



# NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



*What's stopping you from following Jesus?*

Volume 88 Issue 03 — March 2022

# St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

## 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	

# Do you fit your faith to Jesus or Jesus to your faith?



*Could you be following the easy road?*

Being a worship leader's husband means you get to hear some of the comments made directly to them, as well as remarks overheard in other conversations, about that morning's service and sermon in particular. Sometimes you don't even need to hear the comments as you can detect the uncomfortable shuffling of feet and throat clearing, with unheard mumbles of "I hope this isn't going on too much longer; I need a coffee and a natter".

One of the recurrent comments seems to be that the sermon was "too political". What I think people actually mean by that is that it presented a situation in a way that people felt challenged their own viewpoints and how those drive their own faith. They perhaps didn't hear the well reasoned theology, backed by references to scripture — often quoting Jesus' own words — from a version of the bible that used more inclusive language and didn't mistranslate key words and phrases into the

patriarchal leanings of its compilers. Indeed, if the bible was that easy to understand (especially if trying to read it from the "original" Hebrew and Greek), then we could just use it as an instruction manual and not have any need for sermons at all (even if it were, I, like many, am not very good at reading instruction manuals at the best of times!).

Perhaps we think that we've been going to church for so long that our faith is now set in stone and we have nothing more to learn. Perhaps we've put up barriers to what we see as the more difficult path, instead choosing to follow the easier road.

Instead I'll ask you to see your faith as the eternal clay, still able to be moulded into something more Jesus shaped; to see that those barriers aren't permanent and you can follow that path to Christ.

Blessings and a renewed faith to you all.

**Tim**

# Activities Team update

Dates for the diary in  
March, April and beyond



## Film Club

**Friday 11th March, 2.00 pm**

This month's film is *White Crow*. It's a biographical drama film covering Rudolph Nureyev's poverty stricken childhood, his blossoming as a student dancer and then his nail-biting escape from the KGB and defection to the West at the height of the Cold War.



## Poetry Evening

**Saturday 19th March, 7.00 pm**

We look forward to another sociable evening of poems shared amongst friends with a glass of wine or soft drink.

## Mini Fair

**Saturday 9th April,  
10 am – 12 noon**

We're pleased to say that another Mini Fair will be held and hopefully the weather will be kinder than it was for our previous one last November! We will be having the usual variety of stalls: bric-a-brac, books, jewellery, gifts, cakes etc and a tombola.

## St Andrew's 90th Anniversary

You still have a chance to pass on any thoughts as to how to celebrate our 90 years. However, we have some provisional plans in place around Sunday 19th June and Saturday 25th June. More details later.

**Ann Hammond**

**What did the sea say to the sand?**

Nothing. It just waved.

**What do you call a woman with a pint of beer on her head?**

Beer Tricks Potter.

**What do you call someone who makes clothes for rabbits?**

A Hare Dresser.

**What kind of sandals do frogs wear?**

Open Toad.

**What did the adding machine say to the clerk?**

You can count on me!

*Submitted by Carole Mallett  
(from St. Mike's News, Macclesfield)*

# Wednesday Prayers at 10

*Prayers for our journey  
through Lent*



Gracious God, during this time of Lent lead us on our journey.

Gracious God,  
You have called us to be a people on the move. You have called us to be a people with a purpose travelling without a map; travelling to where we are led sustained by Your Spirit, committed to the Gospel for the hope of the world.

Move us on our journey from where we are to where You want us to go.

Lead us on our journey from who we are to who You wants is to be.

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter — the journey towards death and resurrection.

Let us journey in the peace and power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

## **In a Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, on our journey through Lent, help us to build bridges: where there is anger and hurt help us to build bridges of reconciliation.

Help us to build bridges where we have ignored and dismissed others, where we have failed to see our faults and blame others.

Help us to build bridges where we have ignored and dismissed the cry of help from others.

Merciful God we ask your forgiveness.

Help us to open ourselves to Your grace, and we ask that You will guide us into a true change of heart.

We ask these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father hallowed be thy name...for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We bring our prayers of concern for others.

