



May 2021

Volume 87 Issue 5

Were you listening?

Did you hear a familiar voice?

Words that perhaps could have been spoken by the disciples when Jesus returned to them and when they were given the ability to speak in tongues, to be heard by the peoples of all nations as they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, one of the great events that we remember and celebrate during the period after Easter.

However, in this case I'm referring to my own voice that you may have heard if you listen to Scala Radio and in particular to Mark Forrest's show at just before 12:30pm on Monday 18 April. Having heard Eric Whitaker's "Sleep" performed by The Sixteen many, many times the previous week, I emailed in to ask if Mark would play what I consider to be an even better version sung by Voces8, who are also one of our favourite choral groups. I was surprised to be contacted by one of the production team for Mark's show and further delighted to be able to speak with him to record a short piece about life in Blyth and working for the NHS during the pandemic before he graciously played the piece. If you aren't familiar with it, the words on are on back page and I am sure many will empathise with the sentiment when you are having difficulty sleeping.

It's not just my voice that is to be heard though, for all the Cooke family have been involved in a project for Newcastle Cathedral that will see long departed people, who are immortalised in the ledger stones (grave covers) that have been relocated as part of the Cathedral's renovation work, brought back to life. I'll not give too much away, suffice to say it will be a real *son et lumiere* that you'll be able to enjoy once the Cathedral re-opens in early June.

That said, some words uttered by one of those people are "Happen you'll have a think about how you would like to be remembered". Perhaps now is the time for all of us to think on that as the direction of the church is being decided in preparation for us seeking a new Minister, and how future generations will remember St. Andrew's and its Christian mission.

It will be good to see at least some of you back in church from the start of May. Until then, or whenever we get to meet in person, take care and remember — God is with us!

Tim

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

Activities Team

Springtime Raffle – We had a wonderful response to the Springtime Raffle. THANK YOU so much to those who donated prizes and also the people who bought raffle tickets. A splendid amount of £330 was raised for church funds and charity.

Poetry Evening – Carole Moore is once again kindly organising a Poetry Evening on Zoom on Wednesday 19th May at 6.30 pm. If you are interested please e-mail Carole Moore on: carolemoore49@btinternet.com and she will send you the Zoom link.

Books! We have a good selection of books now in the Minor Hall which will be available to purchase, with appropriate social distancing, once the church reopens on Sunday 2nd May. If anyone would like to see the books at any other time, just give Ann or Ray a telephone call to book a viewing (Tel. 252 3319 or 07866 690604).

With restrictions slowly lifting it's hoped that we may, in the not too distant future, be able to meet face to face at social events but in the meantime stay safe and well.

Ann Hammond

Christian Aid Week – May 10th. To May 16th.

It is nearly time for this year's Christian Aid Week, and the re-opening of St. Andrew's on May 2nd is very good timing. Envelopes will be available in the Church for any donations. If you are unable to attend the services during early May, but would still like to donate towards Christian Aid, then cheques can be sent to us at the address below. Using this method last year, when the Church was closed in May, we managed to collect over £500 with postal donations. Please make your cheque payable to 'Christian Aid'.

Alternatively, you can make a bank transfer, as several people have been doing for their offertory. This should be made to the usual Church bank account, but with 'Christian Aid' as the reference.

Thank you in advance,



Sue and Kevin Ames
17 Kelso Drive
North Shields
NE29 9NS

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 or posted to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR

Return to Worship — Sunday 2nd May 2021

Sunday Services

Good news! We are planning to return for congregational worship on Sunday 2nd May at 11.00 am.

The worship will be led by Mrs. Valerie Taylor.

Please be aware,

it has still to be very different. Arrangements will be the same as in September and October last year and the requirements concerning 'social distancing' and the wearing of masks will still apply. You will remember that this allows for approximately 34 people to attend in the church with the Main Hall available for any 'overflow'.

