the season of Advent – the first Sunday of the liturgical year – we face the period of waiting for the

My New Year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with either gin, vodka, or whisky.

coming of Christ among us, giving thanks for the gift that we have had bestowed upon us, and the calling that we receive from God. This year, we must each contemplate that waiting and that discerning of our own calling as people of God in our service to the world.

Prayer

Mary said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour
on the lowliness of his servant.'

God who called Mary, Christ who called St Andrew,
Spirit who speaks to each one of us,
we pause to reflect on who you call us to be.
In the difficult times that lie before us,
we ask for you to speak into our lives,
to reassure us of your presence with us,
to fill us with your comfort and encouragement,
to instil in us the need to proclaim your word
and speak of your kingdom.

Hold us in your arms, as Mary held the baby Jesus,
that we too may be reassured of your never-ending
love for us and your hope beyond measure.

Amen.

What happened to the man who thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year? He gave up thinking.

As we put away the Christmas decorations and cards and step into a New Year may we hold this reflection in our thoughts and prayers:



The Mary of your Christmas Cards

I am the Mary of your Christmas cards. I listen calmly while the angel brings me news that will shake my life beyond all measure. I accept what has been ordained for me. I am young and dressed in blue.

I am the Mary of your Christmas cards. Despite travelling 100 miles on a donkey across a desert and giving birth in a stable, I am still immaculately clean and tidy, cradling my infant son, unperturbed by my surrounding. I am still young and dressed in blue.

I am the Mary of your Christmas cards, welcoming shepherds from the nearby fields, and strangers from afar; a person who treats events as if they happened every day, calmly pondering on them in my heart. I am still young and dressed in blue.

But is this really me? Do you have any picture of me beyond that of Christmas? Where is your picture of me in the temple, as Simeon tells me how a sword would pierce my soul? The angel brought greetings and told me not to be afraid so I am calm on your Christmas cards; but do you never see the terror in my eyes as I hear Simeon's haunting

What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve? He got 12 months!

words and I do fear what is to come?

Maybe you have a picture of me 12 years later-but have I aged in your eyes? Am I calm and serene, frantically searching for my son, lost on return from the temple? He was calm-but not I. I was frantic.

Do you have a picture of me 30 years after your first picture of me? Am I still dressed in blue? Are there lines on my face? Is my hair now grey? Do you see me at the wedding feast, recognising deep within that his time was coming and he would no longer be mine?

Do you see me hurt by his rejection when he declared that all the world was his mother and his brother and his sister. I knew that he had a greater purpose-but do not imagine that there was no pain for me in this.

How I aged in those three years. But am I still young in your picture? Was I not grey-haired as I stood at the foot of the cross? Do you know what it takes to watch your son being crucified? Some parents do. As they pierced his side, my soul too, was pierced. Do you have a picture of me -in tears, distraught at the anguish of my son? Or am I still Mary of your Christmas cards?

They laid him in a tomb-it seemed so final-it seemed I had lost him for ever. Where was the angel now to tell me not to be afraid? My fellow countrywomen kept vigil; I was not alone in my mourning. But you who know what happened

A New Year's resolution is something that
goes in one year and out the other.

next, do you let me grieve for the end I thought he'd reached?

You know the end-you know the triumph of his resurrection, the Kingdom without end-and knowing this affects your picture of me. I remain always dressed in blue, calm and serene, humble and willing-never allowed to show fear, hurt, anger, pain and grief.

For many, I remain the Mary of the Christmas cards.

If I am to be called blessed, please remember all I stand for. As you have received your cards this Christmas, please look back at me and remember this is just the beginning.

*Katie Barker Hay and Stardust,
Ruth Burgess 2005 amended.*

God of our past, reconcile our brokenness.

God of our future, renew our faith.

God of this present moment, reach out to touch us.

May we be made whole through the grace of God,
the love of Jesus Christ

and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

*Inspired by Ruth Bowen
Submitted by the Hope 4 Team*

Can't wait to start my New Years resolution in 2018!

Synod Spring Retreat

The 2019 Retreat will be at Ampleforth Priory from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st February 2019.

It will be led by Father Henry, a member of the Ampleforth Benedictine Community.

Dave Herbert, our Moderator, has met Fr Henry and says he is “a warm person and good company, as well as being one of the western church’s leading Biblical scholars”. We have asked him to lead our Retreat on a Biblical theme.

Ampleforth Priory is a beautiful place, with lovely walks in the grounds. The Retreat is open to all – ordained or lay, active or retired.

The cost of the Retreat is £163, or £173 if you wish an en suite room. This cost can be covered by lay training grants, EM3, and other sources, so everyone should be able to access funds – contact Helen Hogg in the Synod office for more information.

