



June 2021

Volume 87 Issue 6

Happy early summer to you all! It has been great to see at least some of you back in church in recent weeks and I hope that even more of you will be able to return as restrictions are lifted (especially the one about singing, so I don't need to keep finding hymns for you to listen to!). That said, I also hope that we can continue to stream services both for those who are unwilling or unable to get to church, and for those from further afield who have been joining in with our worship. That's all part of getting God's message out there and connecting with the disconnected — it doesn't all revolve around getting physically out into the community, though that is still a big part of outreach.

Getting out there is something that Lucy has been doing during May as part of her weight loss and fitness journey. On 1st May



she set out to cycle 100 miles in 30 days to raise funds for Alzheimer's Society (something close to both our hearts due to my

Dad living with mixed dementia). On day 22, she hit that 100 miles spot on Blyth seafront. She set a target of raising £300 but through some very generous donations has smashed that target and, so far, raised over £600. It was great to be able to greet her on the seafront and get a photo of her with her winner's medal. If you would like to donate you can either do that online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cyclefordementia-lucycooke> or pass it on when at church or send by post.

I hope that you've all had your Covid vaccinations now and are able to get out and about. If you are, please do let us know what you are up to and take some photos too if you can — it's a great way to bring some cheer to those less able to go out. I had my second jab last Monday and had no ill effects at all, so good on my immune system for preparing itself on the first dose! If you had a bad reaction to your second dose, I hope that you're fully recovered now. It's a long road, but I am sure we will be able to get back to the new normal very soon.

And with that I will leave you to turn the page and hopefully enjoy the rest of this month's edition of Newstand.

Take care everyone — God is with us!

Tim

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

## St. Andrew's 100 Club

The 100 Club has been suspended since 2020 due to the Covid 19 Virus. However since lockdown restrictions are slowly being lifted the Activities Team would like to offer the opportunity to restart the 100 Club from September 2021. This, of course, is subject to there being sufficient support to make the Club financially worthwhile. Would you please, therefore, let me know whether or not you are interested in taking part.

I look forward to hearing from you,



**Kathleen Hopper**  
**Tel No: 01912522345**

## A new venture: Play reading at St Andrew's

We would like to set up a play reading group with meetings to be (hopefully) held in the church hall later in the year.

A short meeting to discuss starting such a group at St Andrew's will be held **via Zoom at 7.00 p.m. on 30<sup>th</sup>**

**June**

Our first meeting will determine the format of the group, so any ideas you have to make this a success will be most welcome e.g. a small committee to select the plays, individuals willing to collect the play sets from the library, how often the group should meet, etc.

If interested, please send your name and e-mail details to: either Carole Moore [carolemoore49@btinternet.com](mailto:carolemoore49@btinternet.com) or Carole Mallett: [carole.54@btinternet.com](mailto:carole.54@btinternet.com).

You will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting to discuss the setting up of such a group.



May I thank Kathleen Hopper and Joan Blanchfield for the flowers they left for me via Margaret Park on Sunday March 28th, as at the time I was in hospital. I was discharged on the Tuesday, so Margaret had arranged them in a vase in my lounge for me to come home to. I would also wish to say how grateful I am to each and every one of you who have enquired regarding my health.

May God bless you all.

**Joan Polkinghorn**

# Wednesday Prayers at 10

## Prayers in Times of Waiting and Uncertainty



### **Prayer of Approach**

*Loving God, we come before You humbly, to be still, in prayer:*

### **Prayer in Times of Change**

God of those who falter:  
give us grace in our uncertainty;  
give us courage  
to persist in choosing you  
over and above all else;  
to keep on risking vulnerable love;  
to keep on keeping the faith. **AMEN**

