



St. Andrew's URC
Monkseaton, Whitley Bay

NEWSTAND

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TIME TO RETHINK OUR EXPECTATIONS



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



,We are in the season after Epiphany, in which we celebrate the light manifested in the life of Jesus. We began with his baptism, hearing the voice that accompanied the Spirit's descent like a dove, naming him as God's beloved son. The season ends with the Transfiguration, Jesus, Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets) standing on a mountaintop, radiant with light as the voice is heard again *This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him! (Matthew 17:5)*

Light is the hallmark of the season after Epiphany...which is very appropriate in our current circumstances. As you will read in the Transition Working Group report, we are conducting a series of church lunch discussions from January through March that give us an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about how we function as a church – bringing matters to light and considering how we may move into the future with practices that enable our faithfulness.

This month's topic (2 February, after the service) is about expectations we can reasonably have of a permanent minister. We usually don't think about our expectations of our minister, until she or he doesn't meet them and we are disappointed or hurt. Having a conversation about them now will help us to surface our expectations and consider whether they are reasonable.

Ministry has changed radically in our lifetimes. Gone are the days when the (usually male) minister had only one church to his charge and his wife usually functioned as an assistant of sorts – perhaps with Junior Church, music, flowers. In those days ministers were known to work 80+ hours a week, to the

Some random lines for thought

detriment sometimes of their health and often of their families. Many children of the Manse, having seen the cost of ministry, exited the church in their adulthood. The minister was usually the same age as much of the congregation and could base his social life in church activities. Today a minister may have two, three, even five churches at a distance from each other, or - as in our situation - be scoped for 75% (or less) and have other work responsibilities unrelated to St Andrews. He or she may not be married and if they are, their partner may have full time employment elsewhere or simply not have a vocation to be active in the church. The minister may be much younger than the majority of church members and needs to base a friendship life outside of the church with peers. The demands on a minister's time have increased (emails!). The Church also now recognises that the vocation of the minister includes her or his responsibilities to their families and their health. These are just some of the ways that ministry has changed; there are many more. And the culture around us has changed, making us more consumer-oriented and quick to complain if we don't like things. The challenge is that, while ministry and society have changed radically, our expectations of the work of a minister have not. Hence the need for us to look at what is reasonable to expect and to consider how best to work in partnership with the minister.

The conduct of ministers is governed by guidelines that can be found on the URC website at <https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-ministers>. (There are also guidelines for the conduct of elders on this page.) We will photocopy and place these in the service sheet for 26 January and 2 February so that you can look at them in advance, as you are preparing for the church lunch

Treat the earth well, because it is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children. (Old Kenyan Proverb)

discussion and thinking about your own personal expectations of a minister. We hope that as many as possible will join us as these conversations are preparing us for a settled ministry in the future. Everyone's participation matters.

Of course, in all the talk of guidelines and expectations, the most important thing to bear in mind is that the minister and each one of us is both human and beloved and that we work together in partnership. Mistakes will be made (goodness, I make a lot, as you know!). But we have all we need to work together constructively, addressing issues, forbearing and forgiving – bringing the light of Christ into every situation for the furtherance of the purposes of God.

In Christian love and friendship,

Carla

We have received a letter from the Great North Air Ambulance thanking us for the donation of £323 raised during carol singing and collections.



They think all their supporters are “amazing” as without them they simply couldn't raise the money needed to continue operating the service, which last year cost a staggering £1.5million!

All donations are appreciated at any time, though they will never pressure for more.

If you would like to speak to the service you can call them on 01325 487263 or visit their website at www.gnaas.com.

The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. (Mahatma Gandhi)

Film Club

ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER
Emma THOMPSON

Mindy KALING



"NOTHING SHORT OF
FABULOUS"



The film stars
Emma Thompson
as a late night
talk show host
who suspects she
may soon lose her
long-running show.

