



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Where the wild things are

Volume 88 Issue 08 — August 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	

Persistence and diversity

Recognising that accommodating difference is key to being Christlike



Having seen my weight slowly increasing over the past few years due to too much energy in and not enough energy out, a few months ago I started "Couch to 5K". This, over 12 weeks, aims to get you from a sedentary lifestyle to being able to run 5km (3.1 miles in old money). I can't say that I've managed to stick to that as I'm still only on week 4 of the plan, having repeated week 3 a few times till I was comfortable with the running and similarly now in week 4 I am on a repeat of the same runs. Persistence has been the key; not giving up completely and not just saying "I'll stay at this level, within my comfort zone". You may have seen that same persistence in some of the recurrent themes in past editions of Newstand!

Whilst out on my exercise, my route takes me round the perimeter of our estate in Blyth where, after having carpets of yellow from the daffodils earlier in the year, we now have carpets of red, white, blue and yellow wild flowers, as you can see on the cover (though the picture doesn't do it justice). Amongst those wildflowers I started to see species of flowers that were not originally part of the seeds that were planted. That included several clumps of thistles. Whilst in our own gardens we may see those as

weeds and dig them out thinking they do not belong, amongst the wild flower borders they add to the diversity, with their bright purple flowers attracting bees and other insects that perhaps aren't as attracted to the other flowers.

Within our own church, as we have previously been made aware, being different is something that we perhaps don't accommodate as well as some make out. Being welcomed because you fit in with what we perceive to be the correct mix of flowers and not welcomed if you are seen as one of the thistles.

What's interesting though is that as the wildflowers are dying down, it is the thistles that continue to give sustenance. They are what are keeping the insects thriving, rather than just allowing them to die off or find a home elsewhere.

If we are to see St. Andrew's continue to thrive rather than die off as its regular species of flowers die off, then increasing the diversity of who it welcomes, however painful some may perceive them to be, is key.

Have an enjoyable summer and take care of all those flowers.

Blessings, Tim.

Activities Team update

Looking forward to August and beyond



Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th August 10 am to noon

Our monthly coffee mornings resume in August and offer an opportunity to come along to the church for a sociable morning amongst friends. There is usually a raffle plus a bric-a-brac stall and we look forward to a convivial morning; do come along if you can.

Film Club – Friday 12th August 2.00 pm

The film in August is the comedy-drama *The Duke*. This tells the uplifting true story of the theft by a Newcastle pensioner of a portrait from the National Gallery in London and stars Jim Broadbent.

Dates for the diary

- **Coffee Morning –**
Saturday 3rd September,
10 am – noon
- **Film Club –**
Friday 9th September,
2 pm
- **Charity Cheque Presentation –**
Sunday 11th September,
at coffee time
- **Poetry Evening –**
Saturday 24th September,
7 pm



Wednesday Prayers at 10

*Let us come into Your presence
with open hearts*



OPENING WORDS

Come to a quiet place.
God of compassion, kindness,
and generosity

Your hands are open wide
to all who ask.

God of majesty, mystery,
and mercy, Your way can be found
by all who seek.

Your door is always open
to those who knock.

Let us come into Your presence
with open hearts. **AMEN**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

We come, as broken, doubtful, and
searching disciples, yearning to know
You.

We come not as fully formed or
perfect people, instead, we bring
ourselves just as we are, with our
wonders and desires, our fears and
doubts, and our hopes and intentions.

We give thanks in knowing that in our
times of fear or doubt

You reach out to us, in our times of
unknowing You offer us truth.

Ever loving God, we acknowledge
our failings, our inability to always do
as You ask us to.

We ask for Your guidance and
support, care, compassion, and
forgiveness, and in the certain hope
of Your grace. **Amen**

IN ASSURANCE

We give thanks for the surety, that
though there are difficulties in this
world, and that we cannot be all
things to all people, Your love is
eternal and unconditional, and that
we will remain under Your care, this
day and every day, as we pray in
Jesus' name, and for his sake. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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

Loving God,
we come before You in prayer:
for our troubled world, torn apart by
greed, by a failure of stewardship, by
inequality, and by disease, help us
and all those who can to find new
ways and strengths to help and to

heal, to bring justice and Your saving message to all whom we meet.

We pray for our communities, as we search for ways to break the loneliness of those who feel isolated, shine Your light of love into the darkness of ignorance and distance, help us to live and to embrace Your life-giving commandment: to love our neighbours.

For your churches, at this time we seek to find our place in this world of competing priorities, reignite the flame of faith in the hearts of Your beloved children, help us to find new ways to spread Your mission and message to a world so in need of Your love.

