



November 2021
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Hello from slightly further afield than normal!

By the time you read this we (the Cookes) will be half-way down the country visiting my family for the first time since February, or possibly even further South and West, enjoying a restful break in the Cotswolds (obligatory photograph of Bourton-on-the-Water!). It will be good to get away in what is my first Sunday "off" from making sure everyone is seen and heard (usually!) at the right time, whether we've been having services from home or more recently back in the church building.

Although the number of people watching online has gradually decreased as we have returned to the church building, I also appreciate how much of a connection it has been to those not able to return and those who may be watching from further afield, as well as how important it was to all of us in the early days of lockdown before we were able to meet in the church building. Through Christ and his followers, we have a



Photo by Simon Godfrey on Unsplash

commitment to evangelise his word and doing that by being a church that is available "online" is as valid as actually going out into the community. It can reach those who feel disconnected from Church, whether because they can't physically get to church, or because of previous trauma caused by the church, or just because the church is not accepting of who they are. It's going to be important that we can continue to reach out to those people so I am looking at other options for going "online" that more people might be able to take control of, as

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



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well as some more general improvements to the current audio-visual provision in the church, such as better placement of the screens and improving the quality of the image on the screens. Watch this space (or our YouTube channel!).

At the start of October, as part of my role as a committee member for ACE — the Association for Church Editors, I had an early start on a Saturday morning to catch a flight down to London to join the ACE annual meeting in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. That too involved use of the same equipment we use for taking our services online, but this time to record the meeting for those not able to be there in person. Our guest speaker was Andy Jackson, Head of Communications for the URC, whose topic was “Communications – strategy, consistency and creativity”. This wasn't just in respect of a church's magazine, but across everything that can be used to identify us, be that posters, certificates, pens, leaflets, Advent and Easter cards, etc. Andy used an example (above) of how the original URC national certificates for baptism, church membership, blessing, etc. didn't even mention the URC and were varied in their appearance. The new ones boldly show the URC logo and have a consistent style, complete with a little bit of “bling” through some gold embossing, thereby much better establishing the holder as being linked to the URC. As we seek our new Minister, it will be just as important for us to ensure we are clear and



The original and new URC certificates

consistent in our “brand” so that they and anyone seeking to join us know who we are both as members of the URC and a self-governing body of Christ in our own right. Andy's talk went much further looking at working out who we are, what we are capable of, what message we want to share and with whom, and how well we are doing that through feedback. If you would like to read a transcription, please let me know.

Finally, you'll notice we are in A5 again this month, but deliberately this time after some comments about preferring this size. Please do keep “feeding back” as I look at the new normal for *Newstand*.

Take care everyone — God is with us!
Tim

Wednesday Prayers at 10



Opening Prayer

God, our Creator, as we come before You in prayer may we feel Your presence around us.

Make us aware of Your love. Lord, as You abide with us, let us abide in You.

God, our Creator, we come to You in faith and prayer. **AMEN**,

In a Prayer of Confession

Lord, as we stumble through the darkness as if You were not with us, by the power of Your Spirit bring us out of these dark places into a space where we might flourish with renewed understanding of Your deep love for us.

You hold out pardon to cleanse and renew us and so, we come humbly before You to ask for forgiveness. Hold us in Your arms.

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

And in the Prayer our Lord Jesus Christ 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, as we come in remembrance we pray for the divided peoples of the world.

Lord, we remember past wars: those who fought in them; those who lived through them; those who died in them.

Silence

We pray for the victims of past wars, those who died in battle, or from injury or disease, and those who mourned or still mourn them.

We remember those permanently maimed or disabled, and those psychologically scarred or disturbed in the sufferings of war.

Silence

We pray for the victims of current conflicts, remembering before You lands laid waste and made barren.

We pray for an end to the destructive hatred of war.

We pray for the peace of the world remembering before you areas where there is armed

conflict and all those who are working for peace.