God of love, hear the cry of those who long for love;  
fractured families, broken homes neglected, unwanted, alone.  
God of love hear our prayer

God of justice,  
hear the cry of those who yearn  
for justice;  
persecuted and oppressed,  
exploited, ill-treated and broken.  
God of justice, hear our prayer.

God of peace,  
hear the cry of those who yearn  
for peace;  
in battle zones and broken states,  
frightened, fearful, anxious  
God of peace, hear our prayer.

God of healing,  
hear the cry of those who yearn  
for healing;  
physical and spiritual hurting,  
weakened, depressed.

God of healing, hear our prayer  
May the peace of God, the love  
of God, the justice of God, the  
healing and mercy of God be with  
all those we bring to You.

We ask these prayers in the name  
of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

### **Closing Prayer**

God be with us on our journey  
Jesus, guide us in Your love.  
Lord gift us through each other —  
a pilgrim people renewed.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God and the  
Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with  
each one of us and those we love  
now and forever more. AMEN

*Inspiration from Hope & Nearness of God,  
T. White; & Eggs and Ashes,  
R. Burgess & C Polhill and amended.*

**Submitted by the Hope 4 Team**

To all of our wonderful friends at St Andrews,  
thank you so much to you all for all of your  
well wishes, prayers, cards and gifts following  
the birth of our baby boy; they really helped  
us get through the difficult time in hospital.  
We are now settled at home and enjoying life  
as a family of 3 and Luca is really beginning  
to thrive! We are so lucky to be surrounded  
by so many caring and loving people. Luca is  
looking forward to meeting his St Andrew's  
family and having lots of cuddles.

With grateful thanks and love,  
Laura, Rory and Luca Wood xx



# St. Andrew's 58 Society

*"John Betjeman — Celebrating Middle Class". Prof. Neville Harris*

*Talk on 24th January 2022*

The talk on John Betjeman by Prof. Harris was a breath of fresh air on a cold winter's evening as it covered all aspects of his life from academic disappointment, poetry genius, and love of Victorian Architecture. The talk by Prof. Harris was so detailed that this report only includes the salient facts of his life and works.

Betjeman was the son of middle class family of Dutch descent who owned a business making ornamental household furniture favoured by the Victorians. His early education was in London schools, where one of his teachers included T.S. Elliot, and then he went to Marlborough College, a public school in Wiltshire, for his secondary education. It was during his early education that he developed a Love – Hate relationship with his father after he made it clear to his parents that he had no intention of going into the family business.

Betjeman failed the entrance exam to Oxford University and eventually was accepted into the



newly created School of English Language and Literature at Magdalen College Oxford as a commoner (i.e. non-scholarship student). One of his tutors during this course was a young C.S. Lewis who because of Betjeman's dislike of the coursework's emphasis on linguistics called him an "idle prig". Betjeman in turn considered Lewis unfriendly, demanding, and uninspiring as a teacher. In view of this difficult relationship Betjeman dedicated most of his time to cultivating his social life and private literary pursuits. It was at university that he had a poem published in *Isis*, the university magazine, and had his first book of poems printed privately. Even though Betjeman changed his degree course to English Ecclesiastical Architecture he eventually left Oxford without a Degree, which rankled him the rest of his life.

After University he found employment, through influential contacts he had met at University, as diverse as Private Secretary, Insurance Clerk, Cricket School Master and film critic. He did however continue to write poetry and increased his knowledge on modernist architecture.

Throughout his life he stated that he Loved Architecture and Hated Materialism which is evident in some of the poems he wrote.

Betjeman married Penelope Chetwode in 1933 and had a son and daughter but the couple drifted apart and eventually separated in 1972. In 1951 he met Lady Elizabeth Cavendish which developed into a lifelong friendship.

He was appointed Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom in 1972 and held the post until 1984.

Betjeman wrote numerous poems during his lifetime that covered a wide range of subjects from architecture to individuals, some of which were extremely controversial. In addition to his

poetry he published over 30 books the majority of which covered Victorian Buildings and Architecture. Throughout his life he was a campaigner for the preservation of Victorian Buildings which were programmed for demolition for redevelopment. He was one of the notable campaigners who were eventually successful in preserving the Victorian St Pancras Railway Station complex which was programmed to be demolished for a complete redevelopment of that site.

