



March 2021

Volume 87 Issue 3

*Are we just following the same route, or could we follow Christ on a new path?*

Some of you will know that I've not been getting out much since Covid arrived and changed so much in our daily lives. There was the occasional attempt to go for a walk, but that didn't last more than a couple of days, especially if it was raining.

Having taken the school half-term as holiday from work, I made a commitment to get out at least once a day, with or without the rest of the family, and to keep it up once I started back to work. I'm pleased to say that I managed it — not too far mind; usually just over a mile — but I've been out every day of the week and have kept it up this week. Getting out before 8am has helped clear my head before starting another day's work in front of the computer and will hopefully improve my fitness too.

For most of the walks we (at least one other Cooke accompanied me each day) just headed out of the estate and across to the seafront before looping back home. Sometimes clockwise, sometimes anti-clockwise; sometimes going onto the beach, sometimes just walking on the promenade; sometimes cutting through the houses, sometimes sticking to the main roads. But generally we stuck to the same destination not deviating that much from the same route.

## Morning Walk

Distance	Elev Gain	Time
1.52 mi	8 ft	33m 58s



So tomorrow is going to be different — we'll head in the other direction, further inland, perhaps head North a bit, venturing into new territory. It won't be familiar, we may get a bit lost, but we'll be safe and have God by our side.

As we move into vacancy, we as a Church have the chance to venture into new territory, to go in a different direction or even just to make a few deviations from a familiar path. With God's help, that may attract a Minister who can fulfil the needs of our current membership and pastoral concerns, but also lead us on those new journeys and help us to grow both in our own faith and in our membership.

Stay safe everyone, God is with us!

Tim

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<http://standrewsmonseatonurc.org.uk>

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

## Activities Team

### Church Fair Fund

THANK YOU **so** much to the people who very kindly donated to the Church Fair Fund! So far an excellent amount of £745 has been raised. There is still time to donate if anyone so wishes, just give Kevin Ames a call to arrange a donation (251 3016).

### Poetry Evenings

We are grateful to Carole Moore for organising the popular Poetry Evenings on Zoom. They are being held monthly and the next one will take place on Wednesday 24th March at 6.30 pm. If you wish to take part, please e-mail Carole Moore on: carolemoore49@btinternet.com and she will send you the Zoom link.

### Springtime Raffle

Knowing how enthusiastic St Andrew's folk are in supporting raffles, the Activities Team has decided to hold a Springtime Raffle. Tickets at £1 for a strip of 5 can be ordered by calling Ann & Ray (252 3319) or Joan Blanchfield (296 1931) or if you are out and about ticket money can be dropped off at 3 Cauldwell Close. The draw will take place at the Easter Day Zoom Coffee Time. If anyone would like to donate a prize they can be collected, or dropped off at 3 Cauldwell Close, again just call Ann & Ray or Joan.

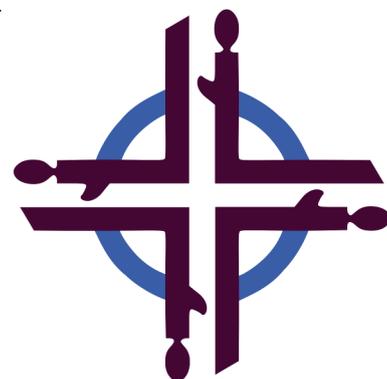
**Ann Hammond**

## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer takes place this year on Friday March 5th at 2pm. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu and is being hosted by St Paul's Whitley Bay.

As we cannot gather together in person St Paul's are going to record an abridged version of the service which will be available to view on You Tube on Friday 5th March at 2pm. An order of service will be provided and delivered to anyone who doesn't have access to You Tube.

Please watch the recording or follow your order of service at home so that we can come together to share worship with others throughout the world.



**Jenny Hooper**

Please do send in your feedback, amusing stories, photos, poems, prayers, thank you notes, reflections, book reviews, memories and anything else you think fitting to include in Newstand. They can be emailed to [standrewsnewstand@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsnewstand@gmail.com) or posted to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR

## A note from the Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

In this month's Newstand, I'd like to outline the work I'll be doing with you as we seek the next minister of St Andrew's. I've already met with the Elders and they are working to identify a small number of people who will form the "Pastorate Call Group" which is also sometimes called the "Vacancy Committee". They will undertake the majority of the work, and we'll report regularly to Elders and the Church Meeting.

