



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



U-turn if you want to, but Jesus Christ is not for turning

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St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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monkseatonurc

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A time to U-turn, or a time to continue onwards?

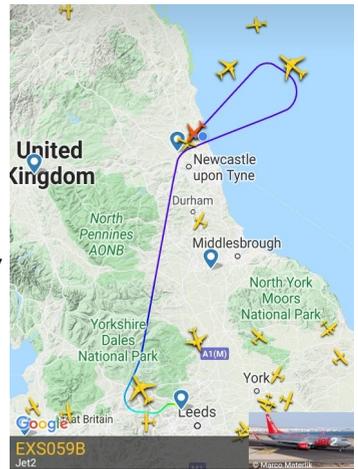
This month's cover photograph is one I took from our back bedroom, or "my office" as it has become since the pandemic started. Various other people saw the same vapour trail and posted on Social Media asking what it was, resulting in everything from the conspiracy theory "chem trails" spreading the latest toxins, to a more mundane truth that it was just a Jet2 test flight out of Leeds Bradford airport where Jet2 are based.

Aside from the almost perfect U shape on a nearly clear blue sky, it got me thinking about when in life we have made U-turns. Those times when we've said we are never going to go back to some place that gave bad service, or will never again meet with a friend or relative who has in some way offended us. But then something changes in our minds and we do make that U-turn, returning to that place and giving it another chance, or picking up the phone or writing a letter. Doing so may validate our original decision, but

conversely we may find that poor service was just down to staff being off sick and there being a few large groups of people causing grief for the establishment, or that the friend or relative was themselves now suffering, relieved to be able to make amends and grateful of a resumption in friendship.

Conversely, we as a family are hopeful that Andrew's direction of travel does not make a U-turn for any reason, especially now he has been offered a place to study History and Politics at Cambridge University. We are so proud of the mature, thoughtful and hardworking young man he has become.

I hope you enjoy this month's Newstand as much as the last, and thank you for all the positive feedback.



Tim

Newstand price for 2022

Making sense of adding a few more pence

The last price increase for Newstand was in January 2015, when it was raised to 60p. Since then, production costs have gradually risen, and you will be aware that during the last year especially Tim has experimented with various styles and formats in order to arrive at the current attractive, coloured A5 version which feedback indicates is preferred by the majority of people. After seven years, therefore, the time has come for the magazine to be increased to the more realistic price of £1 per copy, i.e. £12 for the year.

Due to Covid restrictions, it has not been possible during the last couple of years to have copies of Newstand on sale in the vestibule, consequently almost the entire congregation now pays annually and has the magazine delivered to their home, thus ensuring that even if they're unable to attend church, they can still keep up to date with what's happening and enjoy reading the various articles.



Now that restrictions are easing, we should soon be able to have a few copies available on sale again in the vestibule – and these are useful for members of other organisations using the premises – but for anyone who wishes to go back to purchasing their magazine in this way, please consider carefully the pros and cons before making a decision. Please remember too that if preferred, you can have Newstand emailed to you each month, and it is also available to view free of charge on St Andrew's website.

Annual subscriptions are normally payable by the end of January, but obviously the deadline will have to be extended this year, and therefore I would ask that payment be made to your distributor (or to myself if you normally pay me direct) by the end of March, please.

Carole Mallett
Newstand Business Manager

Wednesday Prayers at 10

Prayers for February



Opening sentences

God calls you out from where you are.

God calls you to adventure with him.

God calls you on an awesome journey.

Come!

Come where the division between sacred and secular disappears.

Come and discover that heaven and earth are one.

Come where God dwells in you and you in him.

Come!

Let your life become your prayer,
Let journeying be a walk with God.
Discover God within your sacred space.

Come!

Come and share the journey.

Amen

In a prayer of Confession

Lord, You look deep in our hearts and You know us.

We come before You to confess when we have been so caught up in the busy-ness of our lives we have not served You as we

should.

We ask for forgiveness,
we ask for healing and reassurance,
for we are weak and frail.

Strengthen us Lord.

Give us courage,
renew our commitment
to follow You in the ways
that lead to our life's journey
close with You. **Amen**

Let us say together the prayer that 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

Lord, hear us now as we come before You

To pray for the needs of the world and for ourselves.

We pray for those whose faces and stories we have seen in the news;

for those who live in places of fear
and war,
for those who are homeless,
for those whose decisions affect
the lives of nations.

