



St. Andrew's URC  
Monkseaton, Whitley Bay

# NEWSTAND

**Volume 85, Issue 11**

**November 2019**



LOOKING BACK AND REMEMBERING



GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

**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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**monkseatonurc**

## **Features and Regulars in this issue of NEWSTAND**

Minister's Musings — <i>The Role of Remembering</i> .....	3
Transitional Working Group Update — <i>October meeting</i> .....	5
Film Club — <i>Tolkien</i> .....	7
58 Society — <i>MacMillan Nurses</i> .....	8
Trefoil Guild presentation .....	9
Church Meeting — <i>Précis of September meeting</i> .....	10
Fair Thoughts — <i>from the Hope 4 team</i> .....	12
Church Fair — <i>Contributions needed!</i> .....	16
Your world is a lamp to my path — <i>choosing your Bible</i> .....	17
100 Club .....	19
Prayer Diary & Church Register .....	20
Book of Remembrance .....	21
Monthly & Weekly Duties and Newstand Dates .....	22
Church Contacts .....	23
Church Calendar .....	Back Page

If you would like NEWSTAND in larger print  
please contact Carole Mallett or Tim Cooke.  
You can also download it from the website.



How quickly time flies. As the gold, red and brown of autumn fades and the leaves begin to fall, I am aware that no created thing is permanent or unchanging. Not the leaves, not our aging bodies, not our families, and not our church, our community or our nation.

In the midst of change, how do we hold on to what we most value? How do we seek continuity and pass on those values and the wisdom we have gleaned? We remember and we tell stories. One of the purposes of religion is to pass on values and wisdom. The Bible is full of stories that do just that. On an individual level, our personal stories tell us who we are and where we belong.

It is worth asking: What do we remember and why? What becomes part of our story as a nation, a community, a family, an individual? How do those stories shape our future?

I have a dearly loved relative who readily holds on to memories of past events that caused a great deal of pain. We all do this to some extent; it is a way of managing the pain and of protecting ourselves. The greater the pain caused, the greater the likelihood that we will hold on to it. (Witness our remembrance of the events of the Great War and World War II.) In the case of my dearly loved relative, it grieves me to say, some of the remembering has closed that person off from possibilities of love and fulfillment.

What is right remembering, remembering that is as honest as possible and that not only holds and transmits our values but also shapes the future in a way that opens us to possibilities of goodness?

A few to ponder (thanks to Robin Christopher for some of these)

Miroslav Volf answers the question in *The End of Memory: Remembering rightly in a violent world* (2006). Volf is a Croatian theologian and Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School. Once considered a national security threat in his home country of then Yugoslavia, he was interrogated forcefully over a period of time in the mid-1980's. In his book he analyses that experience deeply and theologically. He concludes that our souls are at stake as we remember violent acts, and that it is important to remember the whole of what happened, including the bits where we were complicit, where we participated in violence. Ultimately, he writes, the proper goal of remembrance is the formation of the communion of love between all people, in other words, peace.

Volf's focus is on remembering violence, but I think his wisdom applies more broadly. When we remember, when we tell stories – our soul is at stake, as well as our future. Does our remembering include our own part, if we played one, in what happened? Does how we remember and tell the story honour the dignity and integrity of all people involved? Have we sought to understand (rather than simply judging) ourselves and the others? Are we doing the ground work for the building up of community and love?

In the midst of change, as we seek to remember and to tell the story of who we are, we also remember and cling to that which is eternal: God who is the ground of all being and the pulse of love that holds the universe together. We pray that all of our remembering will honour and convey that love.

In Christian love and friendship,

*Carla*

People are funny: they want the front of the bus,  
the middle of the road, and the back of the Church



On Sunday 20 October, the church held a luncheon discussion titled *Looking back to step forward together*. Fifty-six people attended.

Around tables of eight, each led by two facilitators from the Working Group and trained for the purpose, people discussed written responses to the work sheet with three columns that had been collected from the congregation. The titles of the columns were: *I am grateful for these parts of Matthew's ministry*, *I am sad that*, and *My hopes for the future of St Andrews*.

Our discussions were framed by a group covenant, guidelines that we find helpful:

- Respectful listening without interrupting
- Speaking for oneself, not on behalf of others
- Confidentiality: share the learning, not the stories
- Take responsibility for what you share: if you feel uncomfortable to share something personal, don't do it.

