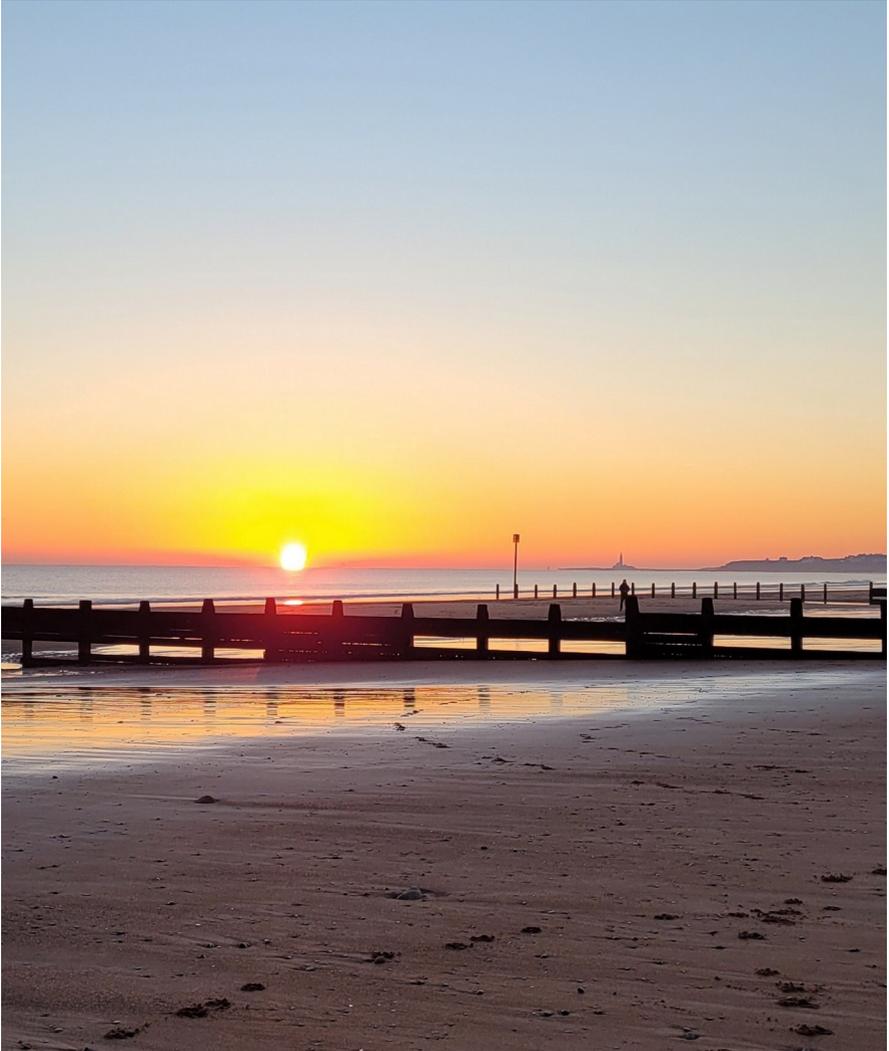




NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



A new day. A New Year. A new hope through faith

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St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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monkseatonurc

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2022 — A year of hope and anniversaries

With a few score between

As I've mentioned in previous editions of *Newstand*, I try to get out for a short walk each morning before I get down to the grind of a working day. Just recently that has resulted in seeing some beautiful sunrises, or at least when the clouds and weather have permitted! They do help me to remember the beauty of God's creation and remind me to always consider how my life affects the earth we live on and those who will live on it for generations to come. Our actions today should not just be for our own selfish wants, but to ensure that we leave a planet as beautiful and habitable as it has been during our lifetimes.

Thinking of lifetimes is a reminder of a significant anniversary for our Queen, who celebrates her platinum Jubilee with many events planned throughout the year (Covid allowing!). Whether you consider yourself to be a royalist or republican, or somewhere in between, you cannot deny that



she has certainly fulfilled her promise to serve her country.