We remember that you have called us to strive together for the coming of your kingdom of love and peace.

We pray that you will equip us for the task with the faith that knows that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Prince of Peace, and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

Calm me, O Lord,
as you stilled the storm.

Still me, O Lord,
keep me from harm.

Enfold me, Lord, in Your peace.

Amen

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team

Inspiration taken from: Seasons and Celebrations, Donald Hilton; Words Thought and Said, W.J.G.McDonald; The Awesome Journey, David Adam.

Activities Team

Film Club – On **Friday 12th November at 2.00 pm** we will be showing *Military Wives*.

Inspired by real events the film is a heartfelt story of friendship, love and support on the home front.

Poetry & Plonk Evening – **Saturday 13th November at 7.00 pm**

We look forward this month to another socially distanced evening sharing favourite poems with a glass of wine or soft drink. These evenings provide an opportunity for people to listen and/or share their favourite poems and are proving very enjoyable occasions. Tickets at £5 are now available.

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 getting nearer!

Mini Church Fair – We are proposing to hold a much reduced Church Fair from 10 am to noon on **Saturday 27th November**. A few of the popular stalls will be available, as well as coffee/tea and biscuits.

Ann Hammond

Incidents During Child Minding

My two previous articles for Newstand have been ramblings – well, in this one, I thought I would pass on my experiences as a 'child minder', along with husband who I might add was a wonderful help. Oh, I digress – sorry!

Perhaps I should 'set the scene'. A few months ago we were approached by our daughter-in-law to go down (they live in Wiltshire) and look after our grandsons for two weeks – their ages 6 and 4 years! The reason for the request was that both my son and daughter-in-law would be away. My son Roy was assigned with his military unit to oversee the Afghan refugees in London. Martina (daughter-in-law) wanted to do the Marathon des Sables (six days across the Sahara with a camel as a back marker?!!)

Well, I jumped at the chance – being with my other grandchildren was a gift. So we duly set off – a six hour journey. When we arrived at Larkhill (which is a garrison town) Martina was still full of trepidation as to whether she was able to leave the boys for so long!

Not knowing the area nor the boys' routine, I asked her for an itinerary – I was duly presented with four A4 sheets - I was determined to keep them in their routine.

The school run on the Friday went

off smoothly. Saturday, swimming lesson - pouring with rain - we then introduced them to a conker competition, a beetle drive and also a bear hunt through the woods in the rain!

Sunday – the sun came out and they went to Rugby with 200 other 'diddies'! Monday morning we had a 10 minute school run except the road was closed so we followed a 'diversion' which got muddled with a 'military' diversion – so several motorists, including us, got surrounded by an entourage of army tanks!! Two hours later we arrived at the school! Well, you can imagine how I felt – 'old granny' in charge can't even get the boys into school on time!!

Much to our relief when we arrived at the school we were one of the successful 'parents'. According to the headmistress the road should not have been closed until 9 am – heads were obviously going to roll. Jared, my eldest grandson, told us when we picked him up there were only two of them in class and half the teachers were missing!

Wednesday was Jared's 7th birthday so Michael and I decorated the house with balloons, banners and games. His presents were nearly all computerised! Well, you know me and my IT expertise – all right there's no need to laugh!

His flake and caterpillar cakes went down well!

The area around Larkhill is Stone Age settlements so we walked to Stonehenge one day. On leaving Stonehenge we encountered the travellers who park down the road - we met a Druid with a Siberian husky, what an interesting guy. Apparently he spends his time between Tottenham working with children and conducting 'Life as a Druid at Stonehenge'. He's apparently known as the 'Wizard of Tottenham', you couldn't make it up! When I left him I said "God bless you" and he said "Thank you and may your God go with you"!