After people around tables discussed the forms they had been given to read and reflect upon, Carla collected a sampling of the responses under the three headings on flip chart paper from the whole room. People were also invited to submit additional comments on blank paper at their tables. The event ended with final reflections and a prayer. During the final reflection time a number of people commented that they had found the discussions helpful.

What happens next: We (the TWG) will meet on 31 October to reflect on the event and to review all the written responses. We hope to write a report to be available to the congregation

Opportunity may knock once,  
but temptation bangs on your front door forever

in November which will include our thoughts about what will help us further to meet our aims of moving forward together with kindness and to learn from the past. As a reminder, these are the six aims to drive and shape our work:

- We are aiming to build cohesion and a common aim so that we can walk forward together
- We aim to be pastorally sensitive, and to foster care and connection amongst the whole congregation
- We aim to maximise participation – everyone matters!
- We aim to include an element of spiritual nurture in whatever we do
- We aim for healing where there has been hurt and reconciliation if relationships have been fractured
- We aim to foster honesty and to learn from the past

Please share your thoughts about our work with any of us. 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.

*After the excellent lunch and meeting on Sunday 20th October I should like to express my thanks to the Church Secretary Ray, and to Ann and Carole, his assistants, as well as the Elders for “Keeping the show on the road” during the last eleven months. I am sure that St Andrew’s will be stronger in the future as we prepare to live the Gospel and serve the community.*

**Pat Wardle**

Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back

**Film Club**

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

A biographical drama about the early life of English professor JRR Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

A Life of  
Love, Courage &  
Fellowship.

NICHOLAS HOULT LILY COLLINS COLM MEANEY AND DEREK JACOBI

**TOLKIEN**

Friday 1st November 2.00pm

**Film Club**

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Friday 1st November 2.00pm



On the 7th October the 58 Society, in its 62nd year, commenced the season with a talk by Olwyn Sheldon who is a volunteer fundraiser with the MacMillan Nurses. She had become a volunteer 8yrs previously after experiencing the work done by the nurses during her late husband's suffering with cancer.

Douglas MacMillan had started the organisation after watching his father's suffering with cancer without the support of a caring service. He started from an initial fund of £10 eventually gaining the backing of the NHS and in the 70's the MacMillan Nurses organisation was founded. Now after 40 years it has developed into a large organisation employing 5700 professionals including Doctors, Therapists and other specialists, as well as the nurses who are the backbone of the whole set up.

Their work has grown over the years, mostly involving illnesses associated with old age, and looking after the terminally ill.

The volunteers do many things including providing support for patients, not only to comfort but to also to deal with bureaucracy and how to apply for available financial aid, write wills and other legal matters. They are also the people who run the country wide MacMillan coffee mornings, conduct street collections; distribute leaflets and all the other background support that charities require.

In 1991 £1.5 million was raised. In 2016 this had risen to £24.5 million.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called



Olwyn continued her talk describing the different forms of cancer dealt with by the nurses, including skin cancer caused by overexposure to sun beds, and how one must be ever aware of unusual changes in one's body and not put off seeing a doctor.

Olwyn's talk ended with a question and answer session.

The talk made us all aware of how much is owed to Douglas MacMillan and his magnificent nurses.

**Geoff Mills**

## **Charity Afternoon**



GUIDING FOR ADULTS

**Trefoil Guild**

Whitley Bay and Monkseaton

Trefoil Guild would like to thank St. Andrew's Church members for the great support received for their Charity Afternoon on 17th October, in aid of Admiral Nurses. The talk given by John Grundy was very well received and the successful afternoon raised the magnificent sum of £733.

Admiral Nurses work together with families to provide one-to-one support, expert guidance and practical solutions they need to live more positively with dementia each and every day.

The Trefoil Guild thank you again for your support.

**WARNING: Exposure to the Sun may prevent burning!**

## CHURCH MEETING – 26th SEPTEMBER 2019



Copies of the Minutes 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:

- The induction of Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller, as Transitional Minister until Easter 2020, at a service in July.
- Membership classes held by Carla and David Grosch-Miller.
- Mandy Watson taken over the lead for the Praise Service.
- The Manse had been let.
- The annual Work Week had been held for cleaning and decorating by contractors.
- Most of the other ‘Spring Cleaning’ work undertaken by members in the past is to be given to contractors.
- Sadness at deaths of member and friends.
- Activities Team pleased with recent social and fund-raising events.
- Premises continue to be well used.

