

NEWSTAND



October 2021

Volume 87 Issue 10

Welcome to this edition of Newstand and a special thank you to all those who have sent in contributions this month, which have neatly filled all the available space. Please do keep sending articles in, whether short notes of thanks or a full page theological reflection on a biblical passage (or, if you wish to engender some more interesting discussion over coffee, perhaps on whether the actions of those in power, those around us and indeed ourselves reflect Jesus' teaching!).

You'll notice that Newstand is back to the A4 size that we've been using since Lockdown started, rather than the A5 version you may have received last month. That wasn't intentional, instead being due to an issue with Reprographics. With that said, as we are starting to return to the new "normal", perhaps it is time to consider whether we should return to the smaller format of Newstand. One issue that presents us with is that we generally need more than twice the number of A5 pages to fit in the same content as we do on A4. If we keep the same colourful pages that inevitably increases the cost per copy and, with Newstand already running at a loss, we would have to consider increasing the price, rather than eat into church funds. The alternative would be to start looking at introducing adverts into Newstand, though we have discounted that in the past due to the extra effort involved (other magazines usually have a separate person handling advertising). Please do let either myself or

Carole Mallett know your thoughts on potentially changing the format back to A5, keeping the colour or returning to black and white print, and if you would support an increase in the price of Newstand (likely to £1 a copy). Please do take account of the time and effort it takes to put Newstand together each month and then for it to be distributed.

With that done (it's taken me a while to bring it up again), I'll leave you with this photo taken whilst at Kirkharle Hall in Northumberland, which now features a lake and landscape recreated from original sketches of Lancelot Capability Brown. It really is a wonderful place to visit both for the walk and the craft shops and café in the courtyard.

Take care everyone — 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

New Normal!

We had two happy and sociable 'indoor' events last month. The Poetry Evening went well with 14 people attending and a good variety of poems. The re-launching of the Film Club also saw a good attendance and an increase in the price of choc ices from 25p to 30p didn't affect sales in any way!



Film Club

The next screening will be on Friday 15th October at 2.00 pm when the film will be 'Judy', starring Renée Zellweger as the legendary Judy Garland.

Pens!

St Andrew's pens are on sale again – similar to last time, dark blue in colour with a rose gold trim and priced at £2 – ideal stocking fillers, Christmas is coming!

Mini Church Fair

We are proposing to hold a much reduced Church Fair on Saturday 27th November but this obviously very much depends upon the Covid restrictions at that time.

Help required!

We are still looking for someone experienced in using eBay to assist in selling two small items for church funds. If you are able to help please contact Ann Hammond (07866 690604).

Ann Hammond

Shoeboxes — Samaritan Purse

St Andrew's Brownies are filling shoeboxes for the Christmas Child Appeal and would be happy to receive gifts to include in the boxes. The gift ideas include the following:

Cuddly toys, toy cars, skipping ropes, yo-yos, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), toothbrushes, bars of soap, washcloths, combs, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, notebooks, colouring books and picture books, solar calculators, socks, sunglasses, jewellery and watches, torches (wind-up or with extra batteries).



Items not to be included: toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids, used or damaged items, war-related items, seeds, gum, chocolate or food items, religious or political literature, medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

A box will be provided in the reception area at church to receive donated items. Any cash donations can be given to Ray Hammond for forwarding on to the Brownies.

Ann Hammond

Harvest Thoughts

With the harvest gathered in, the fields at the top of my road are now fields of stubble.

Church worship at harvest time is celebrated with a thanksgiving service for the rich blessings of the harvest. Perhaps some churches, particularly rural churches, have sheaves of wheat to place in church to emphasise the gathering of the harvest. Fruit and vegetables are often included in harvest gifts but more commonly now jars, tins and packets of food are also donated to the thanksgiving service.

We are richly blessed in this country with the generosity of the harvest and the giving of gifts. Yet there are so many countries around the world, where harvests are poor and for some suffering from drought, have no harvests at all.

Global charities step in to provide food relief and hope through overseas aid agencies. Yet we need not look too far to see the need in the UK. The lockdowns of the pandemic over the past 18 months have resulted in many businesses closing and not just during lockdown but closed completely. Walk along any high street in any city, town or village in the UK and there are shops and other businesses shuttered and closed. With the loss of businesses owners and employees alongside an end to furloughed staff payments, many people are without a regular income and are struggling to feed and clothe their families.