The first step is to prepare 4 documents: a pastorate profile, a summary of that profile, a description of the kind of person we're looking for and finally a draft "terms of settlement" (the URC version of a pay and conditions document). Once that is done, Synod will formally start the process of inviting candidates to come forward. The summary profile will be posted on a national website (you can see them at <https://www.urc-eastern.org.uk/pastorate-profiles>) and in addition the Synod Moderators will meet regularly to match available congregations with ministers interested in a new pastorate.

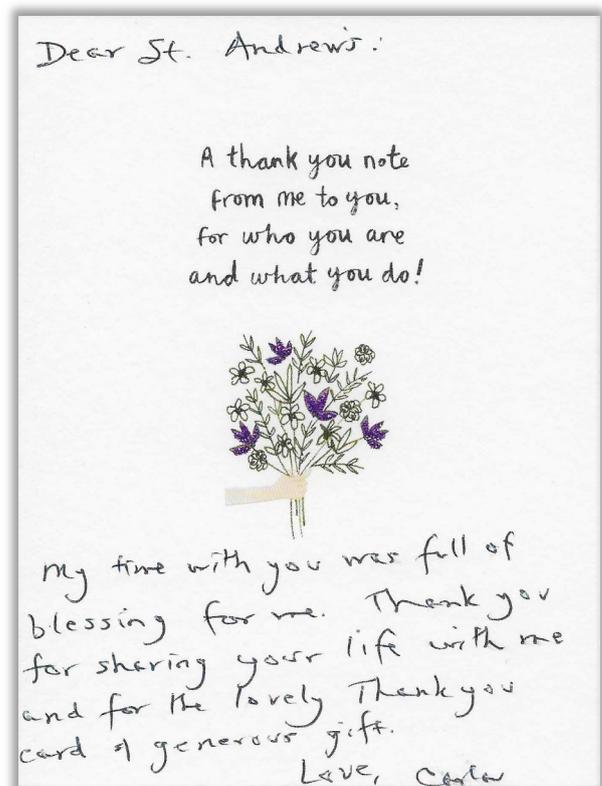
Once the names start to come forward, the Call Group will consider their details and may choose to meet with a candidate. This is a confidential step, and if it's decided that the match isn't good, nothing further will happen and we'll look at other candidates. This activity will be invisible to those outside the Call Group. If a meeting goes well, however, we will invite the candidate to visit for a weekend, meet the congregation and lead worship. It will then be for the Church Meeting to decide whether to issue a call to be the next minister, and it will be for the candidate to decide if they wish to accept that call.

My role has several parts. I am the link between the congregation and Northern Synod. I will lead the church through each step of the process and I will chair meetings of the Call Group. I may also chair meetings of the Elders or the Church Meeting provided that business of that meeting is the vacancy. For other meetings, there are members of the congregation who are very able to act as chair and I will leave them to do so. I will be the principal link between the congregation and any candidate, ensuring good communication.

I am excited to be working with you. I'm already struck by your faithfulness, your energy and the wide range of activity you undertake in God's name. I'm confident that high calibre candidates will come forward and, with God's help, we will reach the stage where a call is offered, accepted and it's our happy task to organise an induction service.

Yours in Christ,

**Andrew**



## Further ramblings of a vulnerable old woman

Well, hello again! I'm sitting in the conservatory which also acts as our dining room looking out into the back garden, with its 3-4 ins. of snow — idyllic scene — except I've just got a fright — the snow just landed on the conservatory roof from the main roof with some clatter!!!! Sorry I digress as usual!

Well, how are you folks? Had your "jab"? Hope you had no side effects!!! Let's hope it's a start of a journey through a dark tunnel, with a glimmer of light at the end!!!

We are moving on now, without Carla, but we mustn't be despondent. She has spent nearly 2 years with us, helping us to understand our situation and ourselves with regard to our faith journey. So come on, let us "gird up our loins" and use what we have learnt about ourselves and the Church at St. Andrews. Let it be a challenge, an adventure, even a journey, which might take us out of our comfort zone!!!!