Treasurer reported:

- Finances are looking reasonably good and still closely following budget for the year.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end!  
God's way leads to an endless hope!

- Operating a balanced budget where overspend is funded by interest from the Development Fund.
- Deficit at August £9,734, the projected deficit for 2019 being £16,000.

The Meeting agreed that Joy Abbott, Andrew Cooke, Harry Lowrie, Carole Moore, Geoffrey Mills and John Thorpe be received into membership and welcomed at the December Communion Service. It was also agreed that Margaret and Peter Skee be restored to the Membership Roll.

The meeting accepted the proposals of the Transitional Working Group (as reported in October Newstand).

**Date of next meeting:** Sunday 17th November 2019 at noon following morning worship.

*Ray Hammond*  
Church Secretary



Worry is the darkroom in which “negatives” are developed.



It won't be long until Christmas. The shops and garden centres already have Christmas cards, gifts, and decorations filling their shelves. There are twinkling lights and all manner of garden decorations from giant snowmen to delicate reindeer and 'stop here Santa' signs for sale all destined for decorating homes at Christmas.

However, shops and garden centres aren't the only ones busy preparing for Christmas, many others are too. And that includes Church folk. Harvest Festivals have passed, the foods donated delivered and the flower decorations dismantled and delivered bringing a gift of cheer and love from the Church fellowship to those who are housebound. With hardly time to draw breath after Harvest Festivals other events are beginning to be organised. Not quite Advent or Christmas (yet) although for some churches 'shoe box' collections are already in hand, this is usually the time for The Church Fair! A grand occasion on any church calendar.

Prior to the great day there is a hive of activity in preparation for the event. Church folks work hard to provide goods for stalls and tables. Tables are laden with homemade crafts, cakes, there are raffle prizes: 'guess the weight of the cake', 'guess the name of the teddy' and all manner of competitions to raise either church funds or monies to be donated for charity. But it isn't just making the goods for sale but also the preparation for the day. Tables and stalls need to be set up, organising money floats and church kitchens buzzing with

Wisdom has two parts: 1 – having a lot to say  
2 – not saying it

folks preparing sandwiches, buttering scones and making teas and coffees and for some even making soups and puddings! It is hard work for all involved, but work that can have such positive outcomes as folks share the preparation and day together. Church Fairs give opportunities for people to catch up with one another; relatives may join in on the occasion coming from different parts of the country or even from different countries, coming home to share in this special time.

Others join in on church fairs. Folks in the local community who don't come to church regularly or those who don't come at all except to the church fairs. Perhaps this is something of a tradition for them...going to the church fair at this time of the year...or perhaps they come as a one off, perhaps they come to look around and try and find a bargain, perhaps they come to see what is going on behind the walls of the church. The attraction of the church fair could be an open door where those who don't come to church often or at all, feel safe to come in.

The time of church fairs isn't just enjoyable and fun for church members, even although it is hard work! but also for those from the local communities. This is surely a time to show Christian love and care in action to make folks feel welcome, to let them find hospitality no questions asked, no hidden agendas. You never know who will come through the doors of churches when there is a church fair in full swing; they may be known to you or unknown, they may never have been in a church before, these folks could be shy, or overwhelmed by

Don't keep the faith... spread it around

the busyness of the people milling around and feel lost and lonely but they have come. Be watchful, be caring, be welcoming in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome in this place.*

V4: Martyn Haugen (b 1950)

In prayer:

Loving and gracious God bless all those within our communities, the community of the church and those who would seem outside church families.

We hold before You families and neighbours within the local community, families we may see rushing by in their busy daily lives with no time to stop and come and share the love of Jesus Christ.

We hold before You local schools, the children and staff that they may be safe and find time and space to hear the Good News of your great love for all.

We hold before You local churches and pray for close links and shared times together.

We hold before You local councillors and Members of Parliament representing this area that they may act with integrity.

Are you wrinkled with burden?  
Come on into Church for a faith lift!

We hold before you residents of local nursing homes and sheltered housing. May they may find Your love through care and shared times with others to banish loneliness and isolation.

We pray for peace and safety within the local community.