Food banks (charitable organizations that distribute food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger) emerged in the US in 1967 and in the UK during the early 2000s — the consequences of a recession and austere Government policies. During the Covid 19 pandemic, the need for Food Banks has grown however replacing stocks has suffered with lockdown and this continues with the shortage of supplies as many of the donations of food come through churches that have been closed for long periods.



Harvest donations to churches are often given to local food banks and The People's Kitchen here in the North-East, established in Newcastle in 1987, that has offered meals and friendship to the most vulnerable in the community, also receives harvest thanksgiving donations. The need to provide food to people struggling to avoid hunger remains both at home and across the world.

Coming around and sharing at a table is nothing new to Christian folk, it is part of our story, given to us by our Lord through the story of the feeding of the five thousand and following his command. This year our gifts brought to harvest festivals take on a deeper meaning, not just of gifts of food that are given to Food Banks or The People's Kitchen but also gifts of

money to be sent to other countries to offer support in their suffering from hunger. The Lord does not expect us to give more than we can but we will be blessed if we give what we can and with grace.

Reflecting on the words from Deuteronomy 16: v13-15 & 17: The Festival of Shelters

'You must observe the Festival of Shelters for seven days at the end of the harvest season, after the grain has been threshed and the grapes have been pressed. This festival will be a happy time of celebrating with your sons and daughters, your male and female servants and the Levites, foreigners, orphans and widows from your towns. For seven days you must celebrate this festival to honour the Lord your God at the place he chooses and gives you success in all your work. This festival will be a great joy for all. ...All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.' (New Living Translation 2007)

Blessings,

Ann Sinclair

A new venture: Play reading at St Andrew's



The first of what we hope will be a series of play reading evenings will be held **at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 9th October in the Main Hall.**

On this occasion we intend to read two one-act plays: 'Ways & Means' by Noel Coward and 'Deadly Hatpin' by Michael Pertwee. Wine and nibbles will be served during the evening. If you would like to read a part, please contact Carole Moore — carolemoore49@btinternet.com or Carole Mallett — carole.54@btinternet.com. If you prefer just to attend and listen, you will be most welcome. Either way, tickets priced at £5 (to cover the cost of the wine and nibbles) will soon be available.

St Andrew's Book Club



Would you like to discuss what you read?

St Andrew's would like to start up a reading group to give you an opportunity to talk about the books you read with a small group of others.

The first meeting of St Andrew's Book Club will be held on **Wednesday 13th October at 11.00 a.m.**, in the church minor hall. This 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.

For this first meeting you are also asked to bring with you a book that had a profound effect on you at the time you read it (as a child or an adult). For instance, you may wish to explain:

- why the book had such a profound effect on you;
- what the book is about;
- whether you sympathise with any of the characters;
- if you have read more books by the same author.

Church Meeting – 13th September 2021

Copies of the Minutes are displayed on the Notice Board in the vestibule of the Church. In case you were not able to be present here is a précis of the meeting.

This was the first church meeting since November 2019 and was attended in person by 57 people with others joining on YouTube and Zoom. There were 12 apologies.

The reports of the Church Secretary and Treasurer, which had been circulated, were received by the meeting.

The main item on the agenda was the ministerial vacancy, which was explained by Andrew Graydon, our Interim Moderator, together with consideration of the Profile which had been prepared by the Pastorate Call Group (PCG). Following questions and comments, to which Andrew responded, the Profile document was accepted by the meeting. The role description and duties of a minister will now be prepared by the PCG and circulated.

The next church meeting is Sunday 21st November 2021 following the service.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary



Covid-19 precautions

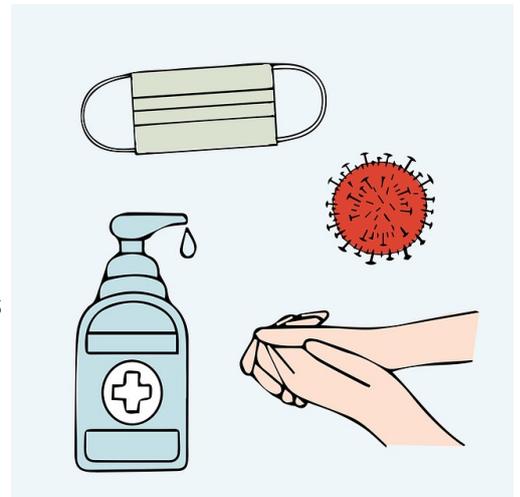
As reported last month we have been able to make changes to help us return to something like normal and have also re-introduced some limited singing. Whilst we continue to strictly control use of the premises more users are returning to meet together. It is good to see St Andrew's coming 'back to life' and being used as intended.