Well that's enough of the serious stuff!!! I thought I'd just ramble on about my routine. I was instructed by my army son last year: "Now mother you must take each day as it comes. Get yourself into a routine and divide your day into sections". Huh! Smart Alec!!!???? But it's worked!!! Oh, yes, I'm not pretending some days I think negative thoughts!! But the pace of life has definitely slowed. My ability on the laptop has... erh... improved!!??? (I don't have to rely on Ann H. for printing out my prayers nor my Orders of Service, etc.) But when people start to remind me I could do this and that I suddenly feel very inadequate.!!???

Ooh, it's snowing again. This reminds me of a time about 3 weeks ago (during a 1st snowfall), when I was helping my youngest grand-daughter build 2 snowmen. She rolled a ball so big we couldn't lift it onto the base

of the 1st snowman, so we used the wheelbarrow to hoist the ball onto the base of the snowman!! I was "knackered" — oh am I supposed to use that word? [Yes, Val, I'll allow it - Ed.] Then this week I was



pulling her around on the sledge in between making snowballs for Toby to catch. Oh, Toby is their dog — he looks like an Old English Sheepdog with cut off legs (apparently he's a cross between a poodle and sheepdog).

Now you might be wondering about my horse (Harvey). Well, he's his normal miserable self!! I'm glad he can't speak — his looks to me say enough!!!! Because of the depth of the snow around the farm, I haven't been able to get up and see him, not that that will worry him!! As long as there is someone to feed him, muck him out and give him water, he'll be happy!!?? Ah, not quite — "happy" isn't in his vocabulary. The last time I went up to see him he was supposed to be shod, but sadly my blacksmith was taken ill. However I thought I would groom him (the horse). He wasn't impressed! I enjoy grooming, it's very therapeutic! Well I did his mane and tail as well as his body, cleaned out his feet and then decided to bathe his eyes — wrong idea! He turned around and nipped my hand!! I've still got the scar! I was told by one of my "flock", "Oh it would only be a love bite". Well I won't print what I thought of that idea????!!!! I'm hoping to go up this week as he has an appointment with his masseur! Eh! Arn't I good to him??

Oh well, I'd better stop rambling on! If you do read this in Newstand obviously Tim has vetted it --- shrugged his shoulders and thought, "Oh well, poor woman, we'll just print it as there is a space on a certain page". [your words, not mine, Val! Ed]

Bye for now! Stay Safe!! God Bless You ALL.

**Valerie**

## Prayers during Lent

### Prayer of Approach

When we are happy,  
when we are full of sadness;  
God welcomes us with love.

When we are bewildered,  
when we are full of questions;  
God welcomes us with love.

When we are joyful,  
when we are full of wonder;  
God welcomes us with  
love.

Wise and questioning,  
just and joyful;  
God is on the side of  
truth.

Wild and challenging,  
glorious and graceful;  
God is on the side of hope. AMEN

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious and patient God,  
forgive our ingratitude, our small-  
mindedness, our inability to see other sides  
and bind up our brokenness.  
We are without excuse, but bold to ask  
pardon from our Lord who gave his flesh  
and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.  
In silence let us bring our thoughts of where  
we have gone wrong...

And let us say the prayer that our Lord  
Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed  
be thy name; thy Kingdom come...

For thine is the kingdom, the power and  
the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

### Prayer of Intercession

Gracious God, you have called us to be  
Your people, people with a purpose,  
travelling to where we are led, travelling

without a map but sustained by the Holy  
Spirit.

You have called us to be Your people, to  
be Your church, but we are often beset by  
problems, too strong for the weak, too  
respectable for the poor, too divided for  
mission, too unsure of our message to  
speak to the world.

Move us on our journey from where we are  
to where You want us to go.

Open our eyes on the way to the people  
of different cultures, to  
the people with different  
needs, to the people  
who are suffering with  
pain and loss.

Take us on our journey  
from where we are to  
where You want us to be, so that we are a  
community where all are welcome, all are  
valued and all are encouraged.

