



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Sitting as St. Cuthbert sat, in the sight of God

Volume 88 Issue 07 — July 2022

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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Are all welcome?

Not whilst it's still disgraceful



A few weekends ago we spent a wonderful few hours on Holy Island, inspired by Lucy's new role on the management committee of the St. Cuthbert's Centre. It really is one of our favourite places to go, for the beauty of the scenery, the tranquillity of the sea, and for how close you feel to God. It's a chance to recharge the spiritual batteries, offering a prayer or two (using a prayer stone as Lucy does). We were even, for the first time since we have started going to the island, able to visit the remains of the chapel on St. Cuthbert's Island due to the tide being so low, and see plenty of curious seals waiting for us to depart so they could land on the beach. It truly is a place where, as Christians, we can feel God saying "All are welcome".

It's a slightly different feeling when you broach the subject of just who is welcome at our own church. Despite the warm welcome we are so often commended upon, we still, as Lucy raised in her powerful, but to some controversial, sermon on Sunday

26th June, still not able to really say "All are welcome". If you didn't make it to the service, or even if you did, I'd encourage you to rewatch at least that part of the service on YouTube and perhaps consider: is it what Lucy said that was disgraceful, or just ingrained attitudes built from hundreds of years of intolerance that mean we can't be true to that phrase? Intolerance and even hatred that, just when it appeared to be starting to wane, has recently been given a new lease of life, especially thanks to certain actions by governments round the world.

I do hope and pray that we at St. Andrew's are able to finally bring true meaning to the words, and to be able to once again sing with gusto "All are welcome in this place".

Find your own thin place, talk to God and listen for his answer.

With every blessing,

Tim

Activities Team update

Looking back, and looking forward to July and beyond



Film Club - Friday 8th July, 2.00 pm

With the recent death of Vangelis it was thought to be appropriate to show the film *Chariots of Fire*. Vangelis is well-known for composing the Academy Award winning music for the film which tells the true story of two British sprinters vying for gold in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games.



the toast to St Andrew's. The tables were decorated with beautiful flower arrangements created by Catriona Fenwick. Barbara Burgess and her Craft Group had made St Andrew's bunting which was used throughout the building. Memorabilia was on display and a new updated booklet detailing the history of St Andrew's and compiled by Carole Moore, and Tim & Lucy Cooke is now available for purchase.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was good to share in celebrating with St Peter's on this unique occasion. Joan Blanchfield, Margaret Varley and Pat Ord, on behalf of St Andrew's, did well with their Ice Cream Stall. Details of the event and distribution of funds raised are shown elsewhere in Newstand.

St Andrew's 90th Anniversary

We are very grateful to the Revd Dr Trevor Jamison for leading worship with such a relevant service. This was followed by light lunch refreshments enjoyed by all. Bill Hopper in his usual inimitable style gave a short witty speech followed by the Revd Douglas McFarlane saying Grace and leading

Play Reading Evening – Saturday 23rd July, 7 pm

We look forward to another evening of either taking part or just listening to a play, usually a comedy, being read. These are entertaining and sociable occasions so why not come along and join the fun? Tickets are available at £5 (to include wine/soft drinks and nibbles).

Dates for the diary

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th August, 10 am to noon.

Film Club

Friday 12th August, 2 pm.

Ann Hammond

Wednesday Prayers at 10

*Life-giving, life-loving God,
hold this fragile world in Your hands*



crosswalk.com

Opening Words

In the stillness
You hold us in this moment
together.
Gentle God
You invite us to behold Your
wonders,
You beckon us to step into Your
embrace,
You wrap us in Your love and care.
Be with us now
in a time of stillness
of quiet prayer.

AMEN

In a Prayer of Confession

God our creator and healer,
we confess that we have used
creation, not cherished it;
we have lived selfishly,
and not watched the balance of
life; we have been greedy, not
sharing earth's gifts fairly with
others.
Forgive us the damage that
disturbs the earth.
Grant us the grace to live for the
world's healing and our own.

AMEN

In the prayer our Lord Jesus taught
his disciples we come before You
God to pray...

**Our Father, which art in heaven...
For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory for ever and
ever. AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Life-giving, life-loving God,
we offer to You the images we
have seen of a world that is
damaged; the earth fractured,
frayed and torn, polluted,
ravaged, scarred and worn, its
treasures plundered.

Life-giving, life-loving God,
bless those who step forward
to care, protect and recover
this damaged earth.
Guide us that we too can make
decisions to care and heal Your
creation.

Life-giving, life-loving God,
we offer You the images of
flooded lands, burnt and barren
fields; ruined cities, towns and
villages destroyed by the weapons
of war. We pray for a world that
needs care and protection.

Life-giving, life-loving God,
bless those who are in positions of
power across the world that they
have honour in their decisions for
the care and protection of people
living through wars, violence and
oppression.

We pray for the peoples of the
world who need care and
protection.