God in Your mercy, hear our
prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or
sad or in trouble and for those
who care for them.

We pray for those who have died,
their families and friends who love
them and miss them.

God in Your mercy, hear our
prayer.

We pray for the leaders of our
churches and for our local
community.

We pray that our churches answer
Your call to work together, to listen
to each other and share times
together.

God in Your mercy, hear our
prayer.

We pray for our own needs, our
hopes and dreams.

Lord, lead Your children
homewards, secure in our
relationship with You
and sharing Your love and glory in
the world.

May God, who has begun His work
in us, guard us and encourage us
and bless us on our journey,
to bring us at last surely and safely
home.

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

Amen

Closing sentences

May God's blessing be on each
and every one of us:
a blessing of loving kindness,
a blessing of hope and courage,
a blessing of love.

Amen

*Inspiration from
'The Awesome Journey', David
Adam & 'Winter', Ruth Burgess*

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team

Church Register

Death

DOOLIN

*on 30th December 2021,
Isabella Agnes Martin,
aged 77 years.
Interment at Whitley Bay
on 18 January, followed by
service at St Andrew's,
conducted by Dr Ann Sinclair.*

St. Andrew's 58 Society

*“Cinema Memories” —
the golden age of
30s, 40s and 50s cinema*

After a long absence the 58 Society commenced with a talk by Prof. John Derry on his reflection on the golden age of the cinema.

John gave an interesting talk on his reflections on the “golden age” of the cinema which covered the period of the great depression of the 1930s, the 2nd World War and the following hardships during the 1940s and 1950s

He stated that block buster films during this period were mainly from studios in Hollywood except for a few films being made by the British studios at that time. John expressed his teenage reflections on the excitement of going to the Capitol Cinema in Low Fell to watch action films starring famous actors and actresses of that time and stated that his favourite hero was Errol Flynn. He reflected on



Image by Igor Ovsyannykov from Pixabay

numerous films he enjoyed during this period including Captain Blood, Mutiny on the Bounty, Gone with the Wind and many more with stars such as Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Charles Laughton, Scarlett O'Hara to name just a few.

He mentioned the boost that the film makers the Korda Bros gave to the British film industry when they immigrated into England during the political upheaval in Hungary in the early 1930s. He recalled a film produced by them titled “Four Feathers” starring Charles Aubrey Smith in a lead role who had previously captained the England cricket team in a test match against South Africa before becoming an actor.

He related that the golden age of the cinema provided the audience with a period of

escapism and moral support during the hardships and uncertainty being experienced during this time. He also expressed abhorrence of today's modern cinemas with the lack of atmosphere caused by limited audience numbers and the lack of dialogue in films which have been replaced by the inclusion of expletives.

He also mentioned that the historical and/or classic novel accuracy of the films produced by the various film studios left a lot to desired. He claimed that the Hollywood producers often used maximum licence to deviate from actual historical facts and written

word in their films. By contrast he considered that films produced in British studios were much more accurate to the historical facts and written word.

We were reminded of the Pathé and Movietone Newsreels shown in the cinemas, which, because of the difficult times, tended to give a positive spin to events for the general public's morale.

John concluded that during the 50s the golden age of cinema declined because of the advent of TV resulting in people preferring home entertainment as opposed to going out to see a film at the cinema.

John Thorpe

St. Peter's Players

A few evenings of entertainment

St Peter's Players are holding an Entertainment Evening in the Crosskeys Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24th, 25th and 26th March at 7.30 pm. We will be performing 'Slim Chance', a short comedy by Peter Gordon, as well as

providing other entertainment. Refreshments will be available. To observe safe social distancing measures, tickets must be purchased in advance and can be obtained, priced at £6, from Sue Ames (2513016) or Carole Mallett (2521723).

Focus on Luke

The Gospel for this lectionary year

Since the church calendar moved into a new lectionary year, a year with the Gospel of Luke being the focus for Bible Readings, perhaps a closer study of Luke would not go amiss.

The Gospel of Luke is the most comprehensive of the Four Gospels. Luke was also a travelling companion of Paul and wrote the Book of Acts and the two Books go together. The vocabulary of the Gospel of Luke indicates the author was an educated man. He was indeed a physician and frequently refers to illnesses and diagnoses in his writings, he was a Greek and a Gentile. Luke gave great detail in his writing — take a look at the record of Jesus' ancestors in Chapter 3. Amongst all the Gospel writers Luke gives most of the elements of the story of the birth of Jesus, this awesome occasion of the story of Jesus' birth, the coming of God in the flesh. While Luke emphasises Jesus' divinity, he also emphasises his humanity.