For all those in pain,
all those bereaved,
all those doubting,
all those struggling,
all those on the margins,
all those searching,
we hold each in our hearts now.

Loving God,
guide us and embrace us,
help us to be more like You,
and who You have made us to be.
In Jesus' name we pray.

AMEN

Blessing

May God be with you
this and every day.

AMEN

From the Hope 4 team

On the green carpet

Carpet Bowling will commence again in the Main Hall of the church on Thursday 15th September at 2pm.

We would welcome any new members who would like to join us.

Mary Christopher



In search of a new Minister

*A few words from
the Interim Moderator*



Dear friends,

It's been some months since you've heard from me! This note is to let you know the latest situation in our search for a new minister. You'll recall that we completed the pastorate profile at the beginning of the year and this was forwarded to the Moderator in the Spring.

The Moderators meet monthly and it's a standing agenda item to discuss movement of ministers – they have a list of ministers looking for a move to compare with the list of churches looking for ministry. There have therefore been four such meetings in which names could emerge for St Andrew's.

I can tell you that we have already received a formal expression of interest which was considered by the Pastorate Call Group. However, we decided that the fit wasn't right for St Andrew's and we will not pursue the opportunity further. I hope you'll understand that the details remain confidential and the members of the Call Group won't be able to discuss any of them with you.

We therefore wait for the next name to come forward.

In the meantime, I'll be asking for a church meeting where we should consider what constitutes a "call" to ministry at St Andrew's. Traditionally there's a secret ballot of all the members on the church roll and a certain percentage in favour must be reached before a call can be extended. What is the right percentage? That's something for us to discuss. If it's too high, the risk is that a small number of dissenting voices will block a call that the vast majority supports. If it's too low, the call may be rejected by a minister concerned about a significant block of members who don't support their ministry in principle.

As an alternative to a ballot, some churches nowadays aim for a "consensus" approach where the discussion continues until everyone agrees by a show of hands that the consensus has been reached. At that point, the dissenting voices agree to abide by the consensus which makes the vote essentially

unanimous. The advantage of this approach is that it encourages thorough discussion and you always get a 100% result. However, some people believe that this approach applies too much pressure to fall in with the majority view and that people who would vote "no" given the private opportunity don't feel able to do so in public.

These are matters to consider and discuss as a church meeting after the summer holiday period.

In the meantime, I'm sure you see

the months tick by and wait impatiently for signs of a new minister. Presently, the most helpful thing is to continue to pray, offering up the needs of our fellowship to God and to continue in trust, hope and faith. I have confidence that the right person is out there, waiting for the nudge from the Holy Spirit.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and I'll look forward to meeting with you before too long.
Yours in Christ,

Andrew

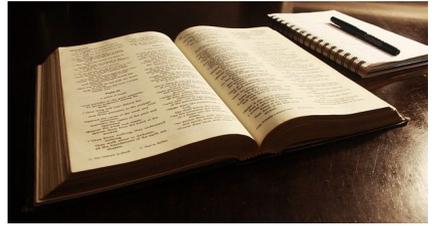
Sad news of an old friend

Longstanding members of St Andrew's (who may not have been present in church on July 17th) will be sorry to learn of the death of Bill Valentine on July 14th in Canterbury, at the age of 94. Bill was a former Elder and a member of the Fifty Eight Society who, together with his wife Eunice and daughters Helen and Avril, was very much involved in the life of our church. Eunice was a Brownie leader here, as well as the Business Manager for Newstand, and both the girls were in Brownies and Guides. Since moving down south several years ago, Bill has maintained his interest in St Andrew's by being in regular contact with some of us, and continuing to receive a postal copy of Newstand each month. He will be very much missed by his family and friends.

Carole Mallett

A study of Bible study

Looking back on the last sessions



The last Bible Study covered a period of four weeks where we looked at a some of the Parables.

The first parable we looked at was The Priest, Levite & Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37; the second, The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16; the third: The Sower and the Seed: Mark 4:1-9 (Matthew 13:1-9, Luke 8:4-8); and the final parable, The Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10.

Each week one of the group would be chosen to read the parable. Discussions and interesting conversations followed that allowed the Group a deeper understanding of the parables and in turn allowed the Group to a deeper level of understanding that underpin the parables. We made a habit of re-reading the parables towards the end of our time together and that was really useful to reflect on our discussions. The consensus of opinion was 'we shall never look at the parables the same way again.'

The Group have their own Poet Laureate in Una who sourced poems and composed a poem of her own to sit alongside the different Parables. This gave a different dimension to the studies and Una's work was very much appreciated by the Group. The poems are copied on the following pages for you to link with the Parables.