Lead us on our journey from who we are to  
who You want us to be, so that patience is  
shown, kindness is handed out,  
compassion flows through us, truth is  
second nature to us and the commitment  
of love is part of us.

Let us go on the journey towards Easter,  
the journey to the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, and let us journey  
in the peace and the power of the Spirit.

We offer these prayers in the Name of Your  
Son our Lord Jesus Christ AMEN

### Blessing

God, be with us on our journey.

Jesus, guide us in Your love

on our journey as Your people. AMEN

*Submitted by the Hope 4 Team*

*(Drawn from Eggs & Ashes,  
Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill & amended)*



## 'Taste and see' Stepwise through webinar series



Find out more about Stepwise, what it is, who it's for, and how it can help you develop your discipleship and faith journey through a series of five webinars.

Each webinar will focus on one of the five Stepwise streams, beginning with Faith-filled Life, the starting point for the other streams. You can pick the one that interests you or attend them all – the choice is yours.

The series begins on 23 February with Faith-filled Life, followed by:

9 March	Faith-filled Worship
23 March	Faith-filled Community
13 April	Faith-fuelled Leadership
27 April	Faith-filled Confidence

All webinars in the series begin at 7pm and will last no longer than one hour.

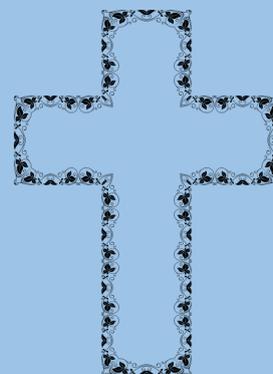
Revd David Salsbury, Stepwise Programme Manager, said: "Stepwise is a resource for the whole church. It is interactive and intergenerational offering something for everyone who wants to develop their faith. These webinars are an opportunity to discover how Stepwise can inspire you and deepen your discipleship".

To register, please email the Stepwise team and you will be sent the Zoom log on details.

For more contact details, information about the streams and how the programme works, visit the dedicated webpage: <https://urc.org.uk/introducing-stepwise.html>

## Church Register

**Death** SCRAFTON John Grant, aged 88 years,  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.  
Service and committal at Whitley Bay  
on 24<sup>th</sup> February, conducted by  
Revd Gordon Connacher.



## Church Calendar for March

**Sunday services are via Zoom and YouTube, and followed by coffee time on Zoom.  
Mid-week services by Zoom only and also followed by coffee time.**

Tuesday	2	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
Friday	5	Executive Team Meeting (via Zoom)	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Communion Service: Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Tuesday	9	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
Thursday	11	Elders' Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Morning Worship: Mrs Lucy Cooke</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Tuesday	16	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
		Worship Group Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Tuesday	23	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship</b>	10.00 am
		Poetry Evening (via Zoom)	6.30 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Morning Worship: Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Tuesday	30	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am

### From our Book of Remembrance

Please remember in your prayers this month those who have gone before us.

Baby Holborn  
 Stuart Mackay Adamson  
 Jenny Evelyn Merrick  
 Edna Thwaites  
 Ann Mitchell Young  
 James Alexander Murphy  
 Arthur Parr  
 Constance Mary Lisle



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Submissions by post to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR,  
 or email to [standrewsnewstand@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsnewstand@gmail.com) no later than 22nd March

# Prayers, thoughts and poems for this moment

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

*From the regular Coronavirus briefing  
by the Diocese of Chester:*

Lord Jesus, we pray today that you will come to us in all our anxiety and uncertainty, our sorrows and despair, and in our loneliness and isolation.

Come through the walls and doors that separate us from one another and from you.

Help us not to be afraid but to trust in your goodness and love.

We know that you are always with us, so lift our weary hearts so that we might give you praise.

Be with us as you promised your disciples so long ago in Galilee, now and always, even to the end of the age.

*Rev Dr Craig Phillips, Arlington, Virginia,  
Episcopal Church of the USA*

We bear witness to our faith, knowing that we are called to lives of courage, love, and reconciliation.

In the ordinary and extraordinary moments of each day, may we be courageous today.

May we learn today. May we love today. Amen.

*A prayer of courage  
Corymeela Community, Northern Ireland*