One day we went into Salisbury - an enforced visit as I had inadvertently put my mobile phone in the washing machine - what a beautiful city, very like York, old buildings, narrow streets, magnificent cathedral. When we parked the car and paid the fee I heard a voice say "Hello" - oh, I didn't know her, however as we chatted it turned out she'd lived in Whitley Bay for 10 years - small world!

The second time we took the boys swimming we found a play park - so spent time there. However, there was an injured pigeon causing concern and interest with all the children. One of the parents had phoned the RSPCA and was

advised to take it to the local vet! As he had no transport, Jared, my grandson, said "Gran will take it"! So off we went. When we arrived Jared explained to the vet what had happened and we had to leave the pigeon, much to the consternation of the boys!

Our escapades are too numerous to mention! So I'm sorry if I've gone on a bit. Oh! I didn't tell you about the early morning (from 4 am) playing with Play-Doh on the kitchen bench and me drinking lovely coffee out of the superb machine.

But I was quite touched when Martina said "Thank you, the boys seem so happy."

As a footnote - Roy got back on the Saturday night, Martina arrived back on the Monday having had a traumatic time - over 700 started the race, more than 300 dropped out halfway through and two died. However, she completed the race - her feet were in a very bad way. But she did it and we are very proud of her.

Well, I've rambled on long enough; perhaps Tim might edit this to fit it in to Newstand. But it was an experience I will cherish for a long time.

God bless you,
Valerie

Church Meetings

There will be two Church Meetings this month, both following Sunday services. The first on **Sunday 7th November** is to consider proposals for future 'Ministry at the Coast' and in respect of which a report is being circulated for you to consider. The second on **Sunday 21st November** will be concerned with the usual routine matters as well as the authorisation of church members who can preside at communion services and the election of elders.



Ray Hammond

Harvest Appreciation

After all the restrictions of the last eighteen months, it was wonderful to be able to hold the usual Harvest Coffee Morning, and to see such a good attendance, not only from St Andrew's congregation, but also from friends outside. The hall was buzzing with the chatter of people enjoying the opportunity to catch up with one another over coffee and cake.

Very many thanks indeed to our wonderful Flower Team, who once again hosted the Coffee Morning, decorated the church so beautifully, and delivered the floral arrangements after the Sunday service. Thank you also to everyone who donated items for the People's Kitchen, and to those who conveyed the goods to their destination. A lot of hard work for a very worthwhile cause – well done!

Carole Mallett

St. Andrew's 100 Club

I would like to thank everyone who has decided to contribute to the 100 CLUB from September with 77 numbers going into the monthly draw. The September draw took place on Sunday 26th, when Ann Hammond (convener of the ways and means of raising money for the Church) drew the following numbers:



- 1) Number 13 Kathleen Hopper £115.50
- 2) Number 33 Hazel Hall £57.75
- 3) Number 3 Paul Hartley £19.25

With £192.50 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

Northern Synod Prayer Diary for November

7	PCM, their churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North. The Anglican Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson. International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.
14	Remembrance Sunday. Zion URC, Northallerton; Northgate URC, Darlington; Keld and Low Row URC.
21	Women Against Violence Sunday. St Paul & St John's URC, South Shields; St Margaret's URC, South Shields; St Andrew's URC, Hebburn; Revd Helen Drummond.
28	World Aids Day December 1 st . St Andrew's LEP (Methodist/URC), Benton; Revd Gavin Hume (Methodist); The Church of the Good Shepherd LEP (Anglican/Methodist/URC), Battle Hill; Revd Julie Mooney (Anglican).

Church Calendar for November

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.

Wednesday	3	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Friday	5	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Morning Worship: Worship Group.	11.00 am
Special Church Meeting after the service.			
Monday	8	Finance Team Meeting	10.00 am
Wednesday	10	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Thursday	11	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	12	Film Club – 'Military Wives'	2.00 pm
Saturday	13	Poetry and Plonk Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	14	Remembrance Sunday Worship: Mrs Valerie Taylor	<u>10.45 am</u>
		NOTE TIME	
Wednesday	17	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Sunday	21	Morning Worship: Mrs Louise Kemp.	11.00 am
Church Meeting after the service.			
Wednesday	24	Midweek Act of Worship (in the Minor Hall)	10.00 am
Saturday	27	Mini Church Fair	10.00 am
Sunday	28	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am

To all my dear friends in St. Andrew's Church, a big "Thank You" for all the phone calls after my hip operation and all my lovely cards!

