



St. Andrew's URC
Monkseaton, Whitley Bay

NEWSTAND

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January 2020

No dark fate determines the future



We do

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



*And now let us believe in the new year that is
before us, untouched, full of things
that have never been....*

Rainer Maria Rilke, adapted

Given what planet earth and the UK experienced in 2019, it may be difficult for some to begin 2020 with hope. Clearly we know that there are challenges ahead. Some we can anticipate (continued consequences of climate change, economic upset as we disentangle ourselves from the EU), and some we cannot imagine. But just as surely as there will be challenges ahead, there also will be joys, opportunities and consolations. Emmanuel, God with us, has been born and we have reason for hope. This is as true for individuals and families as it is for nations.

I received the gift of a delightful book last month - The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams. On the first page they share this insight:

No dark fate determines the future. We do.

*Each day and each moment, we are able to create
and re-create our lives and the very quality of human
life on our planet. This is the power we wield.*

So true. The Pulse-of-Love-that-holds-the-universe-together will not and cannot let us go. God is always seeking to manifest Godself in human life – through you, through me, through anyone and everyone, even those who do not know God's name. Although we have a part to play, we do

Some New Year one (or two) liners

not shoulder any burdens alone. God is as invested in our future as we are. And so Love bubbles up in the fissures and overflows on parched land. Mercy binds our wounds. Grace surprises when we least expect it. Thanks be to God!

At our church lunch this month (see the Transitional Working Group report), we will be discussing communication and decision-making. Although these topics may seem mundane and bureaucratic, they are part of the heart-blood of how God takes on flesh in the world. St Andrew's is part of the worldwide body of Christ with Christ at the head. Our life together aims to seek and reflect the mind and heart of Christ – that is the essence of what our decision-making is about. Clarity about what we are aiming at helps us to think about how we can best make decisions that further God's purposes in the world. That is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Not only are we blessed by the Love that bubbles up, the Mercy that binds wounds and the Grace that surprises, we are also part of that Love, Mercy and Grace. We are made to be blessings to this world that God so loves.

We enter 2020 with hope. We are not alone. Indeed we have all we need to meet the challenges ahead and to celebrate the joys. God is alive and with us, and shall be forevermore.

In faith and love,

Carla

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



The first task of transitional ministry is to deal with the past. The feeling among the Transitional Working Group is that the 20 October lunch discussion enabled those who attended to express both gratitude and sadness about Matthew's ministry and leaving, and to begin to turn towards the future. Now it is time to look at the way we work together, to build robustness and resilience. Towards that end, there will be three more congregational lunch discussions after worship (12 Jan, 2 Feb and 1 March) geared towards topics related to our life together and the future.

The Sunday 12 January lunch discussion will take place after worship, as close to noon as possible. The topic to be considered will be communication and decision-making. The format will be as follows: As we eat, David Grosch-Miller (Moderator of General Assembly 2014-2016 and Southwestern Synod Moderator 2002-2013) will spend ten minutes discussing decision-making in the United Reformed Church, focusing on the eldership and church meeting. Thereafter our Church Secretary, Ray Hammond, will outline the structure of decision-making at St Andrews. We will then have about thirty minutes for facilitated discussion around the tables about:

- What is a "good" decision?
- What do we need to make good decisions? (e.g., what information, how and when is it communicated; time for prayer; face-to-face discussions)

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

- What types of decisions are best made by the church meeting, rather than by the elders or other committees? When might lunch meetings be appropriate?

Other comments and concerns about communication and decision-making will also be welcomed. At the end Carla will sum up. We aim to complete the meeting by 1:20pm as the Hall is rented out from 1:30.

Please register your intention to attend the lunch on 12 January for catering purposes. We warmly invite everyone to attend.

The Transition Working Group will meet on Tuesday, 14 January at noon to review the January discussion and set topics for February and March. As always, please don't hesitate to talk to any of us about our work. We are: Sue Ames, Robin Christopher, Catriona Fenwick, Chris Hales, Hazel Hall, Ray Hammond, Jenny Hooper, Una Ketteridge, Rhoda Lee, Alison Mood, Celia Purves, Eddie Thompson, John Thorpe and Joan Yarrow.

Thank you to all my St Andrews family for your flowers, kind words and prayers.

It has meant a lot to me, helping me get through what has been a very difficult time.

Hazel Hall

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



We are once again seeking from church members suggestions of charities, preferably with a local connection, to receive the 10% charity money which will be raised from the social events held during 2020 (to be presented in early 2021).