Late
NIGHT

IT'S TIME TO GIVE COMEDY A REWRITE

Friday 7th February, 2.00pm

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



We had the first of three church lunch discussions on Sunday 12 January, considering **communication and decision-making**. Before

embarking on discussion around our tables, Revd David Grosch-Miller (former Moderator of the General Assembly and Synod Moderator) spoke about church meeting decision-making in the URC. Such decisions are meant to fulfill the purposes of the church. In the United Reformed Church, **the purposes of the church** are to worship; to receive and express the renewing life of the Holy Spirit; to declare the reconciling and saving power of Jesus Christ; to live out a ministry of the caring, forgiving and healing love that Jesus brought; and to bear witness to Christ through our life together. [Basis of Union, Section A, para 11] **At church meeting**, *the members have opportunity through discussion, responsible decision and care for one another, to strengthen each other's faith and to foster the life, work and mission of the Church*. [The Manual, Section B, para 2(1)]

Church Secretary Ray Hammond then described how St Andrew's communicates (billboards, screen, letters, reports) and makes decisions, with the eldership (elected by the church meeting and ordained) delegating work to teams who report to the eldership. The eldership recommends appropriate decisions to the quarterly church meeting. There is an Annual General Meeting (22 March this year) at which reports are received and the budget is approved.

There followed a half hour for facilitated discussion around the tables, after which the table discussions were reported. The

Some people spend their time either re-living the past or worrying about the future, and forgetting about the important bit in between.

definition that we came up with for a “good” decision covered process and outcome. ***Good decisions are those which are made after a full and fair process of deliberation takes place and have an outcome which enables the church to move forward.*** A full and fair process of deliberation includes:

- Ideas are communicated and unbiased information provided beforehand
- There is adequate time to think and discuss
- The discussion is wrapped in prayer, with prayer at the beginning and at the end
- The environment for the meeting is conducive to as many people as possible [in this regard, we noted that a loop-assisted table for those with hearing aids will enable them better to participate in a table discussion]
- Active listening is practiced
- People value each other (including the different traditions people come from) and the URC tradition is explained
- All of the associated issues are considered
- The opportunity to discuss is afforded to all
- There is no shame in members abstaining
- Pastoral care is offered to those who do not agree with the decision

Finally, it was commented that discussion around tables after a Sunday church service with sandwiches provided is a very helpful way for church meeting to occur. This matter will be taken to the Annual General Meeting.

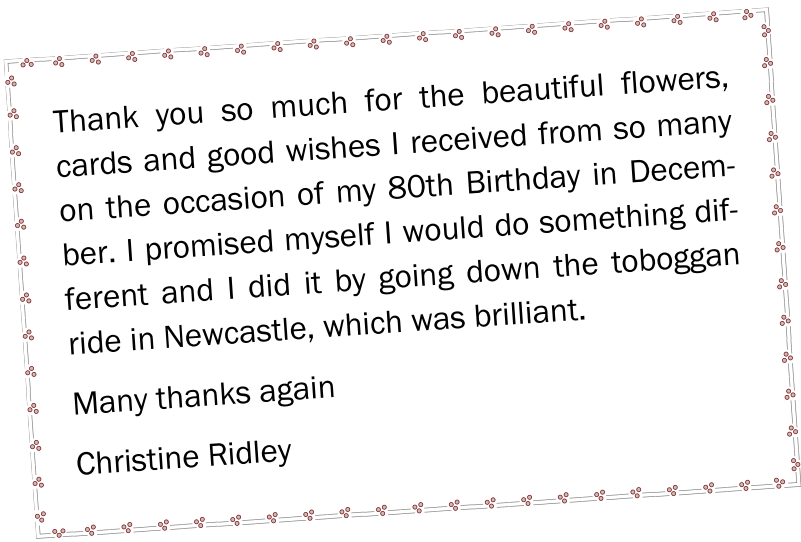
I have no time to worry about anyone who doesn't care about me;
I'm too busy loving the people who love me.

The topics for our next two lunch discussions are:

Sunday 2 February *What can we reasonably expect from a minister?*

Sunday 1 March *2020 Hopes: Where are we with these now? What are our priorities for the future?*

Worship on these two Sundays will be slightly shortened and lunch will begin at noon. The meetings will end at 1:15pm. To enable people with hearing aids to engage in a table discussion, there will be a loop-assisted table. If you want to sit at it, look for the sign on the table. Sign-up sheets for the lunches will be available in the vestibule or reception area; please consider attending. Everyone's thoughts are appreciated, and those who have not attended any of the lunches have been missed.