However, one of the groups not returning to St Andrew's is Saturday Stage School who have been with us for many years but have now found alternative accommodation at Linskill Centre. On behalf of Stage School Ema Waites sent the following email:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at St Andrew's for all of your kindness, care and support over our many, many happy years at St Andrew's as a Stage School but also for me personally in all the wonderful groups and classes I have run over the years.

I have no doubt there will be times again in the future when I personally will look to hire your beautiful hall and facilities and hope that as a Stage School we may have an occasional presence at St Andrew's. Please could you pass on our thanks and best wishes to everyone at the church."

Ray Hammond



Harvest Coffee Morning

**Saturday October 9th 2021
10.30 to noon**

Please join the Flower Team for coffee and cake as they arrange the flowers for the Harvest Festival Service.

There will be a cake and preserves stall
Money and gifts will be collected for

The People's Kitchen



The People's Kitchen gratefully receive all gifts, but here is the
HARVEST FESTIVAL WISH LIST

MAIN MEAL

Tinned meat– stewing steak, corned beef, hot dogs, tinned beef burgers, mince, Irish stew, tinned chilli

COOKING INGREDIENTS

Sugar, salt and pepper, spray cooking oil, dumpling mix, sage and onion stuffing, dried fruit, mixed spice, cocoa, desiccated coconut, cooking chocolate, tubs of soft butter or margarine

DRINKS

*Hot– Tea bags, instant coffee,
Instant drinking chocolate
Cold– Orange squash*

BREAKFAST

Individual packs of cereal

TINNED VEGETABLES

Mixed vegetables, garden peas, processed peas, chick peas, butter beans.

TAKE-AWAY BAGS

Small bags of crisps, small chocolate bars, individual biscuits eg Kit-kat, sweets, individual packs of cereal bars.

SOUP

Lentil, vegetable, mushroom (condensed), leek and potato, Scotch broth

PUDDINGS

Tinned/instant custard, tinned rice, peaches, fruit cocktail, apricots, jam, golden syrup, honey, large tins of evaporated milk, long life milk

HOUSEHOLD

*J Cloths - blue, red, green
Large pan scrubs
Large freezer bags
Washing powder/tablets -preferably non-scented*

TOILETRIES

Deodorants, shower gel, shampoo, shaving cream/gel, men's and ladies' razors, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap (liquid and bars) toilet rolls

CLOTHING -NEW

Tracksuit bottoms, T shirts, boxer shorts, socks, hats, gloves, jumpers, waterproof jackets, jeans, sleeping bags

They have enough pasta, baked beans and full size boxes of cereals

Walking with a purpose

Some folks have always walked as a form of exercise however, during the last eighteen months, for those who are able, walking has taken on a definite purpose of exercise and a way of meeting up safely within Government guidelines at the time. Walking can be quite energetic while other walks are gentle strolls. We took up going for a walk together with a purpose. We have walked in the rain, wind, on cold and very hot days and appreciated the sea in all its moods and the skies in all its changing shapes and colours. Much as we have appreciated the changes of our natural surroundings, we have been walking with a very definite purpose...of tasting as many of the different flavours of ice cream as possible from a certain ice cream shop near the Dome in Whitley Bay.

