

NEWSTAND *Lite*

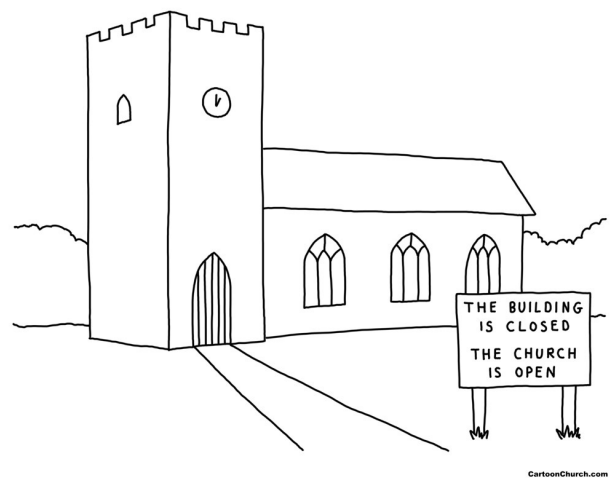


2nd edition, 5 April 2020

Welcome to the second edition of *Newstand Lite*, being produced during the Covid-19 pandemic whilst we are unable to meet in person as a Church and as an alternative to the more usual *Newstand*.

It was very pleasing to have so much positive feedback on the first edition and I hope that this edition similarly brings you comfort, joy and the love of the Holy Spirit.

Many of you may be missing your weekly (or more frequent) spiritual refreshment so we hope that you can join in with "Tuesday prayers at 9:30" - more details on page 5. If you are able to get "online", via a computer, smartphone or tablet, then please do visit the church's website - link at the bottom of this page - where you'll find a weekly reflection from Carla that is published each Sunday and a link to the URC "Daily Devotion" published each day. We'd also recommend visiting the main URC web page at <https://urc.org.uk> where you can find details of other URC churches offering online services.



For those that can't get online, the BBC still offers *Songs of Praise* on Sunday (usually 1.15pm); *Pause for thought* on Radio 2 at 3.45am, 5.45am, 9.20am and 12:45pm; *Prayer for the Day* on Radio 4 (Mon to Sat) at 7.48am & the *Daily Service* on Radio 4 (Mon to Fri) at 9:45am. On Sunday there is *Good Morning Sunday* on Radio 2 from 6am to 9am & *Sunday Worship* on Radio 4 at 8.10am

When you receive this we will be well into Holy Week, when we would usually be remembering the last supper at Tenebrae, mourning Christ's death at the Ecumenical service outside the Ship Inn on Good Friday, and celebrating his resurrection in our Easter Sunrise service and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. We obviously are saddened we can't do that this year, but we've got a cunning plan — check page 7 for details!

Stay safe everyone — God is with us!

Image ©2020 Dave Walker/Cartoon Church.
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<http://standrewsmonseatonurc.org.uk>

   [monkseatonurc](https://www.instagram.com/monkseatonurc)

Ninety not out (pun intended)

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the lovely cards and kind wishes I received on my birthday, especially the beautiful arrangement of flowers from you all.

It was fortunate that I was able to enjoy the celebrations with you all and my family just before "lockdown" !

Many thanks to you all.

Elizabeth Morley



Words seem inadequate to express what I want to say to all who contributed in so many ways to my birthday recently. I received so many greetings, visits, cards and flowers which were all evidence of the great kindness shown to me. The church flowers were very fresh, varied colours and lasted a long time – a beautiful gift.

A lifetime from before the Second World War to the Coronavirus pandemic covers quite a span of history during which I have been one of those fortunate to have a purposeful and satisfying life. Having remained stable in one community for 90 years I am known to many people to all of whom I am very grateful, but most of all to the fellowship of St Andrew's.

Thank you very much,

Love and prayers,

Edith Corby



St. Andrew's 100 Club

Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic situation the draw for the 100 Club for March 2020 has been postponed. All members are paid up to and including March 2020.

The result of the February 2020 draw is as follows:

1st	No 72	Kate McMullen	£133.50
2nd	No 61	Philip Stevenson	£66.75
3rd	No 17	Judith Lithgo	£22.25

£222.50 was given to Church funds.

I will inform members as and when we will resume the monthly draw.

Kathleen Hopper

St. Andrew's Charitable Giving scheme

If you have not completed and returned the voting form yet, do not worry!

If you still wish to take part simply ring us up and we will complete a form over the phone for you!

Ann & Ray Hammond
0191 252 3319
07866 690604

Minister's Musings

Dear Friends,

How apt that we are in lockdown whilst the Christian calendar bids us to remember the events of Holy Week. From this Palm Sunday, Jesus walks with a quiet dignity through the days that will lead to the crucifixion and ultimately the resurrection. This year the week will be very long. For many of us, the steps on the way will be all the more meaningful.