The Group are on a break now during the summer and will begin again in September.

With the Open Door Coffee Mornings re-commencing in September, the Bible Study Group will be moving to Fridays 10.30 — 11.30a.m on Zoom. If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. If would like any further details, please contact

Alison Mood:
alison.mood@talktalk.net

or

Ann Sinclair:
eannsinclair14@gmail.com

Inspired by the parables

Fresh words in a modern world



The Unemployed Labourer

by Una Ketteridge

In the vineyard some men started
work early on;
An agreement they made on their
pay.
Later, much later, some others arrived
And began their work late in the day.
At the end of the day the landowner
turned up,
Paid one dinar they all had agreed
on.
Some thought it unfair and they
grumbled and groused
"Long hours we worked and they
have just come!"
"I'm a generous man and you all
worked so hard.
Don't complain – you agreed – you
were there!
The last will be first, the first will be last:
In the Kingdom of Heav'n it's all fair!"

The Sower

by William Cowper

Ye sons of earth prepare the plough
Break up your fallow ground;
The sower is gone forth to sow,
And scatter blessings round.
The seed that finds a stony soil
Shoots forth a hasty blade.
But ill repays the sower's toil;
Soon withered, scorched and dead.
The thorny ground is sure to balk
All hopes of harvest there;
We find a tall and sickly stalk
But not the fruitful ear.
The beaten path and highway side
Receive the trust in vain;
The watchful birds the spoils divide
And pick up all the grain.
But where the Lord of grace and
power
Has blessed the happy field;
How plenteous is the golden store
The deep-wrought furrows yield.
Father of Mercy we have need
Of Thy preparing grace;
Let the same hand that gave the
seed
Provide a fruitful place.



The Lost Coin

by Dustin E.

This man had read the Bible for the first time while in prison and was inspired to write this poem, based on the Parable of the Lost Coin.

As you read, remember that Dustin is serving a prison sentence and I am sure at times felt lost and unloved. This is a part of his personal testimony I believe and reflects what many of his fellow inmates have experienced along their way. Lean into his message.

Inspired by Luke 15:8

If you feel like a big disgrace;
Feel like you're lost and out of place;
Don't have any idea where you're going;
Feel like an old and discarded lost coin.

Do not fear what is around;
He will not give up until you are found.
He is eager and waiting for you to join;
He will never give up on the lost coin.

We celebrate the Saviour, we
celebrate the saved;
Like the coin that was lost but found
today.

We run in the streets welcoming
others to join;
To celebrate the finding of the lost
coin.

We didn't deserve it;
But we received it that day.
For it is by grace through faith
That we have been saved.

He sacrificed Himself,
Not thinking the cost;
He gave us his life
For the coin that was lost.

The freedom to worship is worth fighting for

by Claude Masters



I expect most people, like me, can remember things that happened in their early years better than the things that happened yesterday! Being born in 1934, one of my earliest memories is the Battle of Britain (July 1940 – October 1941).

I remember cheering when I heard on the wireless how many more of the enemy aircraft had been shot down compared with those the RAF had lost. The Nazis, led by Adolf Hitler, thought that all they had to do to bring Britain to our knees was to crush the RAF. However, this was not to be the case because Winston Churchill and his advisers had foreseen the likelihood of war and our country had been well prepared.

During the Battle of Britain, the RAF Fighter Command had more Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft than the Luftwaffe Messerschmitt and Stukas, although that was not what most people thought at the time. The RAF believed that the enemy had more planes than them, while the Luftwaffe thought they had the strongest force. The RAF, however, was in a stronger position and the Nazis' attempt to destroy them by bombing our airfields was unsuccessful because Hitler made the mistake of changing tack. He started bombing the East End of

London instead. Here again the RAF fighters were successful in breaking up the German bomber squadrons and in fending off the Nazi fighters trying to defend them. When Hitler asked his commanders why they were losing so many aircraft he was told it was because of the Spitfires.

So, the enemy started night-time air raids and the Blitz of London ensued. It must have been awful for Eastenders to emerge from their overnight shelters to find their homes were not there anymore. Sadly, history is repeating itself in Ukraine. Let us pray that the war there will soon end peacefully, and innocent Christians will not only be reunited with their families once more, but that their churches will be in a condition that enables them to worship together with the same freedom that we so often take for granted today. It was a freedom worth fighting for when I was 6 years old, and it is still worth fighting for now that I am 86!

Claude is a member of St. Andrew's Church, Sonning, Berkshire and a regular contributor to their magazine, "The Parish Magazine".