It has been fun and we have enjoyed the walks and ice creams ... only one scoop in a tub. However, after tasting a few different flavours such as Amaretto Cherry, mint choc chip, salted caramel pistachio, Catriona made the decision that pistachio was her favourite and stuck to that. I decided I wanted to try as many as possible and that included biscotti... not so much, apple pie flavour didn't go down



too well with me either. I kept coming back to Battenburg; that was definitely my favourite. Now a few weeks ago an article in that famed Sunday newspaper beloved of exiled Scots - the Sunday Post looked at the different flavours of ice creams and a food psychologist suggested that your choice in flavours reveals your personality. Strawberry ice cream was likely to be the favourite of someone reflecting on childlike days of fun and endless sunshine; mint choc chip-someone likely to be hedonistic and faithful while salted caramel is

likely to indicate someone who is confident and happy in their own skin. Rum and raisin flavour is more than likely to be chosen by someone who is non-conformist. Pistachio flavour, the article stated, was the choice of someone who is classy, sophisticated and contemporary -

Catriona was like the cat that got the (ice) cream! Nothing was written about the personality of someone choosing Battenburg flavour...a chequer board of sponge wrapped in marzipan...something to ponder on or not!... but perhaps that flavour hasn't reached over the Border yet.

Catriona Fenwick & Ann Sinclair

Midweek Act of Worship

During much of lockdown our midweek Act of Worship has taken place via Zoom, however from October 6th we will resume meeting on the church premises. Our prayer service will therefore be held on Wednesdays at 10.00 am in the Minor Hall. The Minor Hall has been chosen in preference to the reception area for the time being, to allow sufficient space for social distancing without impeding access for anyone else using the building.

**Carole Mallett,
for Worship Group.**

I would like to thank members of the Friendship Club for their sympathy and condolences on the sad passing of Mam (Mary Helen Stobbs), especially from Christine, George & Alison Ridley, Carol & Jim Turnbull, Hazel & Danny Hall also Kathleen Hopper and Catriona Fenwick who brought me some lovely flowers from the church. I would also like to thank Christine for the lovely piece she wrote with regard to Mam in the last Newstand. Maurice and I were touched by everyone's kindness. We miss Mam terribly but know she had a good life and so enjoyed her meetings at the Friendship Club.

Kind regards,

Pamela Mary Peacock & Maurice Stobbs



I would like to thank members of St. Andrew's and the Flower Committee for the lovely flowers brought to me by Celia.

This has been an extremely difficult year for us and the flowers were the "cherry on the cake" and really uplifted us both.

Thank you again.

Sheila Smith

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy following the death of my dear father Robert "Bob" Chambers. My son Ross and I were overwhelmed with the many messages, cards, letters, telephone calls and beautiful flowers we received. They were a great comfort at a very difficult time. Our grateful thanks to Dr Ann Sinclair who took the funeral and made it a wonderful, personal and deeply moving occasion.

Dad was a great character, determined, always positive and always "dapper". He really lived life to the full over his 95 years.

We shall greatly miss him.

Susan Clark

I would like to thank the flower team and everyone else concerned with the beautiful flowers in memory of my wife Sheila on Sunday 20th September.

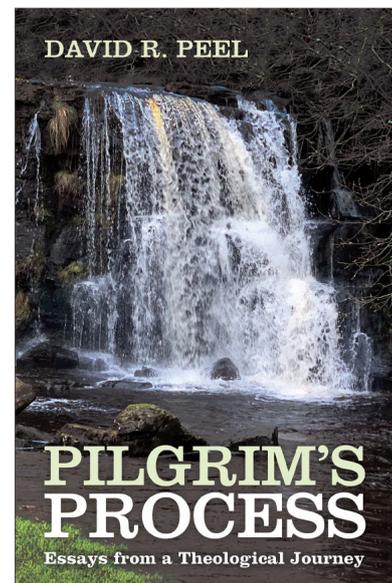
Once again, thank you,

Harry Lowrie

David Peel's latest book, *Pilgrim's Process: Essays from a Theological Journey*, has now been published by Wipf & Stock. Copies will become available in a few weeks time and David has ordered a limited number at the author's discount price of £14. This price to family, friends and colleagues undercuts Amazon while providing David with a small profit to cover the costs he incurred in getting the book into print.

In David's words: "I think what I have written contains, among other things, salient arguments regarding the future of the church that are very pertinent, particularly for members of the URC as our church engages in a current review".

The full book description as featured on the rear cover gives a more detailed overview:



This book traces the intellectual journey of a Christian minister and theologian. Starting with his discovery of God through a love of the natural world, David Peel's encounter with thinkers from his Reformed tradition and extensive ecumenical involvement takes him to a revisionary theology which meets his attempt to integrate a scientific background with the Christian faith. Essays written during his career illustrate the path he has taken. The topics covered include theological method; the centrality of theology for the church's life and work; a sacramental view of ministry; the missional church; biblical authority; nonconformity's gifts to the contemporary church; and theological education. Peel's theological approach is as critical of inadequate theologies inherited from the past as it is determined to construct a Christian narrative which satisfies twin requirements: first, being congruent with the Jesus tradition; and secondly, convincing the minds, reaching the hearts, and driving the commitments of contemporary people. Both ministers and church members are challenged to view their own theological journeys as God-given vocations.