Waving palms and strewn coats greeted the colt and its precious cargo. Exultation and excitement filled the air. The cries of *Hosanna*

rang in his ears. *Hosanna* was a shout of praise but the literal meaning of the word was *Help or Save, I pray*. The lips which sang it knew that Jesus was part of God's plan of deliverance; they just didn't know how that would work out. And they certainly didn't anticipate that he would be dead before

week's end. Do we, can we ever know the fullness of God's plans? Or is it our job to show up, cry *Hosanna* and trust that the world is in God's good hands, no matter what?

Thursday, sat at table with his closest friends, he stood up, wrapped a towel around his waist and stooped to wash each one's feet. *Do you know what it is I have done to you?*, he asked. *I have set an example*. And he gave the new commandment: love one another. This week as I've seen countless acts of kindness and humour, I have been touched by the usually unspoken love that human beings can have for strangers. Not everyone is acting in love; some are captive to their fear...a road that goes nowhere good.

Shadows lengthen. Thursday night and Friday saw his anguished prayer in the garden (*not my will, but thine*), his betrayal with a kiss and denial by cock's crow, a kangaroo court trial, torture and humiliation. A cascade of injustice; the fickleness of a crowd that one day cried *Hosanna* and now shouts *Crucify him!* The sound of cruel nails banged through work-roughened hands and feet that had walked miles. The terror of those hours is hard to take in.

Here truly is one who has known the worst that life and his fellow humans can do. Here is one who knows our deepest sorrows and our greatest fears. Here is one who has felt abandoned by God. Could there be a more trustworthy friend and saviour? He knows us better than we know ourselves. He plumbed the depths and still carried himself with dignity, focusing on his purpose of self-giving love.

Linger here with me on Holy Saturday. We do not have a tradition of waiting not knowing, but

it is there in the scriptures – a blank space. Imagine the deep grief and despair of those who loved him. Imagine the fear that they were next. Imagine all this without knowing the end of the story. We are here now, in Holy Saturday. We do not know how Covid-19 will play out, how many will sicken, how many will die. We do not know the end of this story.

But as we wait – in our uncertainty, confusion, dread and love – we do not wait alone. Even here the Spirit of God comes close. We may not feel it, this Spirit that knows of death in life, but she is present. She is present in the innumerable acts of kindness and good cheer, in the patience and wisdom that comes quietly, in our prayers and in our pulling together.

And Easter will come. We, the blessed, know the end of the story. We know that death and resurrection is the pattern of life; that God can bring good out of the worst that happens. We know the tension of living a cross-shaped life – eyes aimed toward heaven, feet rooted in earth, arms stretched wide to embrace the whole world. We have seen the triumph of love over hate and hope over despair. Come Easter, we will shout into the storm of even this rotten virus: *Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!* And the very heavens will echo the song, and he will come.

God bless you and keep you well in yourselves,

In Christian love,

Carla

**Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!
And the very heavens
will echo the song,
and he will come.**

Don't Quit!

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



Photo by Brennan Martinez on Unsplash

*Attributed to Edgar A. Guest (altered)
Submitted by Joy Abbott*

Transitional ministry update

The Synod is in the process of trying to arrange an extension of my ministry here until we are past this current challenge and it is possible to begin the process of searching for a new minister.

This is my promise to you: I will stay (on reduced hours and with the elders' approval) as long as I am able to stay so that we can come to the end of this enforced separation and grieve and celebrate all that has happened. Then we will complete the work of the transitional ministry with a thoughtful review and a grateful and graceful ending.

Yours,
Carla

Tuesday Prayers — at 9:30

While we may be denied the opportunity to physically worship together as a family of St Andrew's at this time, there is another way to be together and that is coming together through prayer.

In these difficult times could the folks of St Andrew's on Tuesdays either at 9.30 a.m. or 9.30 p.m. come together in prayer in our homes? This would be a designated time to be aware that we are not alone; that other folks at St Andrew's — those we meet at the door, those we sit beside in church, those we share time afterwards sharing news over tea or coffee — could be together. Let us come together in prayer on Tuesdays at 9.30.



Albrecht Durer

Let us come together in prayer and reach out through faith and the love of Christ to be together as the children of God and say the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen

And we bring our prayers of Intercession:

A PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

Loving and gracious God

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working
from home remember those who must
choose between preserving their health or
making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close
remember those who have no
options.

May we who have to cancel our
trips remember those who have
no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our
margin money in the tumult of
the economic market remember
those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a
quarantine at home remember
those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each
other, let us find ways to be the loving
embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen.

Cameron Bellm (used with permission)

May the grace of God, the love of our
Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with each and every one of
us now and ever more.

Amen

Depending on the ever-changing
situation during this period of the
Coronavirus pandemic perhaps Newstand
Life may not be able to be sent out.
However, we can still pray on Tuesdays at
9.30 in the morning or 9.30 in the evening;
time to pray at the beginning of the day
and at the close of the day; time to share
together; a time to talk to God in prayer,
in whatever form you feel comfortable
with. God is always there to listen.