Conditions applying to opening are:

- The sacrament of Holy Communion will not be available on 2nd May 2021.
- Services will last around 30 to 35 minutes.
- Pre-booking will, initially, be essential. Telephone Ann & Ray Hammond 0191 252 3319 or 07866 690604 on Saturday 1st May and each subsequent Saturday.
- There will be no collection of offerings during the service; donation bowls will be available at entrance and exit points.
- Social distancing of 2 metres should be adhered to when approaching the church and inside.
- Face masks must be worn and masks will be available if required
- On entering the building hand sanitiser should be used and you will then be 'checked in'.



- You will go straight into the church.
- There will be no choice of seats, we will fill up from the front.
- At present there will be no singing.
- At the end of the service you will leave by the Woodleigh Road door, following the organist and minister or worship leader.
- Toilets will be available.

We will endeavour to arrange seating to accommodate couples or families and if numbers wishing to attend exceed those allowed in the church the 'overflow' in the Main Hall will be available. Services will continue to be streamed on Zoom and YouTube and also hard copies will be available for those unable to attend.

Mid-week Service

At the present time the mid-week service on Wednesdays at 10.00 am will continue to be via Zoom. There is a Zoom 'coffee time' which follows this service.

We hope to see you in May. Take care and keep safe

Ray

For a sneak-peak inside (and over) the church, check the Monkseaton URC YouTube channel!

Stewards wanted!

Would you consider being a Steward? **Under normal circumstances**, it involves being on duty (with another Steward) for each Sunday in one month per year, giving out the hymnbooks and Orders of Service as worshippers arrive, taking up the offering during the service, and collecting in the hymnbooks as worshippers leave. After the service, one of the Stewards also helps with the recording of the Gift Aid contributions. **At present, while Covid-19 restrictions are in place**, the duties are different, as there are no hymnbooks or Orders of Service to give out, worshippers place their own offering in the bowls as they enter or leave, and it is not necessary to help with recording the Gift Aid contributions. Instead, the Stewards guide worshippers to a seat, ensure that social distancing requirements and the one-way system are adhered to, direct people to the correct exit at the end of the service, and assist with the sanitisation of doors, lectern, pulpit, etc., before leaving.

Occasionally there may be the need to help out on an extra Sunday, or you may be asked if you would be prepared to swap with another Steward to cover holiday periods, etc. The events of the last year have resulted in a shortage of Stewards, so if you think you can help, or would like further information, please let me know. Thank you!

Carole Mallett

St Andrew's Bible Study Group

Our next bible study will begin on Tuesday April 27th 10.30-11.30 am by Zoom.

Following on from our last study about the last week of Jesus's life we have decided to study the first 12 chapters of Acts. Written by Luke, Acts describes the founding of the Christian Church and the spread of its message across the Roman Empire. It begins with the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. There will be lots to learn and interesting questions to discuss.

We plan to cover two chapters of Acts each week for six weeks, up to and including Tuesday June 1st. There will be no book to read, other than your bible. Ann and I will prepare discussion questions in advance and circulate these by email a few days before each meeting.

About 16 of us enjoyed the last study group, challenging at times, but an interesting time of fellowship together and learning more about our faith. I will send the information to all of those who were in the group before Easter, but if you would like to join in for the first time please contact either of us (details below) and we will email you the information. You will be very welcome. There will be no pressure to contribute, just listen if you prefer. We do hope that you will think about joining us. Looking forward to getting started again on the 27th April.

Ann Sinclair (eansinclair@fiscali.co.uk)

Alison Mood (alison.mood@talktalk.net)

Wednesday Prayers at 10 for Pentecost

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like a rush of



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and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.'

Acts 2 1-4 (NRSV)

Opening Sentences

Come, Holy Spirit, blow among us
as we celebrate Your calling us out
to be the people of God.

Come, Holy Spirit, rain upon us
as we celebrate your showering of gifts
on the people of God.

Come, Holy Spirit, shine between us
as we celebrate your awakening us to the
vision
of all people on earth as the Church of God.
AMEN

An affirmation for Pentecost

We believe in a loving God,
whose Word sustains our lives
and the work of our hands in the world.
GOD IS LIFE.