Hers is not the only anniversary we celebrate this year, sitting as it does 20 years after and 20 years before two significant church anniversaries. 90 years ago in 1932 saw the founding of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, with the original church building opening a year later, followed two score years after, in 1972, by the founding of the United Reformed Church. I hope that we as a church will be able to celebrate all those events (and I am sure many other significant anniversaries of birth along the way) in the coming months.

I hope you enjoy this slightly longer edition of *Newstand* and, as always, remember to take care — God is with us!

Tim

St. Andrew's 58 Society

*A resurrection in January?
It must be a new
programme for 2022*



St Andrew's Fifty-Eight Society is hoping to resurrect itself in the New Year, with an exciting new programme, kicking off with the ever-popular Professor John Derry on Monday 10th January at 7.30pm. At our meetings, we enjoy an interesting talk, followed by refreshments and then we are safely tucked into our homes by 9.30pm, so it's not a late evening. Subscriptions for this session, January — March will be £6.

If you are one of our regular members, we look forward to seeing you again, if you are not, why not join us? Everyone is very welcome. Occasional visitors are also welcome.

Sue Ames, Chairman

Programme

January

- 10th Cinema Memories -**
Professor John Derry
- 24th John Betjeman-Celebrating
Middle Class –** Professor
Neville Harris

February

- 7th Annual General Meeting**
- 21st Electrical Energy and the
Environment –** Mike Kain

March

- Saturday 5th Coffee Morning**
- 7th Mayflower – Flight or Fancy?**
– Revd David Grosch Miller
- 21st Writers and Revolutionaries of
the NE –** Marion Anderson
- 28th End of Session Meal**

Wednesday Prayers at 10

Prayers for the New Year

Opening Prayer

As the old year passes
we look back, and reflect:
on times of joy and promise
and times of sadness and sorrow.
God of the ages,
help us to walk Your way.
Help us to greet Your future
and seize tomorrow's day. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God,
at the start of this new year,
with Your help,
we would let go of the past,
we would lay down our failures,
guilt and shame,
and lift our eyes
and look to the future.
Let the grace of Your presence
strengthen our resolve, and fill our
hearts so we may live dedicated
lives in peace and with courage
and in faith, with love for You and
for all people through the grace
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



And let us say the prayer that
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

In the presence of God, we bring
our prayers for the world, the
church and ourselves.

As we begin a new year we ask
for a deeper awareness of Your
presence among us.

We bring to You the troubled
areas of the world, where
corruption, injustice and violence
ruin lives and damage self-worth.
We pray for your renewing and
cleansing.

We pray for those who have left
their homes: for all refugees, for
children and older people in care,
for divided families,

for those with no homes, we pray for their security that only You can give.

We pray for: those who are bereaved, comfort for the dying, the sick in mind and body and we pray for the assurance of Your presence around them.

We pray for this church family and for ourselves, give us the strength and courage to stand up together and take the love You give to us out into the world.

Merciful Father accept these

prayers in the name of Your Son Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each of us and those we love now and forevermore. Amen.

Inspiration from Hay & Stardust & Winter

Happy New Year to each one of you!

Submitted by the Hope 4 team

A Biblical garden of flowers

How many of these do you have growing in your garden?



Anemone – or the 'Lily of the field' (Matthew 6:28-30)

Daisy (James 1: 9-10)

Doves Dung (2 Kings 6:25)

Hyacinth (Revelation 9:17)

Lavender (Song of Songs 4:14)

Lily (Hosea 14:5)

Mandrake (Song of Songs 7:13)

Poppy (1 Peter: 24-25)

Rose (Song of Songs 2:1)

Tulip (Song of Songs 2:12)

Water Lily (2 Chronicles 4:5)

Activities Team

A few events for the diary in January

All being well, the following events are planned for January but with the current situation things could change overnight.