Each of the Gospel writers gives us the stories of Jesus, each writer coming from a different perspective and this has been acknowledged in so many different

Jean Bourdichon, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons



ways including works of art. Drawing on Ezekiel's vision of God (Ezekiel 1: 10) the graphic use of four creatures as four symbols of the Gospel writers can be found in numbers of artistic expression, through stained glass windows and carved ceilings in churches across the world. The creatures are often depicted with a gospel book or have the evangelist's name below. The symbols are portrayed in different styles yet are all of the same Gospel writers. Matthew has a human face, Mark the head of a roaring lion, Luke an ox and John an eagle.

Focusing on Luke, it perhaps would seem strange to us that Luke, an educated man, should be represented by an ox. To us an ox would appear slow and not too clever; slow moving, dull and ponderous. Yet in ancient civilisations, the ox was a powerful machine, a symbol of wealth and of divine strength. The ox was a beast of burden, pulling heavily loaded carts, ploughing and treading grain. The ox is also included in the Ten Commandments: Exodus 20 verse

17: 'You must not covet your neighbour's.... ox ...'. An ox was an important animal, a powerful driving engine but also to bear the burden of sin as a sacrificial animal. So, while perhaps we may see the ox as a 'plodder' we need to bear in mind history, the ideas of strength, work, and sacrifice. Luke's story of Jesus reflects all these elements.

Every blessing, **Ann Sinclair**
Inspiration from Four Gospels, One Jesus? Burrige, R.A. (1994)

Toothache Day — 9 February

Yes, you read that correctly, there is a special day for toothaches! It's not so much the time to have one, but the time to learn, or refresh your memory, about toothaches, how to treat them, and more importantly, how to prevent them! Here's what to start doing on 9 February if you don't do it already:

- Refocus your efforts on your oral health and vow to brush and floss twice a day. Set yourself up in advance for success by stocking up on toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. *(As usual, there is a commercial aspect to this special day!)*
- Learn how to care for a toothache: start by rinsing your mouth with warm saltwater and putting an icepack on your cheek to numb the area. If pain persists for more than two days, see a dentist.
- Schedule regular dental appointments. Along with brushing and flossing daily, regular visits to your dentist can help prevent most tooth problems, including toothaches.
- Schedule cleanings by a hygienist twice a year and make sure to go, even with a busy schedule.
- Smile, and the whole world smiles with you!

Stewards wanted!

Can you be a welcoming face and helping hand?



Would you please 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, as we gradually emerge from Covid-19 restrictions**, the duties are slightly different ; worshippers place their own offering in the bowls as they enter or leave, and at the end of the service the Steward on finance duty directs

the congregation to the door row by row, in order to follow social distancing guidelines. The same Steward then goes through to the church lounge to assist the Treasurer, while the other Steward remains in the vestibule to collect in the hymnbooks.

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 two years 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

**“The sun whose rays
are all ablaze with
ever living glory”**



Image by Dan Sinclair

Depaul UK

Thanks for your contributions



Can I thank all who contributed Pringles for the Christmas Gift Bags for vulnerable homeless and disadvantaged young people who are looked after by Depaul UK in North Tyneside. This year we were asked to donate 30 tubes of Pringles.

In total 100 gift bags were supplied to Depaul for their clients which Bernadette Shaw of Depaul assures us are much appreciated and, for some, may be among the few gifts they receive at Christmas. (A copy of her letter is displayed on the notice board in the reception area.)

Ray

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The December draw took place on Sunday 2nd January when Andrew Cooke (the birthday boy!) drew the following numbers:

1)	Number 8	Mrs. Joan Yarrow	£120.00
2)	Number 45	Mrs Marilyn Walton	£60.00
3)	Number 3	Mr Ray Hammond	£20.00

With £200 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

- Anybody who's busy pulling on the oars hasn't got time to rock the boat
- Golden rules for the Bible: Read it through; Pray it in; Work it out, Pass it on
- We may choose to ignore the facts, but that doesn't change them
- Silence is sometimes the most effective answer

Activities Team update

There's more to come!

Carol Singing

Many thanks to all who supported our carol singing in December. Despite the rather wet conditions we managed to raise £300 from the collections on the night and other generous donations. We have received a letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance Service in which they say:

"We think all of our supporters who fundraise for us are amazing, as without you we simply couldn't raise the money we need to continue operating our life-saving service, which last year cost a staggering £5.3m."