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, cards and good wishes I received from so many on the occasion of my 80th Birthday in December. I promised myself I would do something different and I did it by going down the toboggan ride in Newcastle, which was brilliant.

Many thanks again

Christine Ridley

People who sing their own praises
usually do so without accompaniment.

‘The 50’s and my part in them.’

by Ben Haddon

On the 2nd December 2019 Ben Haddon presented a slide show and talk about the north east in the 1950’s. For some of the audience this was of historical interest but I suspect for most it was more a journey of nostalgia.

Ben introduced his talk with views of the housing conditions in Newcastle during that decade particularly in the Scotswood area. Basic housing with outside toilets. Newspaper used as toilet paper until the introduction of IZAL.

Cast iron fireplaces which were maintained with blacking and highly polished brasses.

Bero books, Lino, Proggy mats, electric irons which one connected to the ceiling light, gas mantles and the use of ration books until the early fifties.

As no one had refrigerators in those days or central heating food was bought more on a daily basis with meat being scarce, chicken being a once a year dish and offal, being cheap, the basis of many meals. However, no one thought this was anything other than normal.

Ben then showed pictures of the washing day implements of the day. Tub and Poss sticks scrub (skiffle) boards, cast iron mangles, mat beaters, and the tin bath to make use of the hot water to wash the bairns. A film clip of the community wash house in use in which women spread their gossip followed by the laundry hanging across back lanes.

Our church welcomes all denominations,
especially tenners and twenties.

The Coronation, the Coop, Liquid paraffin, castor oil, Fish and chips and sweet shops were scrutinised as were school days, corporal punishment for minor misdemeanours, ink monitors, 'Nitty Nora' and school milk.

Holidays meant the beaches of Tynemouth and Whitley Bay were always well used and was fresh fish was available at the fishermen's cottages in Cullercoats.

Entertainment was provided by radio or the cinema and in the case of children the Saturday morning Matinees.

The talk ended with mention of the Newcastle Town Moor Hoppings.

These were the 'Good old days'. Would we want to go back to them?

Geoff Mills

'Theatrical memories - an unashamed piece of self indulgent nostalgia, hoping to stimulate our memories of theatre'

6th January 2020 – Professor John Derry, Retired Professor of Modern History at Newcastle University

Some of Professor Derry's earliest memories of theatre were trips to the pantomime at the Palace Theatre with his Grandmother, which he didn't like much - white faced comedians and the demon King surrounded by flames!

He recalls memories of 'the great Richard Tauber', a successful singer who starred in the 1932 film, 'Blossom Time', based on the life of Schubert.

1940's – at the Theatre Royal, he saw Desert Song, starring

Many parents find that by the time their son or daughter is fit to live with, they are living with someone else.

Sigmund Romberg. Also Shakespeare plays, which had a great impact on him. Donald Wolfit was a great actor/manager, in fact the last one. In those days there were no subsidies at theatres. They were dependant on the Box Office, school audiences and matinees. The first Shakespeare play he saw there was Richard 111.

1944 – he saw his first real opera – Mozart’s ‘Cosi Fan Tutti’, with the Sadlers Wells Opera Company. He was also taken to his first operetta – Gilbert and Sullivan, with Doyley Carte at the Theatre Royal. He sat in the stalls at 8/6 per seat! He remembers people queueing for the Gallery – the cheapest seats, but often considered the best for the view of the stage.

1948 – Plays by Terence Rattigan - Kevin Tynan gave bad reviews. These plays have recently been revived. Rattigan is probably best remembered for ‘The Browning Version’, later made into a film starring Michael Redgrave. He was also a good Falstaff and a great King Lear.

1950’s – Wolfit starred in the black and white film version of Pickwick Papers, as Sergeant Buzfuz. Bernard Levin shared the Professor’s liking for Wolfit as an actor, particularly in Shakespeare plays.