Ann Hammond

Coffee Morning

**Saturday 8th January,
10 am — noon**

A new venture – as we no longer have Stage School using the premises on a Saturday we are introducing Coffee Mornings on a Saturday at approximately monthly intervals.

Film Club

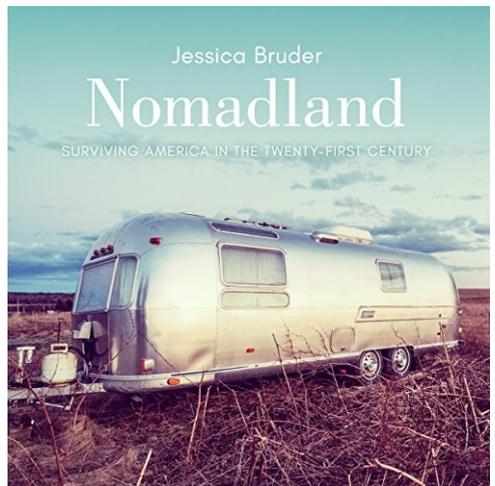
On **Friday 14th January at 2.00 pm** we will be showing the Oscar winning film *Nomadland*. This beautifully filmed drama is about a woman in her 60s who embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern day nomad.



Poetry & Plonk Evening

Saturday 15th January at 7.00 pm

We look forward once again 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.



Letters of Thanks

Some words of gratitude

I would like to say thank you so much for all the cards, flowers and lovely messages I have received over the last couple of months, while I've been feeling a bit grim.

It has meant such a lot to know that kind people are thinking of me and wishing me well.

I am starting to feel a lot better, thanks to the wonderful help I've been getting. I've missed St. Andrews so much and look forward to seeing everyone again.

With love from
Ingrid Connacher

Dear St. Andrew's Friends,

We wish to express our grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make Derek's Church Service a real celebration of a life well lived. The participation of everyone involved made it truly memorable, especially the very personal part



taken by Rev. Gordon Connacher and Dr. Ann Sinclair.

We have received the support of many moving messages and cards, together with beautiful church flowers.

He is greatly missed by his family and friends and was a life force to know.

Ann Stembridge and family

I would like to thank my friends at St. Andrew's for the support and flowers that I have had during my problems with my health.

Harry Lowrie

St. Andrew's Church Meeting

A précis of our November meetings

The Minutes of the two meetings held in November are pinned up in the Church vestibule (beside the Flower Room door). For those unable to be present, a précis of the meetings is as follows.

7th November 2021 — Ministry at the Coast

- Agreed to form a joint pastorate with St Columba's North Shields when the Revd Trevor Jamison retires.
- Four members from St Columba's to join St Andrew's Pastorate Call Group to progress the ministerial vacancy at St Andrew's.

21st November 2021 — General Meeting

- Update on general building repairs and the renewal of the heating control system.
- Limited use of the premises by church and other organisations.



- Report on the current financial situation, especially with the return to church and some social/fundraising activities.
- Election of Elders agreed: Bill Hopper, myself, Carole Mallett, Joan Blanchfield and Margaret Varley.
- Re-appointment of Ann Sinclair and Valerie Taylor as Lay Presidents along with Lucy Cooke.

**Next Church Meeting
Sunday 20th March 2022.**

**Ray Hammond
Church Secretary**

Recipe of the month

Here's a good winter recipe from Emma of Emma's Kitchen in Twyford,

Pollo alla cacciatora is a classic Italian dish often called in English, 'Hunter's Chicken Stew'. This recipe is for three to four servings.

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp garlic - crushed
6 spring onions - finely sliced
1 tsp fresh rosemary
400g chopped tomatoes
410g cannellini beans
500g skinless chicken thigh - cut into 4 (you can use diced if don't like meat on the bone)
1/2 tsp celery salt
120ml white wine
2 bay leaves
1/2 tsp sugar
85g pancetta



Method

Fry pancetta, spring onions, garlic and rosemary in the olive oil until softened.