We believe in God's Son amongst us,
sowing the seed of life's renewal.
He lived with the poor
to show the meaning of love.
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life,
making us one with God,
renewing our strength with Her own.
THE SPIRIT IS LOVE.
AMEN

And let us say the Prayer Jesus taught His disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of Concern

Spirit of the Living God, in the quiet we hold before You those who are ill and anxious, those dealing with confusion and pain and ask You to give them peace:

Silence

Spirit of the Living God, in the quiet we hold before you those who mourn the loss of a loved one, and ask You to comfort them:

Silence

Spirit of the Living God, in the quiet we hold before You those in our communities who feel isolated and excluded:

Silence

Spirit of the Living God, in the quiet we hold before You those struggling with the loss of employment striving to care for their families:

Silence

Spirit of the Living God, open our eyes to the needful tasks that are around us and our abilities to meet the challenges, guide us along the right paths to fulfil Your calling to us.

We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN

Concluding words

Bright God of life, burn in our lives,
warm us with courage and joy,
and fill us with the Holy Spirit all the days of our journey home.
AMEN

*From Fire & Bread, Ruth Burgess and amended
Submitted by Hope 4 Team*

The Wedding that was Bewitched

This is the story of our wedding day, the 31st October.

It had all started with my wedding ring. The one I chose split when they were engraving it!

They hadn't got another the same, so I had to choose a different one!!

On the day of our wedding I got to the hairdressers just to be told they hadn't got an appointment booked for me!!

However, they would fit me in. I got back home with half an hour to get ready before the car came (my mother was going spare), but I got ready, and was at the church for 3 pm. I waited at the door with my uncle, bridesmaids and little flower girls for half an hour, not knowing what was wrong. Then the Beadle came to tell me there was a problem! He went away and came back again about five minutes later, to say the minister wanted to see me in his chambers. I went through, to find Jim and the best man looking grim!! "Sit down", Mr Yule (the minister) said, "I am sorry to say you can't get married today as you haven't got your wedding lines". They were read three times in church and had to be handed in to the Registrar's office, but as I was working up to the night before I got married, Ken (Jim's best man) said he would do it. He then forgot to pick them up again!! Mr Yule said it would be illegal to go ahead without them. He said for us to go to the hotel, have our reception, and come back on Monday!! Well, we couldn't believe it! So we were let out the back of the church to avoid all the

children who were waiting for the "pour out" and we couldn't face that! We got to the hotel – they knew something was wrong as we were so late. They took us to a room by ourselves and gave us a brandy, to give us five minutes before we faced the guests and meal. With red eyes I sat with Jim at the top table and we tried to eat our meal. Then Ken read out the telegrams. Then we cut the cake. Everyone was so sorry. Anyway, the band came and dancing started. But unknown to either of us, Jim's brother and my brother in law had left to try and get the phone number of the Registrar officer's house, which they did. When his wife heard the story, she told them he was playing golf and where it was. So they set off, and everyone who came off the 18th green was asked, "Are you Mr McLeod?" until at last they found him. Fortunately, he said he would come back into Edinburgh and open the office and we got our lines!

Again, we didn't know our cars and bus had stayed, and we all went back to the church where at 8 pm we were married!! When we came out of church there were a lot of photographers and guisers there, as it was Halloween. They put a guiser on each side of us, and the Sunday papers read 'The Wedding that was Bewitched'. They came from all over Scotland for the wedding that was bewitched and so the story goes on!! But in the Sunday Post a few years later it said that if you were married after 6 pm on a Saturday you weren't legally married!!!

So I don't know!!??

Carol Turnbull

There is much more to the number seven than being lucky

Seven is the world's most popular lucky number, but the Bible reveals that it is one of God's numbers that are a feature of his creation – others include three, 12 and 40.

Seven is also held in high esteem in other cultures, for example, there are the seven heavens of Judaism and Islam, the seven elements in the Chinese world, and it's why the traditional Jewish menorah has seven candle sticks, and why Muslims walk seven times around the holy Kaaba in Mecca. Then we have the seven deadly sins. There are also many natural features of the world where seven plays a part — surfers will tell you they surf in sets of seven waves, there are seven colours in a rainbow, and seven continents of the world.