Coffee Morning – Saturday 5th February, 10 am - noon

The weather for our first Coffee Morning in January was rather off-putting but a good number of folk braved the elements and enjoyed a sociable morning amongst friends. We look forward to better weather on 5th February and a convivial morning.

Film Club - Friday 11th February at 2.00 pm

This month's film is *He Named Me Malala*. This inspiring film tells the



story of teenager Malala Yousafzai, who survived a Taliban attack in Pakistan to emerge as a global voice for the education rights of children.

Play Reading – Saturday 12th February, 7 pm

Our new venture of play reading evenings is proving popular and tickets at £5 are now available for the evening of 12th February.

Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper – Saturday 26th February, 6 pm

Jim Farley has kindly compiled another of his famous quizzes for us so we look forward to an evening of fun, friendship and food. Tickets on sale soon.

90th Anniversary – St Andrew's Church

A chance to get your thinking caps on! We are looking for ways in which we can celebrate St Andrew's 90th anniversary and would welcome suggestions from members and friends.

Ann Hammond

Give something to someone special on 14th

Don't give a card — give a book!

Make St Valentine's Day memorable – give a book!

International Book Giving Day, on 14 February, is about getting books into the hands of as many children as possible. The idea was started in 2012 and is now run entirely by volunteers in 44 countries. In the UK it is organised by Emma Perry of My Book Corner, emperry@gmail.com

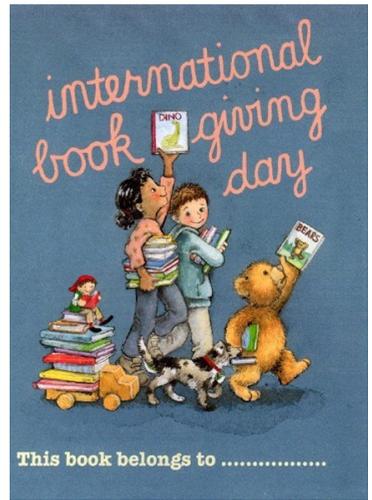
According to the National Literacy Trust, in 2012 only one in every eight children in the UK owned a book and today generally literacy is still much lower than most of us would expect. The Covid lockdowns have slightly boosted the amount of reading that children have been doing, although much of this is not always with printed books – online activities and games were a prime source. Perhaps one of the most important comments the Literacy Trust's latest report, published last year, is that:

'Some children and young people reported that a lack of access to books (with schools and libraries

closed), a lack of quiet space at home and a lack of school/peer support had negatively affected their ability to read and their motivation to read for enjoyment'.

As this is being written, the Covid pandemic is beginning to look much more serious again as around the world restrictions are being re-applied and lockdowns are being re-introduced. Getting books into the hands of children remains, therefore, as important as ever. To find more about how you can help visit <https://bookgivingday.com> where you can also download a free printable bookplate to use with the books that you give away.

Make Valentine's Day truly memorable this year and show your love for a deprived child by giving them a book of their own to read!



Isabella Agnes

Martin Doolin

1st June 1944 —

30th December 2021



The churches of St Andrew's Benton and St Andrew's Monkseaton were touched but briefly by the presence of Isabella. She was a very private lady and probably most folks of either church didn't have an opportunity to speak at any length to Isabella as she always slipped quietly in and out of church. Yet those who met and spoke with her were moved by the depth of her faith and her quiet sense of humour. Isabella was a remarkable lady and that stood out from birth. Born premature, she was left on a window sill by the doctor for nature to take its course. However on her mother's insistence, she was given sugar water and sucked it with such gusto that medical staff changed their minds; she had a long battle to health at the very start of her life.

Isabella was born into a crofting family in Achmore on the Isle of Lewis. She spent the early part of her life walking miles to school,

fetching water from a well and helping to cope with the hard life of crofting that involved sheep farming and cutting peat. At 17, Isabella left the island to work on the mainland and in Ullapool she met and married Charles Doolin. They had five children, but sadly only three surviving their parents. The family moved and settled to live in the east coast of Scotland in the town of Buckie beside Charles' parents.

While she was brought up in a religious family, it was in the 1980's that Isabella's life was transformed when she fully turned to God. It was as her son said, a remarkable story of transformation. Isabella's life changed completely her faith in God becoming her bedrock. Her son Charles said it was astonishing to see the joy and peace her faith brought her. Isabella became an Elder in the

Church of Scotland Buckie North and was involved in many of the church activities there.