Add chicken, stir and add celery salt. Fry until some colour on chicken.

Pour in wine, cook until bubbling. Add tomatoes, bay leaves and sugar.

Simmer for 20 minutes. Add drained and rinsed beans to the stew and cook until warmed through.

Serve with a mustard mashed potato or sauté potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Do you have a favourite seasonal recipe you think others might enjoy? Please send them in, with a photo if possible.

A reflection on Jonah

Are we merciful to others?

This popular 'tale' tells how Jonah was swallowed by a whale after refusing to obey God.

Jonah clearly had no problem hearing God speak but he obviously didn't like what he heard. God told him to go to Nineveh which was an evil city with an evil king. Their fearsome reputation was legendary. The people were cruel and barbaric, especially in their dealings with enemies and foreigners. No wonder Jonah didn't want to go. Instead, he boarded a boat going in the opposite direction. In other words, he ran away. Except that you can't run away from God.

Psalm 139 tells us:

*If I take the wings of the morning
or dwell in the uttermost parts of
the sea, even there shall your
hand lead me, and your right
hand shall hold me.*

God commanded a great storm to arise, and Jonah was eventually pushed overboard to save the



Jonah and the Whale (1621)
by Pieter Lastman

passengers and crew. Cue the entry of the whale. In his distress, Jonah turned back to God, was rescued from his situation, and given a second opportunity to obey Him. This time Jonah went to Nineveh and began speaking the message that God had given him, that all Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days. This message had a profound effect on the inhabitants of Nineveh and the whole nation repented and believed in God. God saw their repentance, forgave them, and didn't destroy the city. A happy ending then?

Not for Jonah! He was furious with God for having mercy on such an evil people. This, he says, is why he ran away. He knew God was slow

to anger and rich in mercy, but he wanted judgement on the city, not mercy. They had committed many atrocities and Jonah wanted to see them pay dearly for them.

Isn't that just like us? We are happy to take a second chance, but we so often want someone who has hurt us or sinned against us to pay for it. That they don't pay seems unjust and unfair, especially if we have behaved

well. But our God is a God of love, who sent His own Son to pay the penalty for our sins. He has been incredibly merciful to us. Shouldn't we be merciful to others?

'For the one who has shown no mercy will be judged without mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.' James 2:13

Written by Elizabeth Spiers and used with permission (via Association for Church Editors)

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The November draw took place on Sunday 27th at the Mini Market when Carole Mallett and Carole Moore ("The Tombola Ladies"!) drew the following numbers:

1)	Number 90	Anne Cockburn	£120.00
2)	Number 48	Florence Hudson	£60.00
3)	Number 80	Ann Hammond	£20.00

With £200 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

- Experience is the name people often give to their mistakes.
- Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are useless, but because they are priceless.
- You must be at your strongest when you are feeling at your weakest.

An angel called...

Beryl

Life can be full of surprises that come when you least expect them... and some surprises are quite amazing.

The last time I went to St John's Wideopen it was Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of Lectionary Year B, the week before the first Sunday in Advent and it turned out to be quite an adventure. Early in the morning the Church Secretary rang to tell me the organist was unable to be at church... OK, we can cope. Not long after that I set off to walk to the Metro. At the bottom of the road, I recognised one of my daughters driving home from a night shift duty at the hospital... she never even spotted her mum, despite my waving at her she drove straight past me!

I intended to catch the 9am Metro but the message on the board said the next train was due at 8.45... 'leaves on the line and low adhesion'. That didn't explain why the Metro was early or perhaps it



was the 8.30 Metro late, but the next Metro wasn't due until 9.30a.m.? Well, at least I would be in town in time to pick up the bus to Wideopen at 9.50... only I didn't... the bus came in at 9.35. I could tell by then it was going to be one of those mornings.