Submitted by Hope 4 team

Becoming un-busy

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Author: Kitty O'Meara

Good Neighbours Scheme

Local volunteering is now being coordinated by North Tyneside Council through VODA rather than by the Bay Church. Anyone who wants information about the North Tyneside Good Neighbours Scheme should ring 0191 6432632.

Potential volunteers should contact them via email on admin@voda.org.uk

Time for a Smile

Little Tommy's Sunday School teacher heard him use some questionable language. She was shocked and said, "Tommy, don't you ever use such language again, and certainly not where your friends and I can hear it. Where on earth did you learn that?" "I got it from my dad, Miss," replied Tommy. "Well, your daddy should be ashamed. I hope you don't know what all that means." "Oh but I do," said Tommy, "It meant the car wouldn't start when we were ready to come to church this morning."

Do you sometimes get pestered by unwanted telephone calls from people who want to either sell you something or get you to take part in a survey? If you see a number on your phone you don't recognise, try answering the phone with, "Hello, thanks for ringing. You're on the air now!" Most of them will hang up.

A country conference centre which was much used by church groups had as its motto, "There are no problems here, only opportunities." A minister booked it for a weekend retreat with a group from his church. The day arrived and they all signed in and were shown to their rooms. A few minutes later the minister returned to the reception desk and said he had a problem. The receptionist responded with a smile and said, "Sir we don't have problems here, only opportunities." The minister said, "Call it what you like, but there's already a woman in my room."

On a church notice in France: When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that he will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving away.

A Cunning Plan for the Easter Sunrise Service

The early risers in the congregation and amongst our friends in Christ from other churches in the Whitley Bay area usually meet the rising of the sun on Easter Sunday with a short act of worship on the seafront near Spanish City. As we are not able to meet this year, the Cookes have a cunning plan!

We will be heading to the seafront in Blyth, a short walk from our home, to conduct our own service on Easter morning and will be recording it to make it available on the church's channel on YouTube (we were hoping to "stream" it live but can't get a good enough signal on the seafront to do that). We hope to have it available from 8am on Easter Sunday morning so if you can get online, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXvMoSEallrb4OtkjK7cARA> (if you type that link!), or just go onto YouTube and search for "Monkseaton URC" to find it.

Please do "tune in" to celebrate with us.

Tim, Lucy, Andrew & Sophie



Easter Sunday sunrise 2019 / Tim Cooke

Can you take Newstand *Lite* by email or online?

With increased restrictions coming in place we may find it difficult to get Newstand *Lite* posted out in the numbers we have been. It would greatly help us if you could instead accept Newstand *Lite* by email to read on your computer, phone or tablet.

If you would like to have it emailed to you (or can also access it from the website), then please can you contact Ann or Ray Hammond, or Carole Mallett (contact numbers below or email them at either annray@talktalk.net or carole.54@btinternet.com), confirming your email address when you do. This will greatly help with reducing the effort needed to print, collate and envelope up all the copies for posting.

It may also be that we have to reduce the frequency that we can produce Newstand *Lite* due to other work pressures on Tim with working within the NHS, but that remains open at the moment (producing this is a bit of relief from the day job!).

You are not alone!

St. Andrew's Elders and Pastoral team are only a phone call away and will be keeping in touch with you all. If you need someone to talk to and pray with, please do give them a call.

If you don't have contact details for your Elder or Pastoral Visitor, please contact Ray or Ann Hammond on 0191 252 3319 or Carole Mallett on 0191 252 1723.

Prayers for this moment



From our Transitional Minister.

One of the things that is most disturbing about the current state of affairs is the possibility, even the likelihood of people dying alone, without the touch and tenderness of their loved ones. Decades ago I found a prayer written by the great Jesuit philosopher and palaeontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and copied it into my journal so that I would have it as I grew old and faced death. It has all the more meaning now:

When the erosions of age begin to leave their mark on my body, and still more on my mind; when the ills that must diminish my life or put an end to it strike me down from without or grow up from within me; when I reach that painful moment when I suddenly realise that I am a sick man or that I am growing old; above all at the final moment when I feel that I am losing hold on myself and becoming wholly passive in the hands of those great unknown forces which first formed me: at all these sombre moments grant me, Lord, to understand that it is You (provided my faith is strong enough) who are painfully separating the fibres of my being so as to penetrate to the very marrow of my substance and draw me to Yourself.

Carla

From the April Pastoral Prayer Sheet

Lord Jesus, in the midst of a storm you said "Peace, be still".

Bid our anxious fears subside, sustain our Church in faith, hope and love, bring our nation through this present tumult, grant wisdom to those with heavy responsibilities, and healing and hope to all those who are infected. Keep us close to our loved ones, even if we cannot physically see them. Comfort and guard us during this strange time of our lives. We ask this in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Una Ketteridge