1955 – Rattigan’s play ‘The Deep Blue Sea’, was a great success as a film version starring Kenneth More and Vivienne Leigh.

1957 - Eric Portman starred in the stage version of Rattigan’s play, ‘Separate Tables’, two one act plays ‘Table by the Window’ and ‘Table Number Seven’, also starring Margaret Leighton, who was a fine actress. Eric Portman got his break after starring in the 1930’s production of J. M Barrie’s, ‘The

Ever more people today have the means to live,
but no meaning to live for. (Viktor Frankl)

Admirable Crichton' and he also starred in '49th Parallel'.

1960's - at the Theatre Royal, saw Shakespeare's 'Troilus and Cressida', directed by Peter Hall. The company were on their way back from the Edinburgh Festival and if the Newcastle audience liked the production, you knew you had a winner! Max Adrian starred in 'The Inquisitor', 'St Joan' with Joan Plowright and more recently known in the TV series, 'Up Pompeii', with Frankie Howerd.

1980's - he saw the play, 'The Dresser', by Ronald Harwood, who based it on his experience as dresser to Donald Wolfit, who is the model for the character, 'Sir', in the play, later made into a film starring Albert Finney as 'Sir'.

In modern times - Professor Derry visited the People's Theatre at Ryehill when in the Sixth Form, to see a production of 'Cymbeline', starring a young man, Alan Browning, a local journalist for a time and an actor. He became famous when he played Elsie Tanner's husband in Coronation Street and later married her in real life. The People's Theatre moved to its current site in Heaton in 1962. He saw a production of the 'The Crucible' there, which was a long but very satisfying night. He also remembers going to the Flora Robson Playhouse in Jesmond. The building was demolished in 1971 and the theatre company it housed, relocated to the new University Theatre.

His Uncle produced plays at the Little Theatre in Saltwell Park. His Auntie was one of the 'Professional Players', who acted there. He remembers a wonderful production, 'The Late Christopher Bean'.

Professor Derry closed with 'Never take the theatre for

The ability to listen is seldom taught, yet it requires a deep spiritual change. It means that the other person has to matter to us as much as we matter about ourselves.

granted. There is no substitute for a live audience at a live production at the theatre!

A wonderful hour of theatrical entertainment was had by his live audience, St Andrew's 58 Society.

Celia Purves

We look forward this month to a **Quiz Night** on Saturday **15th February at 6.00 pm** with Fish and Chips or Pie and Peas. Jim Farley has compiled the Quiz so get your thinking caps on and come along for an entertaining evening. Tickets are available from Ray Hammond.



On **Saturday 14th March at 7.00 pm** a **Poetry and Plonk Evening** is being held. This provides an opportunity for people to listen and/or share their favourite poems with others while enjoying a glass of wine (or soft drink). Tickets at £5 will be available soon.

Dates for the Diary

Annual Craft Fair - Saturday 4th April, 10 am – 2.00 pm.

Spring Afternoon Service - Monday 20th April, 2.00 pm.

**Table Top Sale (in aid of Christian Aid) –
Saturday 9th May, 10 am – 2.00 pm**

**Scones of Praise (in aid of Christian Aid) –
Sunday 17th May, 3.30 pm**

Ann Hammond

It seems the average person's idea of a good sermon is one that goes over the head and hits a neighbour.



There will be eight Monday Afternoon Services during 2020, some of them organised by the Worship Group alone, and others by the Worship Group in conjunction with the Activities Team. All will commence at 2 pm and the dates are as follows:-

March 9th / April 20th / May 11th / June 8th / July 13th
September 14th / October 12th / December 14th

Please remember that although these services are designed particularly for those who find it difficult to attend church on a Sunday morning, EVERYONE is welcome. They last for about half an hour, consist of seasonal hymns, readings and prayers, and are followed by refreshments.

We also plan to have three 'Cafe Church' services during the year, and the first of these will be on Sunday, 8th March, led by Carla.

**Carole Mallett,
(for Worship Group)**

We would like to thank everyone for their greetings and Christmas Cards. We also wish the members and all associated with the life of St Andrew's every blessing for 2020.