We ask these prayers in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

*Submitted by the Hope 4 Team*



ST. PETER'S PLAYERS  
*presents*

**STEEL Magnolias**

*by Robert Harling*

21st – 23rd November, 7.30pm

Crosskeys Hall, Woodleigh Road, Monkseaton

Tickets £6 (£7 on door)  
from Sue Ames or Carole Mallett

Repentance is breaking out of old patterns of behaviour  
and not repeating old mistakes.





## **CHURCH FAIR**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at the Fair which will be open from **10 am to 2 pm**. During the day, coffee and light lunches will be served. Do come along if you can to browse, buy or just enjoy St Andrew's renowned refreshments.

The following items are required to stock stalls at the Fair and contributions would be much appreciated.

Scarves for the Scarf Stall

**Cakes for Cake Stall**

**Books, games and toys**

Jewellery for the Jewellery Stall

Bric-a-brac

**New or nearly new clothes for the Boutique**

*Help with and items for the catering also needed –  
please contact Barbara Watson for more information*

### **The Grand Tombola at the Church Fair**

Your generosity for the Grand Tombola has always been exceptional. This year Neil and Anne Cockburn are organising the Tombola and have set a target of 400 prizes – a box will be placed in the reception area for donated items. All monies received on the Grand Tombola will be doubled by Barclays 'Giving Force'. Thank you in anticipation!

*Once again, all proceeds will be in aid of  
church funds and charitable works.*

Right is right, even if everyone is against it;  
and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.

## **Your word is a lamp to my path - Psalm 119:105**

It may seem like a strange paradox to you that I read the Bible at all: I am not a member of the United Reformed Church, although one of its essential beliefs is, as you know, the idea of *sola scriptura* and Bible reading. Nevertheless, I regularly read the Bible for the simple reason that most of what I know about God and the Christian faith comes to me from the Bible. Therefore, like you, I have to make a decision as to what English translation of the Bible to read. For what my advice is worth, it is to read a good scholarly translation like the one which is given to me on Sunday mornings when, on entering the church, I am given a hymn book. I myself avoid at all costs reading modern colloquial and unacceptably informal translations which, although easy to read and understand, can be very misleading and whose veracity can and is challenged by leading scholars and churchmen.

Fortunately, assuming we read the Bible, we have only to decide which English translation to read whereas those scholars who translate the Bible for us have many very complex decisions to make. I now, for your interest, mention just one of those complex decisions, one which concerns the Old Testament rather than the New Testament.

The Old Testament was given by God to holy persons such as Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah in the Hebrew language, a language written from right to left, from the back of the book to the front, and with its own strange alphabet. Many years later what they wrote was translated into Greek in a document

People will rarely care about what you know  
until they know that you care.

known as the Septuagint. Unfortunately, most of the very early Hebrew documents have been lost. A few, known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, still exist but even they are by no means as early as the Greek Septuagint.

Now the Greek version is not exactly the same as the Hebrew and in some cases it is considerably longer. The problem which the translators into English have to face is whether to use the Greek Septuagint (the oldest extant text) or the Masoretic Hebrew text (the original text written in the language used by Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah). This problem is compounded by the fact that certain expressions in Hebrew cannot be properly and meaningfully translated into English. What therefore can the translators do? All they can do is to produce an English translation using the best of the Greek Septuagint and the best of the Hebrew Masoretic texts.

One thing we ourselves must certainly not do is to allow the above problem, which is of concern to translators, to cause us to give up Bible reading! We could, if we had the time, learn both Greek and Hebrew but few of us would want to do that. However, we can learn to trust the Biblical scholars at places like Oxford and Cambridge and choose to read their scholarly English translations avoiding at all cost versions which concentrate solely upon making the Bible pleasant and easy to read rather than giving us the truth which Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and God intended us to have.

***Maurice***

One of the greatest labour-saving devices of today is tomorrow

# ST. ANDREW'S 100 CLUB

## September Draw

88 numbers went into the draw on 29th September.

The Winners were:

1st	No. 99	Geoff Hopper	£132.00
2nd	No. 10	Una Ketteridge	£66.00
3rd	No. 38	Susan Anderson	£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)***

The best advice anyone can give you  
is to live your life and forget about your age.

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.