### **The Importance of Waiting**

Perhaps we never thought about the importance of waiting.  
When time seems to stand still;  
when nothing seems to be going anywhere.  
Perhaps we never thought about looking at the waiting, searching for clues to help us be prepared, be ready, for what is about to come.  
Perhaps we wondered about praying in the waiting but didn't have the words, and thought our despair not worthy.  
'Comfort, O comfort my people', says God into our waiting.  
'I give you a light,  
a light that will shine in the darkness,  
and the darkness shall not overcome it.'  
We will hold hope in our waiting.  
Hope that the time of waiting  
will pass with peace,  
will look forward with a glimpse of joy,

will draw us nearer to the arms of the loving God,  
who brings light,  
who brings life. **AMEN**

### **In the Prayer that our Lord 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 Intercession**

Gracious God, in these times of uncertainty and waiting,  
we bring to You all people across the world  
who are suffering the terrible consequences of war;  
we pray for the peacemakers and those in positions  
of authority to bring a lasting peace.

Gracious God, we hold before You the church  
around the world,  
for those who are persecuted for their faith,  
and those who are committed to take out Your  
Word.

Bless them and give them strength and confidence.  
Gracious God, we hold before You people across  
the world afflicted by Covid 19.  
We ask Your blessings on medical staff caring  
and scientists developing vaccines to bring healing  
and hope.

Gracious God, we hold before You those in our  
local community:  
those who are in times of waiting: for medical tests  
or results, for healing and support; for those who  
have lost loved ones;  
we ask Your blessings on them for healing, comfort  
and strength.

We pray for ourselves:  
in times of waiting, give us confidence and  
strength, and acceptance of situations we cannot  
change. Gracious God, give us vision and focus in  
our new beginnings and our journeys, with the  
promise of Your presence in hope and  
encouragement.

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

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team  
*Inspiration from Bare Feet & Buttercups & altered.*

## A new venture: St Andrew's Book Club

Are you an avid reader?

Would you like to discuss what you read?

Reading is a solitary activity, but when a book has moved or stimulated you it's natural to want to discuss it with someone else. A reading group gives you that opportunity and encourages you to think a bit more about the books you read - why you like some and hate others.



The first meeting will be **via Zoom on Thursday, 17th June at 2.00 pm** but we are hoping that in the future meetings will be held monthly in the church and hopefully introduced by the person who suggested the book for that month.

Our first meeting will determine the shape of the book group going forward, so any ideas you have to make this a success will be most welcome. To start, we could discuss how the book should be chosen each month, the best day and time for the meeting, and then perhaps what might be discussed about the chosen book, e.g.:

- your reaction to the book - did you love it, loathe it or remain indifferent to it? Why?
- what is the book really about (its themes).
- whether the characters are real for you? Who do you sympathise with?
- whether the book has a message? What does it tell you about the author?
- if you want to read more by the same author?
- if it's a prize-winner, did it deserve to be?

All enquiries to: [carolemoore49@btinternet.com](mailto:carolemoore49@btinternet.com). She will send you a link to the first Zoom meeting to discuss the setting up of such a group.

Thank you to Joan Blanchfield and Kathleen Hopper who surprised me on Palm Sunday with a lovely bunch of flowers. It was nice to see the ladies and to have a doorstep chat.

Thank you also to Sophie for her interesting article and lovely photographs showing us that, even in these difficult times, God shares with us his beautiful nature, inspiring us to keep going and stay strong. More photos please, Sophie!

Take care everyone and stay safe.

**Margaret Park**

I would like to thank all those who have helped me during the closure of the church, those who have done my shopping and those who I have phoned during the past few months.

Thank You.

**Harry Lowrie**

## Northern Synod Children's and Youth Work Committee



The committee has been asked to put forward a plan for pioneer work with children, young people and families in the Synod, so that we can develop our churches for today's and tomorrow's world. This is a great opportunity to be creative in our ideas and your views and ideas are being sought for consideration.

Some of the ideas so far have been to set up family centres/hubs, making use of church buildings, using sessional workers to build up life skills such as cooking, giving mental health support, supporting students who struggle at school, supporting families who have children with additional needs, taking faith into schools, running mid-week clubs etc.

Specialist workers would be paid to carry out this work, possibly with some support from volunteers. It is not about putting bums on seats in church, but about reaching out to the community.