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

A reminder that the charities chosen for the current year and to be presented with cheques in early 2020 are: Bloodwise, North of England Children's Cancer Research and Guide Dogs for the Deaf.

Ray Hammond

Where God is to be found?

If it is I who determine where God is to be found, then I shall always find a God who corresponds to me in some way - who is obliging, who is connected with my own nature.

But if God determines where he is to be found, then it will be in a place which may not be immediately pleasing to my nature and which is not at all congenial to me.

This place is the Cross of Christ.

And whosoever would find him must go to the foot of the Cross, as the Sermon on the Mount commands.

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

Film Club

Owen
WILSON

Jennifer
ANISTON

Marley & Me



This heart-warming film tells the story of a family learning important life lessons from their adorable, but naughty and neurotic dog.

**Friday 10th
January
2.00pm**



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



In connection with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Ecumenical Social Committee will be holding a Coffee Morning, with a Bring and Buy Stall and Raffle, on Saturday, 25th January at St. Andrew's Church, from 10.30 am to noon. Tickets at £1 will be available from Sue Ames and Ann Hammond.

This is a very sociable Coffee Morning and gives us the opportunity to meet friends from other churches: St. Peter's and St. Alban's Parish Churches, Monkseaton and Earsdon Methodist Churches and the Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church.

We look forward to your support at the Coffee Morning. Although the committee's aims are mainly social, last year we were able to make donations of £100 each to Rock4Olly, the Salvation Army, Cullercoats RNLI, Nightstop and the Foodbank.

Sue Ames
Ann Hammond

Praise Service & Prayer Group

For a trial period, commencing in January 2020, the Praise Service will move from the first Sunday in the month to the second, still at 9.30 am. As the Praise Team and the Prayer Group are both led by Mandy Watson, the Prayer Group meeting will also change to the second Sunday, again retaining its normal time of 10.15 am.

This is in response to requests for the Praise Service to take place on a different Sunday to our main Communion Service.

Carole Mallett
(for Worship Group)

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

They were a hard act to follow !!



With no previous experience of organising or operating a Tombola stall but with the suggestions and advice of church members, we planned and manned the Grand Tombola Stall at the Annual Church Fair.

We reached our aimed target of 400 gifts (plus a few more) and we are very grateful to all who gave so generously to the stall and everyone who supported us on the day.

Our youngest customer was a one year old child whose chosen ticket won him a bottle of whisky!! Obviously being under age he could not accept it but his father was more than grateful to accept it on his behalf. He said that each tipple would remind him of his visit to our Church!!

Two lovely ladies, with large shopping bags, repeatedly visited the Tombola Stall and were delighted with their gifts. We hope they will come again, and again, and again next year!!

We, and our family of helpers, enjoyed the day and we would like to extend to you our sincere thanks for making it such a successful event.

We raised £423. which has been doubled by Barclays Matched Funding. This amount has now been received by our Church Treasurer – he is a happy man!!

Once again our grateful thanks.

Neil and Anne Cockburn.

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



Copies of the Minutes of the Church Meeting held on 17th November 2019 are displayed on the Notice Board in the vestibule of the Church. In case you were not able to be present here is a précis of the meeting.

Church Secretary reported:

- Elders and Executive Team have met twice and Pastoral Team once since the September meeting.
- Lunch discussion organised by Transitional Working Group (TWG) well received.
- Elders' Meeting support TWG's next steps (see later) and grateful for all the work of the TWG and Carla.
- Worship Group continuing to oversee and organise services, especially joint service with St Columba's and those services associated with Harvest.
- Appreciation expressed of Flower Team's work in decorations for Harvest.
- Thanks to all who supported with food and donations for the People's Kitchen.
- Suggestions by those attending Praise Service and Prayer Group being considered and progressed where possible.
- Executive continued to monitor finances and general running of the church – no major issues at present.
- Activities Team pleased with social and fund raising activities especially the Church Fair. Now looking forward to Harmony Concert, Carol Singing and New Year Eve's Party.

It's officially 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.

- Premises continue to be well used – facilities appreciated by users.

Treasurer reported:

- Finances have improved since last meeting.
- With ten months completed, overspend of £7,500 is within budget.
- Whilst income down, there are two Gift Aid claims outstanding.
- Hall letting income down due to loss of large user earlier in the year.
- Expenditure down – no major property repairs needed.
- Church Fair success of £4,821 greatly helps the deficit.
- £1,000 sent off for Commitment for Life Project.
- Signing up for the £5,000 investment in Moneywise, a local Credit Union, to be completed shortly. Northern Synod will match the investment.