Life-giving, life-loving God,
we bring these prayers to You
through the name of Your Son,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
AMEN

Blessing:

May the grace of God surround
us; may the love of our Lord Jesus
Christ fill us and the guidance of
the Holy Spirit be with us as we go
forward in caring and healing.

AMEN

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team.

Time for coffee

But can you make it?

We are intending to restart the
Open Door Coffee Mornings in
September on Tuesdays and
Thursdays 10am to 12 noon.



These have been popular meeting places for Church members
and the local community, however we will need a rota of willing
helpers to make this possible.

If you are able to help on either of these days please contact
Barbara Watson on 0191 2894464.

June Church Meeting

*Looking back on the past 3 months
and forward to the next few*



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

58 members attending with 2 others and 3 apologies.

The Church Secretary reported:

- Elders' Meeting had agreed to the following in September:
 - ◆ Midweek service returns to a Tuesday along with the Open Door Coffee Morning.
 - ◆ The return of a 9.30 am service on the second Sunday of the month – to be called 'Let's Sing' instead of 'Praise Service'. Mandy Watson and Tim Cooke leading.
 - ◆ A Prayer Group at 10.15 am returns on the second Sunday of the month led by Mandy Watson.
 - ◆ A Harvest Service on a Monday afternoon.
 - ◆ A Harvest Parade Service to be organised.
- The digital Hymnal to be used when there is a 5th Sunday in the month.
- A new streaming system being investigated - volunteers needed for operation.
- Executive Team continues to monitor Covid-19 and make adjustments to procedures as appropriate.
- The new computer system for control of the heating now up and running.
- A hot water boiler and coffee machine failed – due to lack of use over two years.
- Beryl and Eddie Thompson thanked for 'blitzing' the gardens, power washing the pavements and restoration of the bench.
- Redecoration undertaken at front of the building.
- More groups returning along with some new users – but still keeping usage at a lower level to prevent overcrowding.
- Activities Team once again organising some social and fund-raising events. Mini Fairs and Coffee Mornings – well supported.

- Annual Art Exhibition to be held in October.
- Providing refreshments on a larger scale still problematic.

The Church Treasurer reported:

- Church finances in two parts – one getting on well, the other not so good.
- Church General Fund (including general day to day running) 'not so good' -
- Expenses back to pre Covid level and gas and electric due to rise even more with new contracts.
- Offertory Income maintained

constant but hall letting and fund-raising intentionally being kept at lower level resulting in a monthly deficit and large annual deficit.

- Church Development Fund (substantial funds) – used for large projects and covering annual general fund deficits. Doing well and increasing.
- Proposed to continue funding general deficit from Development Fund.

**Next Church Meeting –
Sunday 18th September 2022.**

Ray Hammond

Make a better world

*Now's the time for action
on climate change*

Do you want to be part of a team from Whitley Bay churches forming a "WhatsApp" group to promote proactive means of protection and care for the Earth?

If you are interested in being part of this group, coordinating and enthusing all of us about climate change and, through

Tearfund, helping areas of the world affected most by climate change and poverty, or just to get more information, please contact Brian Wardle of Whitley Bay Baptist Church by letter (5, Glendale Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE26 1RX), phone (07779 144227) or email (bc.wardle@sky.com).

Those Darling Dollies

A great evening had by all in aid of Flower Team funds



From the 40s through to the modern day (with a 40s twist), a great evening was had by all who attended "The Darling Dollies" concert on Saturday 25 June (although it took some of the audience a while to get into the swing of things).

With lighting and a hazy atmosphere courtesy of "Techie Tim", Lucy, Emma and Rebecca entertained us all for nearly 2 hours, complete with a full costume change at the interval.

We're grateful to The Darling Dollies and especially to the Flower Team for organising the evening and look forward to their return in the future.



Photos by Matthew Hall

Charitable Giving Scheme

The results of the voting for the two charities chosen for this year, 2022, was as follows:

North Tyneside Young Carers 22 votes

Great North Air Ambulance Service 19 votes

Ann & Ray Hammond

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The April draw took place on Sunday 29th May when Catriona Fenwick drew the following numbers:

1)	Number 52	Celia Purves	£117.00
2)	Number 19	Ann Hammond	£58.50
3)	Number 70	Catherin Kester	£19.50

With £195.00 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

Church Register

Death

LOWDON

*Derek Milton aged 93 years,
on 10th May 2022.*

*Committal at Tynemouth on 6th June,
followed by service at St Andrew's,
conducted by Dr Ann Sinclair.*

Ukraine Appeal

Many thanks to all from St Andrew's who contributed to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal which raised £815.

There is still money being donated in respect of the Ukraine ribbons made by Barbara Burgess and her Craft Group which are available in the reception area.

Kevin Ames and Ray Hammond

Called by Name

by Rosemary Weekes



Brett Jordan/Unsplash

Our mysterious God has ways of communicating with us that are sometimes so hard to discern, so quiet - a still small voice - that we often miss his word. Yet those of us who feel called by God, who in some mysterious way have felt drawn to him, must have answered that voice deep within ourselves.