At the moment, we are just looking for ideas. If you have any thoughts that you would like to be discussed, please contact me (I am on the committee):

Sue Ames, email: [susan\\_ames@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_ames@hotmail.com) Tel 0191 2513016

Or you can contact one of the following:

Children's Work Advisor, [Hannah.middleton@urc-northernsynod](mailto:Hannah.middleton@urc-northernsynod)

Youth Work Advisor, [john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod](mailto:john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod).

**Sue Ames**

### A great contribution!

Many thanks to everyone who donated so generously to this year's Christian Aid Week appeal. We are pleased to be able to report that our church raised a total of £500. Thank you.



**Sue & Kevin Ames.**



Author: Rene "Dikko" Dikkenberg  
<https://freecristianillustrations.com>

## Northern Synod Prayer Diary — June 2021

6	Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Gosforth; Revd Peter Holwell (Methodist) retiring this summer; and Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District, Revd Stephen Lindridge.
13	PCM, the churches in the Limpopo presbyteries in and around Gaza Province. The Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Berwick, the Rt Revd Mark Wroe. Refugee Week 15-21 June.
20	Revd David Haslam, Chaplain, RAF Boulmer; all military chaplains. Congregations that have closed in the last year, and visions of new beginnings.
27	St Columba's URC, Billingham; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Work Minister); Stockton URC; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St George's URC, Hartlepool; Revd Sue Fender.

### From our Book of Remembrance

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

Katherine Kay Quinn  
Jean Bell  
Hector Jewels  
Tom Murphy  
Jenny Murphy  
Mildred Adamson

Kathleen Louise Fraser  
Kenneth Walton  
John Burnett – White  
Sheila McFarlane  
Robert Wray Taylor  
Margaret Victoria Taylor



### A few more jokes from the magazine of St. Michael's Parish Church in Macclesfield (via Carole Mallett)

I finally made it! Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.  
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

I went down to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

Said the hairdresser to the client, "Cancelled any nice holidays this year?"

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Submissions in person or by post to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR,  
or email to [standrewsnewstand@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsnewstand@gmail.com) no later than 21st June.

## Church Calendar for June

**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.**

Tuesday	1	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
Friday	4	Executive Team Meeting (via Zoom)	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Morning Worship (in church): Dr Ann Sinclair</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
		Finance Team Meeting (on the premises)	10.00 am
Thursday	10	Elders' Meeting (via zoom)	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Morning Worship (in church): Mrs Lucy Cooke and Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	14	Activities Team Meeting (via Zoom)	2.00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
Thursday	17	Book Club initial meeting (via Zoom)	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Morning Worship (in church): Dr Ann Sinclair</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
		Poetry Evening (via Zoom) (Note new time)	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Morning Worship (in church): Revd Trevor Jamison</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Midweek Act of Worship, followed by coffee time (all via Zoom)</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
		Play Reading Group Planning Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm

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# Prayers, thoughts and poems for this moment

## **The Seasons by Sheila Smith**

Summer is my favourite time,  
with grass and leaves so fresh and green,  
when birds sing out the whole day long,  
and pretty flowers can be seen.

When children laugh and play with glee,  
and people saunter by and say,  
"How nice it is to see the sun",  
and always pass the time of day.

There seems more time to do the things  
you leave aside when Winter's here.  
With longer nights and warmer days  
your life takes on a better cheer.  
More time to walk and talk with friends,  
and feel the sun soak in your skin,  
and make you wish t'would never end.

Summer really is so short,  
and soon the leaves will start to fall,  
and when the snow lies on the ground,  
I can't remember it at all,  
and then I waste my life away  
and wish the Summer back next day.

## **A Franciscan Benediction**

*May God bless you with discomfort*  
At easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships,  
so that you may live deep within your heart.

*May God bless you with anger*  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

*May God bless you with tears*  
To shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort  
and to turn their pain to joy.

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness*  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done,  
to bring justice and kindness to all our children  
and the poor.

