

NEWSTAND *Lite*



4th edition, 03 May 2020

"8 May 1945 – VE (Victory in Europe) Day – was one that remained in the memory of all those who witnessed it. It meant an end to nearly six years of a war that had cost the lives of millions; had destroyed homes, families, and cities; and had brought huge suffering and privations to the populations of entire countries." Imperial War Museum website



The move of the traditional May Day holiday to 8 May 2020 in celebration of 75 years since the end of WWII should have seen great celebrations, not just across the UK but across Europe and the wider world.

Alas, those celebrations are not to be, or at least not on the scale that they likely would have been. However I am sure we can all celebrate in our own way, whether with direct memories of living through that period in our history or thankful for all those that came together in the face of adversity and shortages to protect the majority from the common enemy.

I wonder if, in 75 years' time, those still alive will be having similar celebrations over the defeat of Covid-19. Who will be seen as the victors and "bringers of peace"?

St. Andrew's was not unaffected by the war, as detailed in copies of the church magazine from the period, with the church's original Minister, Revd Henry Burns Jamieson, being called to act as a Chaplain to the armed forces. He was able to continue to send letters for a period and even make the occasional visit. The church also managed a celebration in the dedication and opening of the new church building on 22 February 1941, less than 9 years after the project was conceived. The dedication was performed by the Moderator of the Newcastle Presbytery and an address given by the original Moderator of St. Andrew's, Revd A. Thomson Ogilvie, with the first Sunday service the following day being led by the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England, Revd W.T. Elmslie.

Enjoy this edition of Newstand Lite, take care everyone and stay safe — God is with us!

Tim Cooke

'Walk the spiritual path with practical feet'

Omid Djalili

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monkseatonurc

Searching for the Holy Spirit

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that he was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to dwell in all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The usual word search rules — they can be across, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

No answer sheet for this one!

Ascension	Joy
Blessed	Praise
Taken	Confusion
Jerusalem	Languages
Wait	Earth
Prayer	Peter
Power	Holy
One	Spirit
Room	Trinity
Disciples	Father
Tongues	Son
Flame	Triune

G	E	N	T	F	N	E	L	W	E	E	A
I	A	F	L	A	M	E	C	M	O	O	R
L	E	T	N	K	R	R	E	Y	A	R	P
R	N	D	O	E	Y	L	O	H	E	T	E
I	O	E	I	N	A	H	M	T	R	R	T
T	I	Y	S	S	G	O	T	I	P	I	Y
E	S	O	U	P	C	U	N	R	R	U	S
S	N	R	F	W	R	I	E	I	A	N	L
T	E	R	N	A	T	N	P	S	I	E	N
J	C	J	O	Y	T	S	O	L	S	O	E
T	S	K	C	S	I	H	W	S	E	T	L
L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	S	E	S	I
R	T	E	W	B	W	D	R	R	O	P	F



Minister's Musings

Dear Friends,

It is rather splendid that we have the opportunity this month to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day, albeit it in more muted tones than the original. In 1945 people poured out of their houses and places of work to cheer and wave flags in jubilant exultation at the end of the Nazi threat. I'm wondering how many of you remember that from your childhood or adolescence. I would love to hear your memories.

It is particularly wonderful to remember this joyous triumph over a death-dealing enemy as we fight the very different, invisible global enemy of Covid-19. I draw comfort from the BBC advert where newsreaders tell me that there will come a time when they will report no more new cases and sports will resume and we will hug our loved ones. Someday we will prevail against this dreadful virus. We pray for it to be sooner rather than later.

In the meantime we do what we have to do, as our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents did. Whether it is sheltering at home to keep as many people virus-free as possible, sewing bags or masks for the NHS, shopping and delivering groceries for shut-ins, doing essential work (God bless key workers), teaching children at home or producing this newsletter (thanks, Tim & family!), every effort at keeping us well and connected is an expression of the Easter spirit. Life will prevail. Hope does not die. Love is the way.

One of the challenges of where we are now is that we can't imagine what the ultimate impacts of this war will be or what life will be like when we emerge from it. Businesses will have failed; people will have lost loved ones, their health or their jobs; whole industries may be reshaped. A new normal will emerge. Perhaps it has begun to emerge as we sit in a kind of enforced Time

"For the earth has begun to heal as we have curbed our relentless and voracious appetites and activities. Do we really want to return to the old normal? "

Out and consider the impact on the planet of the way we live. For the earth has begun to heal as we have curbed our relentless and voracious appetites and activities. Do we really want to return to the old normal? Is there a new normal that will enable us to live more sustainably and kindly on the earth and with each other? Are we willing to have the world turned

upside down to find it? Are we willing to change our ways?