In the Bible, seven is mentioned over 700 times. God created the world in six days, and when his work was complete, he rested on the seventh day, thus seven is a symbol of completeness.

In the Gospel of John, we find the seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus. For the Jewish people 'I am' was the sacred name for God — in Hebrew YHWH. God told Moses his name in Exodus 3:13-15 - 'I am who I am and will be'.

John also writes of Christ's completeness demonstrated to the world through the seven signs of Christ, while Revelation is full of events and objects that appear seven times.

It is generally accepted that the ultimate completeness is seven times seven, that is,

49. Before his crucifixion Jesus told his disciples that God would send the Holy Spirit to guide and support them. Jesus was crucified just before the Jewish Passover when Jews from around the world were visiting Jerusalem. Most of them stayed there for the next seven weeks, after which, on the 50th day, there would be the feast day of Shavuot which was a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. It came to be known as Pentecost, a name derived from the Greek 'Pentēkostē' which means fiftieth.

It was on this feast day that the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, arrived and filled the disciples with the wisdom, knowledge and courage to persuade others to join them in living in the way of Jesus. It was perfect timing. Tens of thousands of people in Jerusalem witnessed the event and large numbers became followers of the risen Christ before returning to their homelands with the good news. New churches sprang up throughout the world.

The work of Jesus on earth was fully completed 49 days after his crucifixion and resurrection at Easter. Surely this must be the ultimate example of why seven is much more than a lucky number. It was part of God's plan for the world. Seven is clearly His number that reveals His completeness in all things physical and spiritual. –

Written by Bob Peters, Vice-chairman of the Association for Church Editors and is used with permission

Recipe of the month:

White Chocolate

Pentecost Cake

Traditionally white is the colour of Pentecost and was worn by all those being confirmed on that Sunday, hence the other popular name for Pentecost, Whitsunday. Ideally, you need an American-style white cake to represent Whitsunday or Pentecost Sunday. White cake mixes are available online — search for 'Betty Crocker's Super Moist White Cake Mix' and make the cake according to the instructions. Alternatively, you could use a Victoria Sandwich cake.

To decorate your cake (see picture, right) you need:

- White frosting to represent Whitsunday or Pentecost
- A large candle for the centre to represent Christ our Light, who promised to send the Holy Spirit
- 12 Birthday candles to represent the 12 Apostles and the tongues of fire.
- Seven red hearts made from icing to represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord
- 12 strawberries to represent the 12 fruits of the spirit according to the ancient Latin translation of the Bible. These are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.



Before serving the cake, light all the candles and let everyone blow them out together to make the 'mighty wind' of Pentecost!

Serve with vanilla (white) ice cream and more strawberries!

You realise you are getting old, because
when you were in school history was called current affairs.

You shouldn't wait for opportunity to knock at your door; you might not be at home.

Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift –
is that why we call it the present?

God is: Our Invisible Friend

We live in a 'physical' age. If something cannot be physically examined, it is quickly dismissed as nonsense. Many believe humans don't have souls. To them, those invisible spiritual traits of personality, self-awareness, dreams and love are simply a precise balance of chemicals, ions and memory association cells – nothing more.

As for God, though science sees a complex design behind everything in creation, many dismiss Him as nonsense because the Infinity Creator of the universe doesn't fit conveniently on an examination table. If something can't stand up to the scrutiny of examination – it probably doesn't exist.

As Christians, we proclaim to the world that we have an Invisible Friend. To a world that has become deaf to God's call and blind to His presence, it is easy to understand that many may think we are crazy. All they see is a bunch of nutty people talking (praying) and responding (Christian Service) to the demands of their Invisible Friend. This is where many Christians may be tested to deny God. Even when we hear His whisper-quiet voice and feel His presence, we ignore our Invisible Friend because we don't want the world to consider us insane. But we must remember, the day is coming when we all will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and our once Invisible Friend will be visible to all (Rev 1:7). How will we respond when Christ questions:



How can we possibly embrace our omnipresent God?