With declining health Isabella moved to the north east of England to be beside her son. Isabella came to live in Whitley Bay and looked for a church to worship.

A member of St Andrew's Benton suggested St Andrew's Monkseaton and Isabella joined us.

On her first visit to St Andrew's Monkseaton, Revd Pat Wardle recognised her as someone new and asked her name. At that time Pat had just returned from a holiday on the Western Isles of Scotland and immediately recognised Isabella's accent. All Isabella gave was her name but her face lit up that someone knew where she was from. Pat told Isabella we had another member from the north of Scotland - Beaulie. Isabella's sense of humour came through in her reply. ...'ah that's on the wrong side of the Minch'.

Isabella became a member of St Andrew's Monkseaton in September 2019 just months

before Covid 19 changed all of our lives with lockdowns and other restrictions. Ann Hammond was her Elder and before home visits were cancelled, she enjoyed



interesting chats with Isabella. Ann was struck by Isabella's deep faith, of her reading the Bible every day and the fact that Isabella spoke so openly of her faith, something that some find not too easy to do. As churches re-opened and worship, allowed albeit with restrictions, it was good to see Isabella

returning to St Andrew's.

Her depth of faith in God was the very essence of Isabella and gave her strength as she faced difficult times with declining health.

Isabella lived her life in the Lord and walked with a confident step in her belief and faith in God through the love of Jesus Christ. The Readings, chosen by her family for the Thanksgiving and Service of Celebration of Isabella's life: Revelation 22: 1-5 and John 11: 17-26, powerfully underlined Isabella's deep faith and belief of everlasting life in God's safe keeping.

Ann Sinclair

Northern Synod Prayer Diary for January

*Joining in our weekly
prayers with the
wider URC*



6	Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Ashington; St Andrew's & St Mark's LEP (Methodist/URC), Newbiggin-by-the-Sea; Revd Marie Attwood (Methodist). Retired ministers in our synod, especially those who are active within the synod.
13	St Andrew's Dawson Street, Crook LEP (Methodist/URC); Revd Christopher Humble (Methodist). School half-term: to pray for meaningful activities for all concerned, including those having to pay for extra childcare costs.
20	PCM, the four Presbyterian Societies: Men's, Women's, Youth and Activists Group (young marrieds) and for our own fund raising for PCM.
27	Fairtrade Fortnight: (28 February – 6 March); Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Bedlington; Elsdon Avenue LEP (Methodist/URC), Seaton Delaval; Blyth URC; Seghill Methodist Church; Revd Alan McGougan (URC); World Day of Prayer (4 March).

Church Register

Baptism

DOBSON

*on 23rd January 2022,
in church, by Mrs Valerie Taylor,
Myles Thomas Arthur, infant son of
Warren and Natasha Dobson.*

Neologisms

Or "I never thought of it with that meaning!"



Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words. The winners are:

1. **Coffee** (N.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted** (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. **Abdicate** (V.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade** (V.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly** (Adj.), impotent.
6. **Negligent** (Adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. **Lymph** (V.), to walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle** (N.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence** (N.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash** (N.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. **Testicle** (N.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. **Rectitude** (N.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. **Pokémon** (N), a Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Frisbeetarianism** (N.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
15. **Circumvent** (N.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

Submitted by Gordon Connacher

Church Calendar for February

Sunday services are 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.

Tuesday	1	Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
Friday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	5	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	6	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	7	58 Society Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8	Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
Thursday	10	Pastoral Team Meeting, followed by Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	11	Film Club – 'He Named Me Malala'	2.00 pm
Saturday	12	Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	13	Morning Worship: Dr Andrew Graydon followed by Church Meeting	11.00 am
Monday	14	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Tuesday	15	Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
Sunday	20	Morning Worship: Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Monday	21	58 Society – 'Electrical Energy and the Environment'	7.30 pm
Tuesday	22	Bible Study via Zoom	10.30 am
Saturday	26	Quiz Night	6.00 pm
Sunday	27	Morning Worship: Revd John Paul	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

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

Awesome Wonder

I understand Heaven is a place
where life never sleeps.
Still, is there a little resting place for me?
Will Earth's weights be done with,
when my Spirit is released
and the Light of Heaven
reflects me in Eternity!
Will these thoughts then be forgotten,
of need to rest and refresh for this Soul
that has breathed the human breath?

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