If you have your own stories and memories to share, please do send them in for inclusion in "Newstand".

Being big on prayer

And knowing that God is listening.



Many years ago, and new to the area of Monkseaton, I came to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church of England to worship. One particular Sunday an Elder was leading worship. He stood in the pulpit and at one point said... 'no one prays these days'. I was horrified. As a new girl on the block, I wished I had had the courage to stand up and ask, 'how do you know?' How did he know?

Prayer is something Jesus did, often with crowds, with his disciples, but also alone away from everyone... time on his own, time to express his concerns and his fears.

Prayer is an intensely emotional, personal and yet public experience. Prayer is not a passive action and can encompass all manner of emotions at any particular time; it can be uplifting but also be difficult, difficult to find the words to express extreme sadness, anxiety, despair or anger.

Yet prayer can also be offered in times of celebration, of thankfulness and joy in happier times, and even then, finding the words to express such emotions might be a struggle also.

Rev. Dr Carla Grosch-Miller introduced the folks of St Andrew's to the Psalms as a way into prayer allowing us to bring prayers expressing

a range of our feelings and needs to God when perhaps we struggle to find the words.

Prayer can be inconsistent at times, when prayer is off our agenda for some quite simple reason, not because we have forgotten, but have become overloaded with deep concerns and exhaustion and the words simply won't come. But we need never be wordless, the answer is there are the Gospels of Matthew and Luke — the Lord's Prayer provides us with the words that have been there and used across the centuries to speak to God and they stand today.

Prayer calls for persistence, a persistence to keep open our relationship with God, to persist in prayer and seek the will of God. Prayer is our way of tuning into God, opening our minds and hearts, revealing to God who we truly are. Prayer is the core of our relationship with God.

We might not always get what we ask for in prayer but persistent prayer brings us close to God. Prayer is having an intimate relationship with God as individuals but also being in a community relationship with God, among family and church family, friends known and perhaps friends still

to be known. Direct persistent prayer to God is central to our relationship with God and through our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

'No one prays these days?' Big question and the answer only known to God.

Ann Sinclair

Remember, remember to make plans for September

If you are a keen cyclist or walker, or if you enjoy a casual ride or walk, now is the time to start planning how you can take part in this year's Ride+Stride project organised by The National Churches Trust on Saturday 10 September.

The trust was created in 2007 to work on historic churches, a task that had previously been organised by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust that was set up early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. However, the trust's history goes back much further to 1818 when the Incorporated Church Buildings Society (ICBS) was founded. ICBS only supported Anglican churches, whereas the Churches Preservation Trust, and today's National Churches Trust, serves all denominations. Its mission is to support and celebrate churches, provide advice and information, and to speak up for churches of all Christian denominations and the work they do.

Ride+Stride for Churches is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. It takes place every year on the second Saturday in September. The object is to raise money to help to repair churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout England. Last year, Ride+Stride raised over £1.2 million for the restoration and preservation some of the UK's historic churches, chapels, and meeting places. Why not help them to raise even more this year simply by doing something you enjoy and is good for you?

For more details visit:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/support-us/ridestride>

Vital changes need youthful support



12 August: International Youth Day

International Youth Day was founded in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly to be an 'annual celebration of the role of young people as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth'. It is held every year on 12 August and focuses on youth development and protection, including education, employment, the environment, delinquency, girls and young women, HIV/AIDS, and intergenerational relations.

Last year, the aim of International Youth Day focused on the needs of the youth and their engagement by making local, national, and global institutions inclusive in nature so that the youth's capacity to serve the nations can be increased to the top level. This year's theme is: 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation For Human And Planetary Health'. The aim will be to explain that

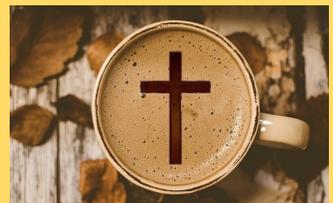
the support of young people in transforming the world is necessary for all the world leaders to achieve their social and environmental targets.

Introducing a week of prayer, suggested by USPG, to support International Youth Day, Dorothy deGraft Johnson, a law student from Ghana wrote: 'The planet is presently home to the biggest generation of youth in history. Young individuals represent optimism and many more capabilities for the future. Unfortunately, this potential is frequently stifled. Many young people over the world are smothered by poverty, sickness, a lack of resources, lack of access to education, health and job opportunities among others... let us hold on to the faith and work towards that day when the world will be open for the youth to explore and grow, hopefully reaching their full potential.'