Gordon and Ingrid

Thanks to you all for accepting me into the St. Andrew's Family.
Thank you again.

Harry Lowrie

Thank you for the lovely flowers and messages. They did cheer me up when I was feeling unwell.

Joyce Coulson

When it comes to mission work overseas,
money can narrow the gap, but only people can bridge it.

Candlemas



February is usually a dark, cold month, with Christmas and New Year Celebrations a distant memory. But there is a spark of light, 2nd February is Candlemas, a festival in commemoration of the presentation of Christ in the Temple and the purification of the Virgin Mary. The feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts in the Christian Church celebrated since 4AD in Jerusalem and grounded in the story of the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, the story to be found in Luke 2: 22-40. Candlemas is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas/Epiphany period and celebrated as a winter festival of birth and light and light is representative of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

Yet Candlemas has another story-a story of living, ageing and learning and we can read this story in Luke 2: v 25-38 the story of Joseph and Mary presenting the baby Jesus in the Temple. Anna and Simeon were in the Temple. Here were two people with the wisdom of age, the years of struggling and hurting and loving, the presenting of themselves regularly in the communal round of worship, the prayers of a lifetime. These were the experiences that enabled them to recognise God in Jesus and the assurance in the care and vulnerability of God's love:.... *'I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nation and he is the glory of your people Israel!'*(v30-32). *'She (Anna) came along...and began praising God...She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem'*(v38). The stories of the lives of Simeon and Anna are stories of lives of faith and trust in the light of the resurrection that are offered to us today. May we

When God completed the creation of Adam, He must have taken a long hard look and said, "I can do better than that."

follow in their footsteps to be light to God's world.

In Prayer

Lightener of the world, bless us and warm us into light and loving.

Bring us to the light of Jesus Christ your Son and our Saviour all the length of our days and nights. AMEN

Inspired by Ruth Burgess and amended from Hay and Stardust

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team

On behalf of the staff and volunteers at the **Bay Food Bank**, we want to say a huge "THANK YOU" to the people of St. Andrew's for your wonderful and continual support.

Christmas was a very busy time when we delivered over 450 parcels over two weeks to people who truly needed and appreciated them.

Our real aim would be to see the Food Bank close because we were not needed!!

However that does not seem very imminent! Therefore we are all very, very grateful for all your welcome contributions.

Joan, Margaret and Hazel.

World Day of Prayer is being held here at St Andrews at 2pm on Friday 6th March. It has been prepared by Christian Women of Zimbabwe and titled "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". It is a really uplifting service. Please come, all are welcome.

Jenny Hooper

If it will take you eight hours to bring down a tree,
spend the first four hours sharpening the saw.

Warm Apple Juice

Some of you have asked for the recipe for this warm drink which was served at our 'Longest Night Service' on December 21st.



Ingredients (serves 8)

- 1 litre cloudy apple juice
- Strips of orange peel (or unpeeled slices of orange)
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 cloves
- Sugar or honey to taste, if required

Method

Simmer the apple juice with the orange peel (or slices), cinnamon stick and cloves for about 5 – 10 minutes until all the flavours have infused. Sweeten to taste, if necessary. Serve each drink with a little orange peel (or slice), and a piece of cinnamon stick if you like.

Carole Mallett.

We would like to thank our friends at St. Andrew's for the many cards, flowers and support received following the sad loss of Elsie.

Thank you also to the many people who attended Elsie's funeral, the Revd. Gordon Connacher for a comforting service and to Carole for the lovely reading.

We have been overwhelmed with the kindness shown.

Kind Regards, John Scrafton, Christine and David.

If our church was perfect, we would all have the problem of looking for somewhere else to worship.

ST. ANDREW'S 100 CLUB

December Draw

90 numbers went into the draw on 31st December.

The Winners were:

1st	No. 8	Joan Yarrow	£135.00
2nd	No. 79	Pat Peel	£67.50
3rd	No. 105	Neil Cockburn	£22.50

£225.00 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 more we receive in silent prayer,
the more we can give in active life

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.