'I have always been a Good Friend to you and faithfully stood by your side - but what sort of a friend were you to Me? Did you stand by Me?' Our reply will seem quite feeble if we say, 'Sorry Lord – I was embarrassed. I didn't want people thinking me silly for acknowledging You!'

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

**Text and illustration credit: Ian Coate
freechristianillustrations.com**

'Thank you to Catriona and Joan and the Flower Committee for the lovely flowers. Such a kind thought is special at any time, but especially so when you are confined by both Covid and a bad back!'

Iain Ord

Northern Synod Prayer Diary—May 2021

2	Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner, Dr Ann Sinclair, and our resource of lay preachers across our Synod.
9	The work of Christian Aid and those congregations supporting Christian Aid partners through Commitment for Life in Bangladesh, South America, Israel and The Occupied Palestinian Territories, and for generous giving during Christian Aid Week (9-15 May).
16	Grindon Mission Project; Boldon URC; Stockton Road URC, Sunderland; Roker URC; Revd David Whiting; CRCW Alison Dalton.
23	Mr. Matt Knowles, our Synod's Safeguarding Advisor shared with Yorkshire Synod.
30	Those training for the ministry from Northern Synod: Felicity Tunnard, Lisa Wilson, Louise Sanders and Roberta Ritson.

From our Book of Remembrance

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

Annie Adamson Saunders	John Williams
Dr. James Fraser M.B.Ch.B.	Elizabeth Carmen Patterson
Vera W. B. Heighton	Janet Norrie Caldwell
Stanley & Margaret Joyce Ord	Frank Packer
Peter Hawkins Morley	John Blaney Walton
Margaret (Peggy) Thomson Smith	Bill Waugh

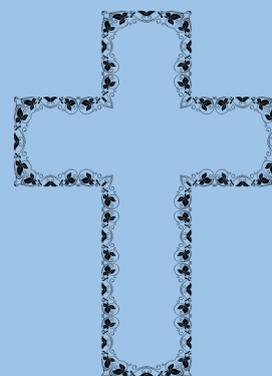


Church Register

DEATH

KYNOCH

Jeanne, aged 97 years,
on 25th March 2021.
The funeral took place
at Tynemouth on 6th April.



Church Calendar for May

NOTE: Sunday services will no longer be followed by Zoom coffee time, but will still be broadcast via Zoom and YouTube for those not able to attend in person.

Sunday	2	Morning Worship (in church, but no Communion): Mrs. Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Tuesday	4	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
Wednesday	5	Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)	10.00 am
Friday	7	Executive Team Meeting (via Zoom)	10.00 am
Sunday	9	Morning Worship (in church): Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Tuesday	11	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
		Pastorate Call Group Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
Wednesday	12	Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)	10.00 am
Thursday	13	Elders' Meeting (via zoom)	7.00 pm
Sunday	16	Morning Worship (in church): Mrs. Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Tuesday	18	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
		Worship Group Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
Wednesday	19	Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)	10.00 am
		Poetry Evening (via Zoom) <i>Details on page 2</i>	6.30 pm
Sunday	23	Morning Worship (in church): Mrs. Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Tuesday	25	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
Wednesday	26	Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)	10.00 am
Sunday	30	Morning Worship (in church): Revd Ron Forster	11.00 am

“Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

Dale Carnegie

June Newstand published Sunday 30th May.

Submissions by post to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR,
or email to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com no later than 24th May.

Prayers, thoughts and poems for this moment

Bring us, O Lord God

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heav'n:
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but
one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one
equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but
one equal eternity; in the habitation of thy glory
and dominion, world without end. Amen.

*Words by John Donne
Sung as an anthem to music by WH Harris*

Sleep

The evening hangs beneath the moon,
A silver thread on darkened dune.
With closing eyes and resting head
I know that sleep is coming soon.
Upon my pillow, safe in bed,
A thousand pictures fill my head.
I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.
If there are noises in the night,
A frightening shadow, flickering light,
Then I surrender unto sleep,
Where clouds of dream give second sight,
What dreams may come, both dark and deep,
Of flying wings and soaring leap
As I surrender unto sleep,
As I surrender unto sleep.

*Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri
Set to music by Eric Whitacre*