The Meeting agreed that Barbara Burgess, Chris Hales and Paul Hartley be re-elected as Elders.

The meeting accepted the proposals of the Transitional Working Group to hold three lunch discussions next year which would be based around the outcomes from the lunch discussion in October.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 22nd March 2020 at noon following morning worship.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

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



Firstly, many thanks to all who have supported our events during 2019. We now look forward to another year of social and fundraising activities.

Dates for the coming months include the following: on **Saturday 15th February at 6.00 pm a Quiz Evening** with Fish and Chips or Pie and Peas will be held. Jim Farley is compiling the Quiz so get your thinking caps on and come along for an evening of friendship, food and fun.

A **Poetry and Plonk Evening** is being held on **Saturday 14th March, 7 pm**. We held such an evening for the first time last year and it proved very successful with those present requesting a repeat occasion.

The annual **Craft Fair** will be held on **Saturday 4th April, 10 am – 2 pm**.

Ann Hammond

We are Survivors

(For those who were born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can

May all your troubles last as long as your New Years resolutions

you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today ... BUT By the grace of God ... we have survived !

Submitted by Kathleen Hopper

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

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 2020 remains at £6.60, i.e. 11 issues at 60 pence, plus 1 issue free (or a combined 'bumper' issue).

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
Newstand Business Manager

The rector of a very large church had a feeling that his relationship with his staff had been rather too informal and casual, so he thought he would have some fun by putting a sign on his office door which said "I'm the Boss", hoping this might have some spin-off effect on the staff. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said: "Your wife called. She wants her sign back."



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NEWSTAND

Can't wait to start my New Years resolution in 2019!

The Dragonfly

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water underneath the lily pads,
there lived a little water nymph in a community of water nymphs.

They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond,
with few disturbances and interruptions.

Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when
one of their fellow nymphs would climb the stem of the lily pad
and would never be seen again.

They knew when this happened their friend was gone for ever.

Then one day, one little water nymph felt an irresistible urge
to climb up that stem.

However, he was determined that he would not leave for ever:
he would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top.

When he reached the top and climbed out of the water on to
the top of the lily pad, he was so tired and the sun felt so warm
that he decided he must take a nap.

As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up he had
turned into a beautiful, blue-tailed dragonfly.

with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying.

As he soared, he saw the beauty of a whole new world and a
far superior way of life which he had never known existed.

Then he remembered his nymph friends and how they'd be
thinking that by now he was dead.

He wanted to go back and tell them he was more alive than
he had ever been. His life had been fulfilled, rather than ended.

But his new body would not go down into the water,
so he could not tell his friends the good news.

Then he understood that their time would come when
they too would know what he now knew.

So he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life.

(Author unknown)

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



Breathing the Bible

We are not supposed to just read the Bible. We're supposed to inhale it. We're supposed to take it deep down into our lungs, breathe in the atmosphere, suck in great gulps of the life-giving breath of God. When it feels like we are drowning, the Bible fills our lungs with the saving breath of God.

When we are panicking and scared, the Bible calms us with the deep breaths of the presence of God. When all the breath has been knocked out of us by the events or our lives; when our tears and sobs mean that we cannot catch our breath, the Bible brings us the oxygen of hope and comfort.

When we are becalmed, the Bible blows wind into our sails to get us going. And when we are light-headed and dizzy, when it feels as though we are scaling new heights, the Bible re-supplies us with oxygen so that we can climb even further.

We can argue all we like about the process of how books came together (and we will). We can argue about meanings and theologies and interpretations until, appropriately, we are blue in the face, but all that is missing the point of the Bible. The point is to let the Bible breathe God's life into us.

(Nick Page)

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

Hello, my name is Brian Bell, your local Slimming World consultant. I just wanted to introduce myself as I have recently taken over the friendly group that meets in your church every Tuesday evening at 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

I have been a consultant for over 9 years and live just up the road in Fairfield Green. You may have seen me out walking with my English springer spaniel Buddy. As a slimmer myself, I know for some people how hard losing weight is on your own (and keeping it off of course).

The good news is that you don't need to be on your own and that's where Slimming World can help. Our weekly supportive meetings offer warmth, understanding, encouragement and friendship. Every week we share recipes and stay-on-track tips and inspire each other to succeed. There's no better feeling.

On top of that, the food choices are amazing! Delicious foods from full cooked breakfasts, light quiches, hearty cottage pies and full Sunday roasts (with roast potatoes) are just some of the amazing meals you can have. And with Slimming World you will never go hungry whilst losing weight and you will always feel in control. It's a healthy way of eating, for life and the good news is that it's so easy to follow and the majority of foods have no weighing or measuring whatsoever!