2	Christ Church LEP (Meth/URC), North Broomhill; Revd Lynda Coulthard (Methodist). Synod Mission Enabler, Revd Jane Rowell..
9	Racial Justice Sunday; Trinity LEP (Meth/URC), Ashington; St Andrew's & St Mark's LEP (Meth/ URC), Newbiggin-by-the-Sea; Revd Marie Attwood (Methodist).
16	St Andrew's Dawson Street, Crook LEP (Meth/URC); Revd Ray Anglesea; Revd Christopher Humble (Methodist).
23	Church Action on Poverty Sunday. February 29th: Synod's 'Thinking Day'. PCM, the four Presbyterian Societies: Men's, Women's, Youth and Activists Group (young marrieds) and for our own fund-raising for PCM. Fairtrade Fortnight: 24 February – 8 March). The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Diocese, the Rt Revd Christine Hardman.

One of the great things about believing in God
is that He can complete what we leave undone



*The names of those we remember
this month are*

Peter Mallett

Sylvia Sadler Laws

Leslie C. Heighton

Fred Philipson Dodsworth

Beatrice Mary Dodsworth

Kenneth Roy Dodsworth

Margaret McDonald Waugh

Elsie Isobel Russell

William Mackay Adamson

George Duncan Winton

Norma Ridley

Helen Doo

Death

SCRAFTON

Elsie,
on 25th December 2019, aged 87 years.
Service and committal at Whitley Bay
on 10th January 2020,
conducted by Revd Gordon Connacher.

Unless you try to do something for God beyond
what you have already mastered, you will never grow

Monthly Duties

Elders	Vestry: Iain Ord Reception: Sue Ames Communion: Carole Mallett
Stewards	Una Ketteridge, Joy Campbell
Flowers	Jenny & Hazel

Weekly Duties

Sun 02-Feb-2020	Readers: C Fenwick, B Burgess Prayers of Concern: B Burgess	Organ: Alex
Tue 04-Feb-2020	Prayers: U Ketteridge	
Sun 09-Feb-2020	Readers: M Walton, S Pine Prayers of Concern: A. Cooke	Organ: Pete
Tue 11-Feb-2020	Prayers: B Burgess	
Sun 16-Feb-2020	Readers: C Purves, M Christopher Prayers of Concern: V. Taylor	Organ: Alex
Tue 18-Feb-2020	Prayers: A Sinclair	
Sun 23-Feb-2020	Readers: U Ketteridge, A Stembridge Prayers of Concern: H. Hall	Organ: Pete
Tue 25-Feb-2020	Prayers: K Hopper	

Newstand Dates

Next edition, published last Sunday of month:	Sunday 23 Feb 2020
Hardcopy contributions in Editor's box by	Sunday 16 Feb 2020
Email copy to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	Monday 17 Feb 2020
Earlier contributions are appreciated!	

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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

Feb / Mar 2020

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

Sunday	2	Communion Service; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
		followed by Church Lunch and Discussion	
Monday	3	Fifty Eight Society Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm
Tuesday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Friday	7	Film Club – ‘Late Night’	2.00 pm
Saturday	8	Elders’ Away Day at Minsteracres	10.00 am
Sunday	9	Praise Service; Praise Team	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.15 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
		Messy Church	3.30 pm
Tuesday	11	Finance and Development Fund Management Meetings	10.00 am
Thursday	13	Pastoral Team and Elders’ Meetings	7.00 pm
Friday	14	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
Saturday	15	Quiz Evening	6.00 pm
Sunday	16	Communion Service; Revd Pat Wardle	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
Monday	17	Fifty Eight Society – ‘Uganda Mission’	7.30 pm
Sunday	23	Morning Worship; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
Friday	28	Friendship Club	2.00 pm
MARCH 2020			
Sunday	1	(Lent 1) Communion Service; Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am
		followed by Church Lunch and Discussion	
Monday	2	Fifty Eight Society – ‘Strange Tales of Old Newcastle’	7.30 pm
Friday	6	World Day of Prayer Service at St Andrew’s	2.00 pm
Saturday	7	Fifty Eight Society Coffee Morning	10.00 am