In addition to his writing he was a prolific broadcaster for over 40 years initially on radio and then on TV covering poetry, Victorian Building Architecture and religion.

Betjeman passed away in 1981 at his home in Trebetherick near Padstow in Cornwall and is buried in St. Enodoc's Church.

The presentation by Prof. Harris was both interesting and informative and was enjoyed by all those present at the meeting.

**John Thorpe**

Beyond living and dreaming there is something more important:  
waking up.

*(White, T., Hope & the Nearness of God, 2021)*

# Church Meeting 13 Feb 2022

## *On the road to vacancy*



The Minutes of this extra meeting are pinned up in the Church vestibule (beside the Flower Room door).

The meeting was called specifically to consider the final documents which accompany the Church Profile. The two documents, the Person Specification and the Summary of the Church Profile, were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

An update on the current status of the vacancy has been given by Andrew Graydon, Interim Moderator. All documents are now complete and approved by St Andrew's and St Columba's and have been forwarded to the Synod Moderator and Pastoral Committee.

The Moderator has confirmed that the scheme as agreed, (i.e. 75% at St Andrew's/ 25% Coast migrating to 50:50 St Andrew's/St Columba's), has been agreed by his fellow Moderators which means that the St Andrew's vacancy has been discussed at a national level.

The paperwork will now go to the next Moderators' meeting (first week in March) and the summary will be posted on the national list of vacancies where it must remain for at least one month before any names can be brought forward.

Next Church Meeting: after the service on Sunday 20th March 2022.

**Ray Hammond**  
**Church Secretary**

## Words of thanks

I would like to say thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received after my recent fall.

**Jenny Alexander**

I would like to say a very big Thank You to Catriona Fenwick and Ann Sinclair for the beautiful flowers I received from the church on Sunday 2nd January.

**Bob Corrigan**

# If Jesus came to your house

By Lois Blanchard Eades



If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,  
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there -  
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?  
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

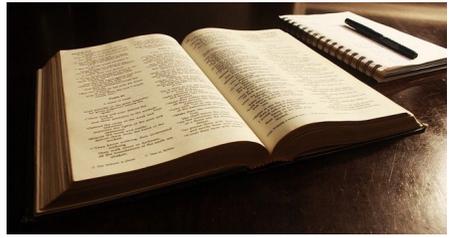
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?  
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?  
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

**Submitted by Ann Sinclair**

# St Andrew's Bible Study Group

*The Book of Esther*  
week by week



The bible study group continues to meet on Tuesday at 10.30 via zoom. We have just completed a five-week study of the Old Testament Book of Esther. The Book was a very interesting study and we have had a very enjoyable time together. Each week we read two chapters of Esther then met to talk about the discussion questions sent out in advance. We are very fortunate to have Rhoda in our group who has shared her knowledge with us to bring to life the history of ancient Persia. Thank you, Rhoda. The story takes place in the ancient Persian capital of Susa about 480 years before the birth of Christ. Esther, a young Jewish girl, becomes Queen after the Queen Vashti falls out of favour after disobeying her husband the King. Esther is supported by her uncle Mordecai, who is hated by Haman one of the King's chief advisers. Haman has a hatred of all Jews and persuades the King to slaughter all of the Jews in the

country, choosing the date of the massacre by the roll of a dice. Mordecai uncovers a plot to kill the King and so Esther persuades the King to honour Mordecai above Haman. Haman and his family as well as hundreds more of their enemies are put to death by the Jews. The Jews celebrated their victory with the Feast of Purim. Jewish communities continue to celebrate this feast in March and rattles (as in football style) are used to make a great noise and drown out the name of Haman when the Book of Esther is read out.

The Book of Esther is unusual in that God is not mentioned by name at all. Yet God is at work behind all of the events in the story and the Jewish people are saved. Esther is a fascinating story that reminds us of the importance of 'doing the right thing' in every situation, and having a Godly character so that God can do His work through His people. We would certainly recommend the

Book of Esther, it is a book of intrigue, irony, power, revenge but also risk and courage, commitment and obedience to God—a very thought-provoking reading and one you might never expect to be in the Old Testament.