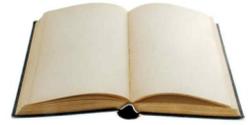
A special "Thank You" to Carole Mallett for all her care and concern. Also to Susan Anderson for bringing the beautiful church flowers (plus my lovely cake, which I did enjoy). Everyone had been so kind.

I am getting on well and hope to be back at church soon.

Love to all,

Carol Turnbull

Church Register



DEATHS (tributes available on request from Ray or Carole)

PARK Margaret, on 24th September, aged 77 years. Committal at Tynemouth on 14th October followed by service at St Andrew's, conducted by Revd Gordon Connacher and Dr Ann Sinclair.

SPICER Michael Gordon, on 25th September, aged 98 years. Committal at Tynemouth on 12th October followed by service at St Andrew's, conducted by Revd Ron Forster.

BAPTISMS

SIVELL on 3rd October 2021, in church, by Dr Ann Sinclair, Rosie Mae, infant daughter of Graham Sivell and Lucy Ames.

DONKIN on 17th October 2021, in church, by Dr Ann Sinclair, Tristan Alexander Phoenix, infant son of Graham and Damita-Jo Donkin.

I have been overwhelmed by the support you have given me on the loss of my very good friend Margaret. Cards, phone calls, home visits and flowers have all given me a great deal of comfort knowing I am not alone at this time.

The service officiated by Revd Gordon Connacher and his address were truly fitting tributes to her. A welcoming cuppa was waiting for us later — well done to the ladies!

A sincere "Thank You" to each and everyone of you.

God Bless you all,
Joan Polkinghorn

Church Contacts

Minister	In vacancy	—
	All queries to Church Secretary	
Secretary	Mr Raymond Hammond, annray@talktalk.net	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
Assistant Secretaries	Mrs Ann Hammond	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
	54 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE25 8NJ	
Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Kevin Ames	251 3016
	17 Kelso Drive, North Shields, NE29 9NS	
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs Jenny Hooper	—
	15 Brislee Ave, Tynemouth, NE30 2SQ	
Hall Lettings	Ray & Ann Hammond, annray@talktalk.net	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
Newstand Business Manager	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
	54 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE25 8NJ	
Newstand, Website and Social Media	Tim Cooke, standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	01670 354834
	4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR	
Safeguarding Officer	Lucy Cooke, cookelucy@live.co.uk	01670 354834
	4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR	

Disclaimer: Details of events, contacts and other material were correct at time of publication based on information received by the Newstand Editor.

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Prayers,
thoughts
and poems
for this
moment

The Butterfly

by a 12-year old girl

As the crowd fell to a hush,
the butterfly stared out of the window.
It beat its wings,
as if it was pointing to the world outside,
where graves of the fallen
lay scattered across the hard brown earth.
What has this world become?

Brothers and Sisters, Mothers and Fathers,
Daughters and Sons,
lay beneath the earth,
drinking in the silence, praying silently.

The crowd bowed their heads,
poppies on their coats,
a splash of colour in the sea of black.
The butterfly did not need a poppy,
for he was already a symbol of hope.

He should have long died out,
yet he survived through everything,
those brave young men survived as well,
stayed faithful to their cause
of which they hoped would be a better life.

That dream has yet to pass,
but there is hope.
There is always hope,
yet no-one has stood out and spoken
'That day will come.'

The butterfly thought
its work was done,
the point was made,
and so it sat quietly,
to pay its respects.