3	PCM, their churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North. The Anglican Bishop of Whitby, the Rt. Revd Paul Ferguson.
10	Remembrance Sunday. Zion URC, Northallerton; Northgate URC, Darlington; Keld URC; Low Row URC; Revds Stephen and Hilary Collinson.
17	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. St Paul & St John's URC, South Shields; St Margaret's URC, South Shields; St Andrew's URC, Hebburn; Revd Helen Drummond.
24	St Andrew's LEP (Methodist/URC), Benton; Revd Gavin Hume (Methodist); The Church of the Good Shepherd LEP (Anglican/Methodist/URC), Battle Hill; Revd Julie Mooney (Anglican).

## Death

JERMY

On 8th October 2019,  
Francis Ronald, aged 97 years.  
Service and committal at Whitley Bay  
on 17th October, conducted by  
Revd Greg Thompson.

What you give is not what counts;  
it is the love with which you give it that matters



*The names of those we remember  
this month are*

*Alexander McPhee*

*Elsie Marston Mallett*

*George Albert Winton*

*Ernest Frank Merrick*

*Albert Bright*

*Captain Jack Young*

*Jessie Winton*

*William Caldwell*

*Kenneth Hooper*

*Thomas Pallister*

*William Johnstone Garven*

*Angela Greenwood Lopez*

*Jennifer Buckle*

*Dorothy Joan Jackson*

*Dorothy Joan Paul*

*Joan Clarkin*

*Dorothy Lowdon*

*Mavis Doreen Brown*

## Monthly Duties

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Vestry:</b> Sue Ames <b>Reception:</b> 3rd Carole Mallett/10th Hazel Hall/ 17th Catriona Fenwick/24th Chris Hales <b>Communion:</b> Paul Hartley
<b>Stewards</b>	Christine and Alison/ Julie Edwardson
<b>Flowers</b>	Gillian, Susan A & Susan C

## Weekly Duties

<b>Sun 03-Nov-19</b>	Readers: C Fenwick, B Burgess Prayers of Concern: Andrew Cooke	Organ: Helen
<b>Tues 05-Nov-19</b>	Prayers: Barbara Burgess	
<b>Sun 10-Nov-19</b>	Readers: M Walton, S Pine Prayers of Concern: Val Taylor	Organ: Pete
<b>Tues 12-Nov-19</b>	Prayers: Sandra Pine	
<b>Sun 17-Nov-19</b>	Readers: C Purves, M Christopher Prayers of Concern: C Hales	Organ: Paul
<b>Tues 19-Nov-19</b>	Prayers: Una Ketteridge	
<b>Sun 24-Nov-19</b>	Readers: U Ketteridge, A Stembridge Prayers of Concern: Una Ketteridge	Organ: Alex
<b>Tues 26-Nov-19</b>	Prayers: Ann Sinclair	

## Newstand Dates

<b>Next edition, published last Sunday of month:</b>	Sunday 24 Nov 2019
<b>Hardcopy contributions in Editor's box by</b>	Sunday 17 Nov 2019
<b>Email copy to <a href="mailto:standrewsnewstand@gmail.com">standrewsnewstand@gmail.com</a></b>	Monday 18 Nov 2019
<b>Earlier contributions are appreciated!</b>	



# Church Contacts

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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.

The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and may not represent the view of the URC, St Andrew's Church Meeting or its Elders.

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Nov / Dec 2019**

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

Friday	1	Film Club – ‘Tolkien’	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Praise Service; Praise Team</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
		<b>Prayer Group</b>	<b>10.15 am</b>
		<b>Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	4	Fifty Eight Society – ‘Nostalgic Views of the North’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	5	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Worship Group Meeting	6.30 pm
Thursday	7	Pastoral Team Meeting, followed by Elders’ Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	8	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Remembrance/Parade Service; Revd Peter Moth</b>	<b>10.45 am</b>
		<b>NOTE EARLIER TIME</b>	
		<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>3.30 pm</b>
Saturday	16	Church Fair	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Communion Service; Revd Pat Wardle</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
		<b>Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Church Meeting</b>	<b>12 noon</b>
Monday	18	Fifty Eight Society – ‘History of Warburtons’	7.30 pm
Friday	22	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2019</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Praise Service; Praise Team</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
		<b>Prayer Group</b>	<b>10.15 am</b>
		<b>Communion Service; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	2	Fifty Eight Society – ‘The fifties and my part in them’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	3	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Friday	6	Friendship Club Christmas Lunch	<b><u>1.00 for</u></b>
			<b><u>1.30 pm</u></b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Children’s Festival &amp; Parade Service; Revd Philip Gray</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>3.30 pm</b>