Everyone is most welcome to join us for the next study. There is no pressure to join in the discussion, just come and listen if you prefer. For more information, please contact either of us.

**Alison Mood and Ann Sinclair**

alison.mood@talktalk.net  
eannsinclair14@gmail.com

Why do Simnel cakes have those marzipan balls on top? What is the connection with Mothering Sunday? You only ever see it in the shops at Easter!

Simnel cake is a light fruit cake with a layer of marzipan (almond paste) in the middle and one on the top, which is lightly toasted. It was originally made for the middle Sunday of Lent, when there would be a break from the 40 day fast on Laetare Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Sunday of the five loaves or Simnel Sunday. The origin of the word Simnel is not known although there is a 1226 reference to 'bread made into simnel' which is understood to mean the finest white bread from the Latin *simila* - 'fine flour'.

Fast forward to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the bread mixture had been replaced by a pudding batter, not dissimilar to spotted dick, enriched with dried fruit,

spices and almonds. It would be boiled like a pudding. When cooked, it was

wrapped in pastry, glazed with egg and baked until a good hard crust formed. It is only when you get towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that it starts to look like something we would recognise as a cake, though surprisingly it is not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the familiar marzipan layers and decorative disciples appear. Usually, 11 or occasionally 12 marzipan balls, are used to decorate the cake, representing the 12 apostles minus Judas, or Jesus and the 12 apostles minus Judas.



*by Sally Churchus, Chair of The Association for Church Editors*

# Racial Justice Sunday

*Gordon's thoughts on Lucy's sermon given 20 Feb 2022*

In my time I don't think we had a dedicated Sunday for the subject of Racial Justice. What is of real value is that the main Denominations came together to produce the materials for worship.

I learnt something about the second world war under Nazi rule and today it may be true that we are not forced to wear badges to show who we are, but there is still the stigma of not being 'normal'.

On many occasions I used to quote Father John Powell who was a significant spiritual writer – one in particular:-

*'Everyone is born with unique and unconditional value. Each of us is mysterious and unrepeatable in the course of human history and each of us is made in the image and likeness of God.'*

Lucy mentioned the work at the Cathedral where everyone is accepted, loved and valued. There are, as we know, those who work with the disadvantaged at St Andrew's, such as the WB Street Wardens and those helping at the Food Bank.

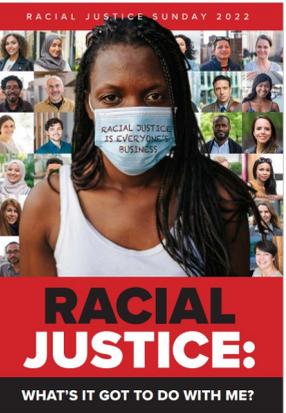
I volunteer at a charity called Nite Bite – it is one of those listed on the leaflet 'Tin on the Wall'. This charity has been going for over twenty years, started by the Baptist minister and now supported by Churches Together in North Shields. It is managed by an Elder from St Columba's who also does a great deal of the work as well as meeting some of the same people at 7.00am on a Sunday, at St Columba's, to provide a cooked breakfast.

Some of the team also meet (at the Baptist Church) to provide pastoral support and provide clothes and food – the people who come to this are referred to as 'New to the UK'.

It is encouraging in today's very difficult times to see the church in action and as the prophet Micah said:-

*'and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to humbly walk with your God?'*

Thank you, Lucy.



**Gordon Connacher**

# 102 Not Out

## *A great celebration*

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January Mrs Florence Burnett-White celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday at her home in Eastbourne House. Florence had a wonderful time and was especially delighted that her daughter, son-in-law, grandson and Daisy the Schnauzer were allowed to visit her, having journeyed up for the day from their home near Doncaster. Apart from receiving over 60 cards, which the staff at Eastbourne House duly put up on her bedroom wall, Florence was almost overwhelmed by the number of gifts and flowers which she was given, together with a large balloon, a crown, 2 birthday cakes, a lovely birthday tea and a sing-along of wartime songs with the other residents (including Jean Walton). The staff had also arranged a

surprise video call on a big screen with one of the custodians from the castle at Blackness, a favourite haunt of Florence from childhood onwards. This was a real thrill for her, and during their conversation she was able to provide the custodian with some valuable information for the castle's archives. A few days after the call, Florence received a further delightful surprise when a box of Edinburgh Rock arrived for her, courtesy of the staff at Blackness. Although her sight is very poor, and mobility is a problem for her, her mind is still as sharp as ever, and she remains a good conversationalist.