Slimming World is suitable for everyone; we have special booklets for members who have diabetes, learning disabilities or visually impaired, and a unique programme for 11-15 year olds focusing on making healthy choices (rather than weight loss). We are the only weight loss organisation that works in conjunction with the Royal College of Midwives and our plan is suitable for pregnant and breast feeding mums too.

If losing weight is important to you in 2020 I would love you to come along and see for yourself and meet our friendly group. There is absolutely no obligation to join. If you would like any further information or details of our latest joining offers then please give me a call on 0789 1132966 – it would be lovely to hear from you. Wishing you all the very best for 2020.

Brian

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

ST. ANDREW'S 100 CLUB

November Draw

90 numbers went into the draw on 24th November.

The Winners were:

1st	No. 29	Bill Hopper	£132.00
2nd	No. 83	John MacLennan	£66.00
3rd	No. 68	Douglas McFarlane	£22.00

£220.00 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 (split 30% / 15% / 5%)

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)

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

Burns Night

St. Mary's The Virgin are holding a Burns night on Saturday 25th January from 6:30 – 11pm.

Entertainment includes dancing from the Whistler School of Highland Dance (Laura!) and Dance Kaleidoscope.

Tickets £12 adults / £8 children (under 18). Please see Jennifer Fleetham.



We hope you enjoyed the Nativity slot at the Children's & Young People's Festival Service this month.

You may have noticed the lovely new angel costumes that Barbara Burgess, assisted by Carole, Una, Barbara, Catriona and Ann made for us. We would like to say a big thank you to all the ladies for their hard work, it was well worth the effort.

Sue Ames



Newstand publication and article submission dates for 2020 are displayed on the noticeboard in the Vestibule.

As ever, early submission is appreciated - Editor

And with that may I wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2020
The Editor



*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

Death

HOOD

Gladys Lily (Betty)

on 17th November 2019, aged 99 years.
Service at St Andrew's on 2nd December
followed by committal at Whitley Bay,
conducted by Revd Gordon Connacher.

TORBET

James (Jim)

on 30th November 2019, aged 83 years.
Service at St Andrew's on 13th December
followed by committal at Whitley Bay,
conducted by Revd Gordon Connacher.

Monthly Duties

Elders	Vestry: Margaret Varley Reception: Joan Blanchfield Communion: Bill Hopper
Stewards	Mary and Robin Christopher
Flowers	Kathleen, Ann S & Catriona

Weekly Duties

Sun 05-Jan-2020	Readers: Jean Jackson, Val Taylor Prayers of Concern: Val Taylor	Organ: Alex
Tues 07-Jan-2020	Prayers: Ann Sinclair	
Sun 12-Jan-2020	Readers: Susan Anderson, Joan Blanchfield Prayers of Concern: Hazel Hall	Organ: Pete
Tues 14-Jan-2020	Prayers: Kathleen Hopper	
Sun 19-Jan-2020	Readers: Susan Clark, Paul Hartley Prayers of Concern: Una Ketteridge	Organ: Helen
Tues 21-Jan-2020	Prayers: Ray Hammond	
Sun 26-Jan-2020	Readers: Kevin Ames, Christine Lynch Prayers of Concern: Chris Hales	Organ: Pete
Tues 28-Jan-2020	Prayers: Carole Mallett	

Newstand Dates

Next edition, published last Sunday of month:	Sunday 26 Jan 2020
Hardcopy contributions in Editor's box by	Sunday 19 Jan 2020
Email copy to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	Monday 20 Jan 2020
Earlier contributions are appreciated!	

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Jan / Feb 2020

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

Sunday	5	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	6	Fifty Eight Society – ‘Theatrical Memories’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	7	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Worship Group Meeting	6.30 pm
Thursday	9	Elders’ Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	10	Film Club – ‘Marley and Me’	2.00 pm
Sunday	12	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.15 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
		followed by Church Lunch and Discussion	
		Messy Church	3.30 pm
Friday	17	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
Sunday	19	Communion Service; Revd Douglas McFarlane	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Ted Marley	11.00 am
Monday	20	Fifty Eight Society – ‘My Life in Glass’	7.30 pm
Saturday	25	Ecumenical Coffee Morning at St Andrew’s	10.00 am
Sunday	26	Morning Worship; Revd David Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
Friday	31	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
FEBRUARY 2020			
Sunday	2	Communion Service; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller followed by Church Lunch and Discussion	11.00 am
Monday	3	Fifty Eight Society Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm
Tuesday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am