On Friday 8 May at 3pm, as we raise a toast in our homes to the brave men and women who made victory in Europe possible – *to those who gave so much, we thank you* – let us be heartened to remember that someday we will be celebrating the defeat of this dreadful virus. May we also be able to grasp the possibilities for a new and better life for all that may arise in the aftermath.

In Christian love,

Carla

Church Offertory

Several people have asked me about what to do with the Church offertory. It's very kind of you to be concerned about this at present, and so I hope this will help.

Although the Church income has almost dried up, we are fortunate in that we have enough in our bank account to cover our expenses – which, although reduced, haven't gone away completely – for the near future. This means that I won't have to come collecting door to door from you, and sending in the bailiffs if you refuse to pay!

I can suggest three ways in which we can deal with the offertory.

If you are into internet banking, you can make a payment into the Church bank account. This need not be a standing order, but just a payment, or payments, as and when required. If you wish to pursue this, please call me on 0191-2513016 and I will tell you the bank details.



Secondly, you can write a cheque – to "St. Andrews United Reformed Church" – and post it to my address at 17 Kelso

Drive, North Shields, NE29 9NS. Personally, I am not in favour of this method, because sometimes things get lost in the post, and also I would need to make regular visits to the bank, and social distance myself in the queue.

My recommendation would be to make a note of how many weeks you

are 'owing', and then when we do begin our services again, hopefully in the not too distant future, you can make your offertory. If you have a set of the pink envelopes, this will help with the number of weeks we have been away from Church, but please, when we return, don't fill each one, as it will take a few hours for us to open them all!

I hope this helps,

Kevin Ames

Church Notice

I am sorry to report that Sylvia Parr died early on Thursday 23rd April. A family service of cremation was conducted by the Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller on Friday 1st May at Tynemouth Crematorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with John, Angela and all the family at this time.

I am also sorry to have to report the death of Albert Greenwood. Our thoughts and prayers are with Keith, Ian and the family at this time.

Ray Hammond

The URC has created a liturgy for people to use in their homes if they cannot attend the funeral of a family member or friend. It's on the URC website at <https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/Virtual-Funerals-2020.pdf>.

Tuesday Prayers—at 9:30

Let us come together and pray

Gathering Prayer

Lord, be with us at this time as we gather in our separate places, from different lives, concerns and hopes; yet we come as one, as people of a shared faith in a loving God who shared all. AMEN

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our journey in life does not always lead us to quiet calm places. Our journey often takes us on bumpy roads and difficult paths of fear and anxiety, selfishness and anger. Yet, when we stray from Your path, You seek us and welcome us back with open arms.

Merciful God forgive us and heal us, take us from here restored in our journey with You and with one another.

In the name of our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN

And let us say together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father Who art in heaven...
for thine is the kingdom
the power and the glory for ever and ever
AMEN

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God, You are our guide and shepherd, our rock and stronghold. We thank you for Your presence here as we bring our prayers of concern.

Loving God, as we approach Christian Aid Week, we pray for those across Your world who struggle to survive from natural disasters and economic injustice and also now strive to deal with a pandemic.

As we help near neighbours, let us stretch out in commitment and generosity to neighbours far away where support is needed even more at this time.

May they feel Your presence, steadfast love and support through Christian Aid and bless those who work tirelessly in that service.

Loving God, in these difficult times we pray for those in our nation who are struggling to feed their families; those fearful of violence and abuse behind closed doors; for the lonely and bereaved. Bless those who volunteer and counsel to help and support in these difficult situations.

May they feel Your presence and steadfast love.

Loving God, we pray for our nation on the 75th anniversary of peace after war. We pray in gratitude for those who gave their lives for us; and for those who remember, may they feel Your presence and steadfast love.

Loving God, we pray for ourselves, may we feel Your presence and steadfast love in these challenging times. Grant us Your grace, and through the Holy Spirit follow the Way, the Truth and the Life of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN

Blessing

Whoever we are...We are known to God.
Whatever we've done...We belong to God.

Wherever we go...We are loved by God
Every day, every moment...God is our friend.

When our way is joyful...God will rejoice with us.

When the going is tough...God will wipe away our tears.

We are God's people: we are held in love...Our hope is in the wonderment of God.

AMEN

Blessing from Fire & Bread, Ruth Burgess, amended

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team



The ramblings of an old, vulnerable woman.