She is now thinking about her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday.....!

**Carole Mallett**

## **Celebrating 60 years together**

Thank you to Team St. Andrew's for making today (Sunday 20 Feb) special – everyone has been so kind. Thank you for all the cards and flowers.

We are ever grateful for the support and friendship we receive from St. Andrew's. (Yes, it really was us in the photo!)

**With Best Wishes,  
Gordon and Ingrid.**

# Churches Together in Whitley Bay



## *Report of meeting held 16 Feb*

Report of Meeting of Churches Together in Whitley Bay, Wednesday 16th February 2022 at the Whitley Bay Baptist Church.

This was the first time we actually met as a group for two years because of the pandemic.

However, there were several people missing because of the adverse weather conditions!

The meeting was opened by the Chairman the Revd Alan Dickinson, pastor at the Bay Church. 12 people attended. Our opening devotions were led by a couple from the Whitley Bay Baptist Church (Psalm 150).

### **Reflections on past events**

The Fiesta celebrations - there have already been two with several more planned. This activity is a community event held in the middle of Whitley Bay. Dates for future Fiestas are: 6th March, 5th June, 4th September and 4th December. Volunteers are needed! If interested please contact Andrew Foster 07837 737712.

DePaul Christmas hampers were sent out but it was suggested we need to know more about DePaul's work. The local representative is being asked to come and speak at our next meeting.

A service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at St Paul's in the last week of January. Prayers were very mindful!

### **Future events**

1. Scarecrow Festival (1st and 2nd October 2022)
2. World Day of Prayer (4th March at 2 pm) at St Paul's Church.
3. Lent/Easter Activities – several churches have different activities – the following are ecumenical events:
  - Lunchtime Lenten Worship – followed by a soup and a roll – 18th and 25th March, 1st and 8th April at 12.30 pm (Friday) at St Andrew's.
  - Tenebrae Service (a Service of Shadows) at 6.30 pm Thursday, 14th April at St Andrew's.

- Good Friday outdoor service (opposite Spar, Monkseaton) at 12 noon, involving several churches.
- Sunrise service on Easter morning outside Beefeater/ Premier Inn – on the Promenade at 5.30 am.

These are as well as our normal church services at St Andrew's.

### Ongoing initiatives

Short reports were given on Parish Nursing, Street Pastors, SWEP 2021-2022 and the Bay Food Bank.

A new initiative organised by North Tyneside Council is 'charity supermarkets' run by volunteers. It will be up and running in the next

month. Registration is needed – no questions asked – a fee of £7.50 (with groceries worth £35) each time – collecting the groceries at specific bases yet to be specified.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with administration business.

Under 'Any other business' the vicar from St Paul's, with a small group, is hoping to plant a cherry tree in the grounds of St Paul's at 12.30 pm on Sunday 27th March. This will be a place of solace for anyone who needs a quiet place for contemplation and meditation – a non-secular place.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

**Valerie Taylor**

## St. Andrew's 100 Club

*You have to be in it to win it!*

The January draw took place on Sunday 30th January when Marilyn Walton drew the following numbers:

- |    |           |               |         |
|----|-----------|---------------|---------|
| 1) | Number 30 | Phil Brown    | £118.50 |
| 2) | Number 75 | Gordon Yarrow | £59 .25 |
| 3) | Number 17 | Judith Lithgo | £19 .75 |

With £197 .50 going to Church Funds.

**Kathleen Hopper**

# Farewell to the Friendship Club

Happy memories, but a sad end for all involved



On 13th March 2020 the Friendship Club met for their usual meeting, and to make final arrangements for the Easter Lunch due to take place on 27th March. The news bulletin that day suggested there could be a lockdown for three weeks due to the threat of Covid so a decision was made to cancel the lunch and to meet again, hopefully, on the 17th May and a promise we would have the lunch. This of course didn't happen and sadly two years on we had to admit that, due to us all getting older, family commitments and health concerns, we can no longer carry on.