Places are limited and will go quickly, so please contact Peter Rand as soon as possible to book your place. Phone 01670 820821 or email peter.rand65@gmail.com

Many thanks to everyone who sent messages, cards, and flowers of condolence following the passing of my wife Mavis. I and my family have been absolutely overwhelmed by the love and support shown.

The collection at her memorial service realised the sum of £445 in aid of “Bloodwise” (formerly “The Leukaemia Society”)

Phil Brown

On New Year's Eve you only have a couple of hours to do all the things you will resolve not to do in the new year.



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WHITLEY BAY & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

ST. ANDREW'S 100 CLUB

November Draw

91 numbers went into the draw on 24th November.

The Winners were:

1st	No. 81	Joy Abbott	£136.50
2nd	No. 6	Ann Sinclair	£68.25
3rd	No. 31	Bill Waugh	£22.75

£227.50 was given to Church funds.

The "100 Club" is a fund raising activity for Church funds.

Each member pays £5 per month
and the money is allocated as follows:

50% to Church funds

50% towards prize money

A monthly draw is held at a Church event or on the
last Sunday of the month during morning coffee.

If you are interested in joining the "100 Club",
please contact:

Kathleen Hopper (2522345)

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who
don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

We remember in our prayers week by week the churches of the Synod, Synod officers, groups and committees. We also remember significant dates in the church and world calendars.



6	Hospital Chaplains: Revd Nigel Goodfellow, Revd Max Shepherd. Northern Synod as we explore <i>The Way Forward</i> regarding the future mission and work of our congregations and as we address our needs for future ministry.
13	Redcar URC; Guisborough URC; St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton.
20	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January), the theme being 'Only Justice'. Synod Ecumenical Officer: Mr Andy Lie. Retired ministers in our synod, especially those who are active within the synod and beyond. Cromer Avenue URC and Denewell Avenue URC, Gateshead.
27	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January). PCM, its synod officers, ministers and congregations. North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT); local Churches Together Groups

The full Northern Synod prayer diary can be found on their website: <http://urc-northernsynod.org/category/prayer-cycle/>

What do you tell someone you didn't see at New Year's Eve?
I haven't seen you for a year!



*The names of those we remember
this month are*

John Saunders

Frances (Fran) Birt

Michael James Blackah

Elizabeth Tait

Isabella Paxton Barbour

Elizabeth Ettridge

Ruby McPhee

Denise Muriel Swinton Tancock

James Raymond Lisle

Amy Adam

Geoffrey Smith

DEATHS

MCFADYEN Margie, aged 96 years,
on 5th December 2018.

Committal and service at Tynemouth
on 17th December, conducted by
Rev'd Gordon Connacher.

Monthly Duties

Elders	Vestry: V Taylor Reception: W. Hopper Communion: J Blanchfield
Stewards	R and M Christopher
Flowers	Kathleen, Ann S & Catriona

Weekly Duties

Sun 06-Jan-19	Readers: C Purves, M Christopher Prayers of Concern: C. Hales	Organ: Pete
Tues 08-Jan-19	Prayers: R Hammond	
Sun 13-Jan-19	Readers: U. Ketteridge, A Stembridge Prayers of Concern: U. Ketteridge	Organ: Helen
Tues 15-Jan-19	Prayers: U. Ketteridge	
Sun 20-Jan-19	Readers: G and J Yarrow Prayers of Concern: Worship Group	Organ: Pete
Tues 22-Jan-19	Prayers: L Cooke	
Sun 27-Jan-19	Readers: H Hall, A Cooke Prayers of Concern: A Cooke	Organ: Alex
Tues 30-Jan-19	Prayers: C Mallett	

Newstand Dates

Next edition, published last Sunday of month:	Sunday 27 Jan 2019
Hardcopy contributions in Editor's box by	Sunday 20 Jan 2019
Email copy to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	Monday 21 Jan 2019
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

Jan / Feb 2019

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

Sunday	6	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.30 am
		Communion Service; Revd Philip Gray	11.00 am
Monday	7	Activities Team Meeting	1.30 pm
		Fifty Eight Society – ‘Queen Victoria’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Worship Group Meeting	7.30 pm
Thursday	10	Elders’ Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	11	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
Sunday	13	Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
		Messy Church	3.30 pm
Tuesday	15	Finance and Development Fund Management Team Meetings	10.00 am
Friday	18	Film Club – ‘Wonder’	2.00 pm
Sunday	20	Communion Service; Revd Gordon Connacher	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Worship Group	11.00 am
Monday	21	Fifty Eight Society – ‘Admiral Nurses’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	22	Safeguarding Foundation Training	2.00 pm
Friday	25	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
Sunday	27	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
FEBRUARY 2019			
Sunday	3	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.30 am
		Communion Service; Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	11.00 am
Monday	4	Fifty Eight Society Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm
Thursday	7	Pastoral Team Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	8	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
Sunday	10	Morning Worship; Revd Dr Matthew Prevett	11.00 am