Pray with the World Church, 15 May – 20 August 2022, published by USPG

Midweek Worship and Open Door Coffee

Please note that the Midweek Act of Worship and Open Door Coffee will be reverting to **Tuesday at 10am** from 6th September.



St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The June draw took place on Saturday 25th June when The Darling Dollies drew the following numbers:

1)	Number 54	Iain Ord	£117.00
2)	Number 81	Joy Abbott	£58.50
3)	Number 16	Linda Stephenson	£19.50

With £195.00 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

A few “Questions of the day”

I regularly listen to Charles Nove on Scala Radio and one of his regular spots is “Question of the day”, some of which are more taxing than others. I give you a couple of recent ones to try and solve:

1. Which of the following is the odd one out and why?
Unconscious
Mishap
Issue
Mansion
Ocean
Anxious
2. Given these meanings, find three pairs of words where you get the second one by dropping the last letter of the first:
Very small / a metallic element
Foot covering / an exclamation to frighten
Prepared / take in the written word

As Charles would say, “There are no wrong answers, just varying forms of right”, though some are more correct than others. I'll give the definitive answers in next month's Newstand or contact me if you want to know sooner.

Tim

August Rotas

Who's on first



Elders:	Vestry	Bill Hopper
	Reception	Ann Hammond
	Communion	Carole Mallett
Stewards:	Vestibule	Sandra Pine
	Finance	Kathleen Hopper

Wednesday 3rd Prayers Carole Mallett

Sunday 7th Preacher Lucy Cooke Organ Paul Hartley
Prayers Hazel Hall Readers Hazel Hall/ Celia Purves

Wednesday 10th Prayers Sue Ames

Sunday 14th Preacher Val Taylor Organ Paul Hartley
Prayers Val Taylor Readers Geoff Mills/ Carole Mallett

Wednesday 17th Prayers Kathleen Hopper

Sunday 21st Preacher Philip Gray Organ Alex
Prayers Barbara Burgess Readers Chris Hales/ Jenny Hooper

Wednesday 24th Prayers Catriona Fenwick

Sunday 28th Worship Group Organ Paul Hartley
Prayers Andrew Cooke Readers Val Taylor/Andrew Cooke

Wednesday 31st Prayers Ray Hammond

Northern Synod

Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



7	The work of Pastoral Committee and Convenor, Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn. The Anglican Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler.
14	Ponteland URC; St John's URC, uniting churches of Ponteland and Wideopen; St Aidan's URC, Hexham; Horsley URC.
21	St George's URC, Morpeth; Great Bavington URC; Widdrington URC; Revd Julian Sanders.
28	The work of the URC (Northern Province Trust Ltd) and Convenor, Revd David Grosch-Miller, and Trust Secretary Mr Willie Duncan. The RC Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Rt Revd Terry Draine.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Ada Corby

Rene Bridges

George Dudgeon Russell

Annie (Nancy) Adamson

Saunders

Molly Yarrow

Robert Foster Barbour

Betty and Norman Buckle

Church Calendar for August/September

Sunday services are broadcast via YouTube for those not able to attend in person or just to watch again in your own time (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.

Saturday	6	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Friday	12	Film Club – 'The Duke'	2.00 pm
Sunday	14	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Sunday	21	Morning Worship; Revd Philip Gray	11.00 am
Sunday	28	Morning Worship; Worship Group 'Summer Songs of Praise' service	11.00 am
SEPTEMBER 2022			
Friday	2	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	3	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	4	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	5	Monday Afternoon Service, followed by refreshments	2.00 pm
Tuesday	6	Midweek Act of Worship, followed by Open Door Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Thursday	8	Open Door Coffee Morning (provisional – to be confirmed)	10.30 am
		Pastoral Team Meeting	7.00 pm
		Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm

September Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 28th August.
Please have contributions to Tim by 22nd August.

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

Two people read the same Bible.
One sees reasons to love,
The other reasons to hate.
One sees unity,
The other division.
One finds prejudice,
The other equality.
One discovers compassion,
The other indifference.
One malice,
The other goodwill.
Two people, one book.
One book, two views.
The book is a mirror.
The reflection is you.

Genocide is biblical.
Loving your enemy is biblical.
 But only one is Christlike.
Slavery is biblical.
Chain breaking is biblical.
 But only one is Christlike.
Patriarchy is biblical.
Counter-cultural elevation of women is
biblical.
 But only one is Christlike.
Retributive violence is biblical.
Grace-filled restoration is biblical.
 But only one is Christlike.
Segregation is biblical.
Unity is biblical.
 But only one is Christlike.
Christ transforms, not the Bible.
Be wary of those who know one
but not the other.