It was a cold journey with all the windows, quite rightly, open. By the time I got to St. John's I was freezing cold. Walking into church I was greeted by the words 'we have changed all your hymns'... OK... the Kingston Park Trio had come along early to search through CDs to find some hymns only they hadn't the music for the ones I had chosen to link with the lectionary... no worries we would still be praising God in song. I was asked if I would like a cup of tea... 'yes please'... 'OK, but the milk hasn't arrived yet'... 'that's fine', I replied, 'I would like to wrap my hands round the cup!' And so,

the preparations went on to have the service ready for folks coming in.

I gave a warning about the timing of the first hymn, it was not the same as the congregation were used to; it was very slow... slow? Everyone was at least two lines in front of the music on the CD! I took matters into my own hands and started to conduct the singing. At that point I noticed a lady striding down the side of the church, my immediate question was... 'Where is she going?', and 'is she ill?'. Then from behind me the piano was being played! The lady had come up and started to play and did for the rest of the service, and she played beautifully and with no music!

It was a service of checking all the way through what the next hymn was and when the pianist suggested she played one of the hymns I had chosen, and it happened to be the last hymn, that threw everything into near chaos as folks, following the Order of Service, thought the service was finished and remained standing, and we hadn't had prayers of Intercession or sung the revised hymn!

We did complete the service and

after the benediction I spoke to the lady pianist. Her name was Beryl, a visitor to St John's from Lancashire... she told me she hadn't washed her hair or put any make-up on but had come at the very last minute. Beryl had been playing piano since she was 7. Her parents were Baptists, she had gone to the Church of England and worked in a Catholic school so she had a whole history of a range of church music. Beryl was an angel in a quilted jacket, who just so happened to pop in that particular morning.

But the day wasn't finished. I caught the bus back into Newcastle. Passengers getting on had to slide past a young man with a husky dog right at the front of the bus... yes, really! When we reached Gosforth High Street, the husky had had enough and started to cry... well not really... howl would be better!! ... all the way to Newcastle. By the time we got to the motorway part of the journey I was sure the bus driver put her foot down to the floor as we arrived at St Thomas' Church in record time. The young man and the husky left the bus... and walked just a few metres when the dog spotted something on the

pavement... a pizza someone had clearly dropped. The husky tossed the pizza in the air and pfff!... eaten in one go! At that point the passengers were in hysterics laughing! Everyone... apart from the bus driver.

What a morning!

The next week I was at St. Andrew's, Monkseaton. I was met with the words... 'the organist would like to see you'. I hadn't been aware of a swap between organists and the one on duty was having some trouble finding two of the hymns I had chosen. A few words with Tim the technician in case there was some help via YouTube needed and then a few words to Lucy, his wife: 'If we can't find the music, come to the front and sing!'. However, the organist had found the hymns in another book and on his phone! And so, yet again it was all systems go, and this time the angel was

called... Alex, who had cycled that morning from Durham city.

You just never know where angels will drop in and come alongside you... women, men and even huskies... just keep your eyes open!

In Prayer:

Lord, help me today to realise that You will be speaking to me through the events of the day, through people, through things and through all creation.

Give me ears, eyes and heart to perceive You, however veiled Your presence may be.

Give me insight to see through the exterior of things to the interior truth.

Give me Your Spirit of discernment.

Amen

Jacob Astley before the battle of Edgehill 1642 and amended)

Ann Sinclair



The Empty Chair

You look across at the empty chair
In vain for the one who isn't there,
No shared comments to make you smile,
Just being together made life worthwhile.

'Time will heal,' or so they say,
Just don't tell me that today.

No card to come on your special day,
No words to speed you on your way,
No one to bring the cup that cheers,
No one to soothe and calm your fears,
Only memories of bygone years.

The simple things are what you miss:
The loving hug, the goodnight kiss,
The opening door — the words 'I'm back',
The coat still hanging on the rack.

The hopes and plans we made together —
We thought they would go on for ever —
Are just a dream for now and ever.

The house is empty, cold, austere,
You open doors and no one's there.
'How could they do this, how could they leave,
Abandon you to cry and grieve?'