Thanks of course have to go to some of the original committee Paul & Sheila, Carol & Jim, Dorothy & Derek and not forgetting Margaret & Bill Waugh. When Bill retired ten years ago at the grand age of 90 I somehow was drafted in and Bill's shoes were very big to fill. Paul of course was still Chairman but my merry men were George, Jim and Philip Brown. I did enjoy arranging entertainment for

the fortnightly meetings and of course our Christmas, Easter and Summer lunches were always thoroughly enjoyed. We mustn't also forget our faithful helpers Mavis, Florence and our receptionist Alison.

We do apologise to all our members but know you will understand and, we will remember you all with fondness, stay safe, keep well.

The money being held in the Friendship account has been transferred to St. Andrew's Charity Fund Account.

Love & thanks  
**Christine Ridley**

## Rotas

Elders' and Stewards' rotas will hopefully be included from next month (if I can find space!)

# Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers  
with the wider URC*



6	Our Synod Moderator, Revd Dave Herbert; Synod Clerk, Mel Campbell, Mel's work in both Northern Synod and with the five northerly Synods as we continue to explore being better equipped for mission through the co-ordination and the sharing of resources; Synod Treasurer, Mr Gordon Wanless.
13	Northern Synod Meeting on the 19 <sup>th</sup> – for the conversations we will have and the decisions we will make! St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island; Revd Rachel Poolman (Warden). URC Assembly Executive scheduled to meet 15-17 <sup>th</sup> March. The Acting Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Diocese, the Rt Revd Mark Wroe.
20	Waddington Street URC, Durham; Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church URC, Stanley; Denewell Avenue and Cromer Avenue URCs, Gateshead; Revd Marcus Hargis.
27	PCM, its congregations in and around the capital, Maputo; Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, Revd Richard Andrew.

## From the Book of Remembrance

*Remembering those who have gone before us*

Baby Holborn

Stuart Mackay Adamson

Jenny Evelyn Merrick

Edna Thwaites

Ann Mitchell Young

James Alexander Murphy

Arthur Parr

Constance Mary Lisle

Jeanne Kynoch

# Church Calendar for March

*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.*

Friday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		<b>World Day of Prayer Service at St Paul's Church, Whitley Bay</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
Saturday	5	58 Society Coffee Morning	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(Lent 1) Morning Worship: Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	7	58 Society – 'Mayflower – Flight or Fancy?'	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8	Finance Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Thursday	10	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	11	Film Club – 'The White Crow'	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(Lent 2) Morning Worship: Mrs Lucy Cooke</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	14	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Lent Service, followed by soup and roll : Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>
Saturday	19	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>(Lent 3) Morning Worship: Mrs Louise Kemp. FOLLOWED BY CHURCH AGM.</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	21	58 Society – 'Writers and Revolutionaries of the NE'	7.30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Lent Service, followed by soup and roll: Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>(Lent 4) Morning Worship: Mrs Lucy Cooke.</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	28	58 Society – End of Session Meal	TBA

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

The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and may not represent the view of the URC, St Andrew's Church Meeting or its Elders.

Photographs and other clipart used under Creative Commons licensing, or taken/created by Church members, unless otherwise indicated.

# Pause in this moment

A place for  
prayers,  
thoughts  
and poems

## **A prayer for Lent**

*Written by a member of the 'Movement of Priests for the Third World' who was assassinated in 1974 in Argentina.*

Lord forgive me for becoming accustomed to looking at children who appear to be eight years old when they are already thirteen; forgive me for becoming accustomed to sloshing through mud puddles which I can leave behind me – they cannot; forgive me for learning to shut out the smell of open sewers which I can leave behind me – they cannot; forgive me for turning on my lights automatically, forgetting those who have no lights to turn on; forgive me for telling them that 'man cannot live by bread alone' without joining them in their struggle for bread.

Lord, I want to love them for who they are – help me; I dream of dying for them – help me to live for them; I want to be with them when the light breaks through – help me.

Amen