Having received 3 editions of Newstand Lite, I felt as though I must put pen to paper (most of you know I'm not very skilled doing anything "online") to thank all of you who have contributed and put together this magazine. [Thanks to Lucy for transcribing Val's written word - Ed]

It's Sunday morning and so I have a slightly different routine to the rest of my week! I have read the recommended readings and also Carla's reflections. (Eh! Aren't we geet lucky to have her as our guide!) I must say I got great comfort in her words: "stay with us, Lord Jesus, for the day is long and the night is longer! Walk with us all the way into the future we cannot see". Inspiring and comforting words.

Sorry, I digress! Next on my Sunday morning agenda is having a coffee while preparing Sunday "lunch". Tragedy has struck this morning. The paper boy has yet to deliver my husband's paper – very intellectual?! – The Sunday Sun, which he only gets because it has, and still has, about 50 pages of sport. I can't quite get how the number of pages are still there, as there is of course, no sport!! We then go out for our hour exercise about 11am

(by the way Michael and I alternate days to choose our walking route).

Wonders never cease! Michael's just got his paper!! Peace, perfect peace!

Sorry, I've again been distracted! To continue – after we return from our promenading, I am given a nice schooner of sherry (it's got to be Croft Original). I then put the oven on for our meal. Today it's chicken. At 1.15pm I sit down and watch Songs of Praise, which I must confess, I haven't watched for years. At about 2pm, we eat lunch and it's a very sociable meal. I can't believe after 51 years of marriage we can still find things to talk about!

The rest of the day is a mixture of television and the reading of my Daily Telegraph (Saturday's edition) plus a quick 10 minutes of Michael's Sunday Sun. Perhaps if Tim finds these ramblings acceptable for the next editions I will put pen to paper again and tell you of my daily routine on a weekday. Having a routine is definitely a big help!

Well I must finish now as it's time for my coffee. To you all, "God Bless You" and "stay safe".

Valerie Taylor

Time for a Smile



A new boy turned up at a Sunday Club and the leader asked him a few questions to break the ice and ended with asking him what his father did. "He's a magician, sir," said the boy. "How interesting," said the leader, "What's his favourite trick - what is he really good at doing?" The boy replied, "He's very good at sawing people in half." The leader was impressed. "Now tell me something more about yourself, do you have any brothers and sisters?" asked the teacher. "Yes sir," replied Johnny, "I have one brother and two half sisters."

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Despite the current situation, Christian Aid Week will still take place and our support is needed. As a church, we will be unable to put on our usual fundraising events, but we thought you might still like to donate. If so, please send a cheque (no cash please) made payable to "Christian Aid" to Kevin, the Church Treasurer. If you usually Gift Aid your donation, please fill in and include the loose form that was included in the envelope your copy of Newstand Lite came in.

Kevin Ames
17 Kelso Drive
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About Derek

The cancellation (or was it postponement) of the Church AGM robbed us of the opportunities to expand on some of the written reports. For myself I wanted to add to my written thanks to Derek Stembridge for his service to St Andrew's as Treasurer of the Development Fund over the last sixteen years or so and from which he is standing down.

It all began when Church Members approved the establishment of a Development Team to deliver a major expansion, refurbishment and upgrading, creating church buildings fit for purpose in the 21st century. Derek's role, as "Mr Money" was crucial in achieving this and resulted in a project finishing on time, on budget and acknowledged by Members and users alike as "spot on".

He has continued his services to the Church since then in several guises, not only as auditor/checker of accounts, but as Finance Team Convener and, at special events, Door Keeper. I understand he is to retain this latter post, enjoying as he does the opportunity to interact with visitors attending events.

But enough of this! Derek is modest by nature and will no doubt be embarrassed when he reads this (I would be!). On behalf of St Andrews, I would simply like to say to him: thank you for your hard work, help and guidance.

Bill Hopper

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 and thoughts for this moment

Loving God, we come before you remembering
the sacrifice Jesus gave for us.

Help us at this strange time to use our time usefully,
whether it is in silent prayer, reading your word,
joining in with our favourite songs or smiling at a
stranger when we're out.

Using the words of a familiar hymn:

Father, I place into your hands
the things that I can't do.
Father, I place into your hands
the times that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.

Amen.

Val Taylor

(From Tear Fund)
God of love and light,
In this time of fear, give us your peace.
In this time of isolation, give us your presence.
In this time of sickness, give us your healing.
In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.
In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

(From the CofE website)
Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