Then a little hand slips into mine
And says: 'Don't cry, you will be fine.'
For love abounds and through your tears
The sun comes out to quell your fears.
The love of family and true friends
Will see you through and make amends.

And then the world begins to sing
As you recall the precious things
You held so dear, when you were two
Saying 'you can start anew'.
So now when I see the empty chair
In my mind, you're always there.

Anon

What? No Toilet?

It's not a joke – or is it?

Did you know that about one in every three people do not have a clean, safe toilet?

The United Nations say that 4.2 billion people do not have a clean toilet and that 673 million people practise open defecation. It might sound like a trivial fact, but it is a very serious problem.

On 19 November, WaterAid and UN-Water promoted the campaign to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to a clean, safe and private toilet by 2030. On World Toilet Day they hoped to boost their campaign through using 'toilet' humour and comedy to break down the awkwardness of the subject and to get the movement flowing!

School students in the UK were encouraged to Tweet - using hashtags #WorldToiletDay and #ItsNoJoke - riddles, puns, and jokes to make a splash about World Toilet Day. They were also asking teachers to give a number one lesson on taps and toilets!



The serious aim is to reduce human waste by giving everyone access to clean toilets that will lead to making the world a safer place for everyone.

And with toilets in mind ... several churches have twinned their toilets (for £60) and have framed photos of them to go in the church toilets through <http://toilettwinning.org>. Perhaps something for St. Andrew's to consider, or maybe for you to think about twinning your own toilet!

Northern Synod Prayer Diary for January

*Joining in our weekly
prayers with the
wider URC*



2	For all churches in Northern Synod as we start a New Year. We pray for the whole synod as we continue to explore future patterns of ministry.
9	Redcar URC and the development of a proposal regarding a residential missional community house; Guisborough URC; St Andrew's URC, Nunthorpe and Marton.
16	Synod Ecumenical and Inter-faith Officer, Mr Andy Lie; praying especially for the future of ecumenical collaboration and provision of ministry in an age of diminishing resources, for our local ecumenical partnerships, and for churches together groups in various localities to continue to flourish. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) the theme being 'We saw His Star in the East'; North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) and NECAT Regional Officer, Revd Joanne Thorns; Local Churches Together Groups.
23	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January); Presbyterian Church of Mozambique (PCM): its Synod Officers, ministers and congregations; The URC's Youth Assembly scheduled to meet/connect 28-30 January.
30	Revd Lynda Coulthard (Methodist); Synod Mission Enabler, Revd Jane Rowell. The Five Northerly Synods' Mission group and for the 'Leading your Church into Growth' conference in York.

Church Calendar for January

Sunday services are still broadcast via YouTube for those not able to attend in person (search for "monkseatonurc").

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

A short Act of Worship takes place in the reception area on Wednesdays at 10.00 am, followed by Open Door Coffee Morning from 10.30 am until 12 pm.

Sunday	2	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	3	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Tuesday	4	Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
Friday	7	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	8	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	9	Morning Worship: Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Monday	10	58 Society: Professor John Derry – 'Cinema Memories'	7.30 pm
Tuesday	11	Finance Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
		Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Thursday	13	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	14	Film Club - 'Nomadland'	2.00 pm
Saturday	15	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	16	Morning Worship: Revd Peter Moth	11.00 am
Sunday	23	Morning Worship: Mr Andy Lie	11.00 am
Monday	24	58 Society: Prof. Neville Harris – 'John Betjeman – Celebrating Middle Class'	7.30 pm
Sunday	30	Morning Worship: Revd Dave Herbert (Northern Synod Moderator)	11.00 am

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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Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

An Epiphany Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, we thank you that you have brought both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice, and from their number you have gathered and established your Holy Church and perfected your praise out of their mouths. Keep us in that wisdom which you revealed to the Wise Men. Amen.

True Promises

God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our life through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.
But God has promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labour,
Light for the way;
Grace for the trial,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.

Anon