If you care to have a copy at the "Author's Offer" price, including free postage (where personal delivery is not possible), please send your name and address with a cheque for £14 made payable to David Peel, by Friday 8 October 2021 to:

David Peel
2A Western Avenue
Seaton Delaval
Northumberland
NE25 0EA

Church Calendar for October

NOTE: Sunday services will still be broadcast via Zoom and YouTube for those not able to attend in person.

Following Sunday morning worship, refreshments are served in the Main Hall.

Friday	1	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	3	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Tuesday	5	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
		Worship Group Meeting (at the church)	7.00 pm
Wednesday	6	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Saturday	9	Harvest Coffee Morning	10.30 am
		Play-reading Evening (in the Main Hall)	7.00 pm
Sunday	10	Morning Worship for Harvest: Mrs Louise Kemp	11.00 am
Tuesday	12	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
Wednesday	13	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
		Book Club first session 'A favourite book' (at the church)	11.00 am
Thursday	14	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	15	Film Club – 'Judy' (in the Main Hall)	2.00 pm
Sunday	17	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	18	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Tuesday	19	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
Wednesday	20	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Sunday	24	Morning Worship: Mrs Helen Cooper	11.00 am
Tuesday	26	Bible Study (via Zoom)	10.30 am
Wednesday	27	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Sunday	31	Morning Worship: Revd Ted Marley	11.00 am

From our Book of Remembrance

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

Charles Gordon Mallett

Edward Rye

Eleanor Jackson

Isabella Fisher

Henry Brandon

Mary Brandon

Anne Robson

Jack Pearson

Peggy Pearson

Hughina Simpson

Winifred Charlton

Winifred Emily Rye

Edith Robson

Joan Mary Forster

Joy Adamson

William Malcolm Dickinson

Alec William Skee

Sheila Hartley



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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 no later than 18th October.

Northern Synod Prayer Diary — October 2021

3	Preparations for October Synod Meeting (16 October). Moderator's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Watson; Trust Officer, Mr Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer, Mrs Helen Hogg.
10	Homeless Sunday and Prisons Week (10-16 October). United Church of Christ New York Conference, and Conference Minister Revd David Gaewski.
17	Freedom Sunday. The work of Mission Committee and Convenor, Revd Dr Grant Wilson; North East England Divisional Salvation Army Commanders, Majors David and Gillian Burns.
24	Revd Mary Taylor; Wooler URC; PCM, their retired ministers and those newly appointed to posts with PCM.
31	West Denton URC, Newcastle; Robert Stewart Memorial URC, Newcastle.

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Prayers, thoughts and poems for this moment

Praise Promenade (Psalm 92) by Steven Rolling

Tune: St Asaph (Through the night of doubt and sorrow)

To give thanks it is a good thing
Thanks to the LORD, let all bring
And good to sing praise to your name
O most High, the LORD the same
To show forth your loving-kindness
And too of your faithfulness
Every day, morning, night, evening
To praise Him in everything

Play upon instruments with strings
With music that each one brings
Psalteries, lutes, harps, and lyres
Worship to you never tires
Play with solemn sound, harmony
And joyful melody be
For you, LORD, have made me glad through
Your works shown to me anew

O LORD, how great all your works be!
Your thoughts very deep, I see
Senseless ones, they do not this know
Nor foolish know it be so
When the wicked as the grass spring
It not prosperity bring
They may flourish, but be destroyed
Plans and purposed be void

But you, LORD, most high for ever
You shall fail, perish never
My strength shall you exalt, you shall
Anoint me with fresh oil well
I shall hear and see victory
Over those, mine enemy
Righteous shall flourish like palm tree
And like great cedar tree be

Those planted in house of the LORD
Shall flourish, true be His word
They shall still bring forth fruit, when age
Of life passes, each day's page
They shall prosper, be flourishing
The LORD shall give them blessing
He shall show that He is upright
My rock, righteous to my sight