I have summoned you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1b)

God has called his chosen through the ages, as we see in the Bible. Right up until Jesus called his disciples, who left everything and followed him, with no certainty of where they were being led.

'Lord, where are we going?'

'With me'.

High and humble

We know about those people who have, in the eyes of the world, done great things for God: prophets, martyrs, teachers of the faith, saints. But what of those we might call 'ordinary people' living ordinary lives, perhaps even unaware that their kindnesses, thoughtfulness, willingness to help are all by God's Grace? What strange joy it is when we realise that it is God from whom all blessings, all gifts, life itself proceeds.

Each called by name

So how is it we respond to the calling

of our name? It is a name known to God alone, which one day we shall know. Sometimes the call comes as a dawning realisation over time.

Sometimes it seems to come suddenly, as in St Paul's encounter on the Damascus road. In many cases the call is known only to God and the person he calls.

Keep alert

I believe there are no coincidences when it comes to God's work.

Opportunities may be taken or lost. We have to look and listen, and keep on looking and listening, through and beyond the sometimes dull routine of our lives. Then we may glimpse the glorious God who longs to communicate with his children at every stage of their lives and in every kind of situation.

The cost

We don't always get it right, and make mistakes, sometimes costly ones. There are times his heart must break when he sees our folly and cruelty, but still, he chooses to entrust us with his world, his creation. So may the God who calls us, and continues to call us, find an answering loving response in our hearts through all things.

via Association for Church Editors

Thanks and requests

From them to you



A huge thank you to all who responded to the RVI baby intensive care knitted blankets appeal. If you are still knitting please finish what you are doing. Any finished blankets should be brought to church and handed to Iain Ord. We need to find out if there is still a requirement for further blankets so please do not start any new knitting at this time.

Thank you.

Iain and Pat Ord

*From Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh,
Vicar of St. Peter's Church*

I write following the meeting of the St. Peter's PCC on Tuesday 14th June formally to thank St. Andrew's for joining with us to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. It was so good that we were able to do that together.

Obviously, the purpose of the garden party was not about fundraising; it was about the community gathering to celebrate something of which we are unlikely ever to see the like again.

Nevertheless, we were pleased that, after the costs of the day had been covered, we were in a position to send £613.35 to the Duke of

Edinburgh Award Trust's Living Legacy fund, which supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to be able to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Thank you once again for your part in making the day such a happy one. I look forward to further opportunities for us to work and witness together.

With every blessing, and my warm good wishes,

Hannah

Thank you to everyone at St Andrew's for their gentle, kind and supportive care and generally amazing care on the passing of Dad and on the day of the Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's. Mum and Dad, Dorothy and Derek, are both now fluttering leaves together on the Tree of Remembrance at Whitley Bay Crematorium. We appreciate everything that St Andrew's has done for Dad, Mum and the family over the years. You are a very special group of people.

Tracey Grant,

on behalf Derek Lowdon's family

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



3	South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA) (Methodist and URC) and President, Revd Julian Sanders; URC General Assembly meets, 8 th – 11 th July. We pray for Moderators of General Assembly, their chaplains, the Clerks to the Assembly, all Assembly Officers, and all who gather and contribute.
10	Northumbrian Industrial Mission and Mrs Fiona Usher, Chaplain Team Leader.
17	The work of Synod Executive Committee.
24	St James's URC, Alnwick; Warkworth URC; Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn; The work of LMMR (Local Mission and Ministry Review).
31	PCM, their office staff at Church House, Khovo, Maputo. The Anglican Bishop of Jarrow, the Rt Revd Sarah Clark.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Alfred Edward Corby
Edith Walton
Kenneth George Tancock
Doris May Heighton
(Revd) David Idris Owen
George Nicholson Hay

John & Isabella Thompson
Lilian Alex Masterman
Joyce Marion Masterton
Malloch
Sarah Jane Laybourn
Shirley Corrigan

Church Calendar for July/August

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.

Sunday	3	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Tuesday	5	Finance Team Meeting	10.00 am
Friday	8	Film Club – 'Chariots of Fire'	2.00 pm
Sunday	10	Morning Worship; Worship Group 'Songs of Praise' Service	11.00 am
Monday	11	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Thursday	14	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Sunday	17	Morning Worship: Revd Philip Gray	11.00 am
Tuesday	19	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Saturday	23	Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	24	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Sunday	31	Morning Worship; Revd Ron Forster	11.00 am
AUGUST 2022			
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning	10.00 am

August Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 31st July.
Please have contributions to Tim by 25th July.

Small print: 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

Cargoes (1903)

John Masefield

Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant
Ophir,
Rowing home to haven in sunny
Palestine,
With a cargo of ivory,
And apes and peacocks,
Sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet
white wine.

Stately Spanish galleon coming from
the Isthmus,
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm
-green shores,
With a cargo of diamonds,
Emeralds, amethysts,
Topazes, and cinnamon, and gold
moidores.

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked
smoke stack,
Butting through the Channel in the mad
March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road-rails, pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin
trays.

Selected by Sheila Blackwood

