



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



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Strength for Today; Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 88 Issue 12 — December 2022

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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Hope for Christmas

And anticipation for the New Year



Andreas Böhm / Pixabay

As we start the new church year in the form of Advent and through to the great celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus, there will be the chance to join in some (or all!) of the many services and other events being held both at St. Andrew's and in the wider Christian faith in the North East. I will let you peruse the pages of Newstand for details of the events at St. Andrew's itself, but wanted to also offer a couple of others being held at Newcastle Cathedral.

First will be the "Walking Nativity", where the story of Christ's birth is retold through visits to some of Newcastle's more famous venues where we find the North East versions of the classic Nativity characters. Starting at Newcastle Central Station at 5pm on Friday 16th December, the Nativity trail makes its way East, ending up with a warm welcome, and festive food and drink in the Cathedral. Remember to wrap up warm if you can make it!

Second is the traditional Crib Service, held on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December, at 11am in the Cathedral. I'd encourage you to attend this one as the central characters of the story are being played by three people very familiar to St. Andrew's!

Whilst we hold hope for a joyful Christmas time, free from the restrictions of Covid we have been under for the past two Christmases and hopefully able to celebrate with friends and family, we also look forward with anticipation to the New Year and the preaching with a view by the current candidate to be St. Andrew's new Minister. With Church Meeting agreeing with the Elders and Pastoral Call Group to call the candidate to preach (further details next month and in the minutes of the November Church Meeting), we can be hopeful that both they and the members of St. Andrew's, with input from St. Columba's, find common ground that will lead to them being called and hopefully accepting the role.

And a final note of hope and anticipation from myself — that at least some of you will volunteer to be trained in use of the new streaming equipment in the New Year. Carole Moore has agreed to lead the training and we will hopefully be able to set up a small rota for regular services, as well as for additional services such as funerals.

With every blessing for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Tim

Activities Team update

Looking forward to December and beyond



Christmas Fair – Saturday 3rd December, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

This is the main fund-raising activity for St Andrew's and we look forward to seeing lots of folk at the Fair. Do come along if you can to browse and hopefully buy from the various stalls. During the day refreshments of coffee and light lunches will be served. More details elsewhere in Newstand. Contributions can be left at the church during the day on Friday 2nd December or collection can be arranged (tel. 252 3319 or 07866 690604).

Film Club and Play Reading Group

As December is a busy month with preparations leading up to Christmas there will be no Film Club or Play Reading Group taking place. These will both be resumed in the New Year.

Carol Singing – Thursday 15th December, 6 pm

A group of singers from St Andrew's will once again be singing in the streets near to the church and if anyone would like to join us they will be most welcome, the more the merrier! Also if you would like the group to sing outside your home please contact Ann or Ray Hammond. Once again we will be raising money for the Great North Air Ambulance.

Dates for the Diary

Coffee Morning – Saturday 7th January, 10 am – 12 noon

Film Club – Friday 13th January, 2 pm

Ceilidh in Celebration of Rabbie Burns – Saturday 11th February

Ann Hammond

January Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 25th December. Please have contributions to Tim by 19th December.

Midweek Prayers at 10

Hope for the coming of Christ



Frank Hefer/Fixabay

*For God alone my soul waits in
silence, for my hope is from Him
Psalm 62:5*

Gathering Prayer

In the silence may we find hope,
may we find trust,
may we find You. AMEN

Prayers of Confession & Assurance

Ever-present Peace,
You came to save us,
but that is sometimes so hard to
remember in this hectic season.
We let the Christmas lights
blind us to Your quiet presence.
As You poured out Your mercy
on all who have gone before us
shower us with Your grace and
forgiveness.
Then, our eyes will be opened to all
Your wonders,
And our emptiness will be filled with
the life gifted to us through Jesus
Christ, Our Lord and Saviour.
AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

In repentance and in faith, receive
the promise of God's Grace and
assurance of pardon.
Here are words you may trust,
words that merit full acceptance:
'Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners'.

To all who turn to him he says: 'Your
sins are forgiven.'
He also says: 'Follow me'. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

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

Prayer of Intercession

Saving God, we prepare for Your
coming, and long to see signs of Your
kingdom.

O come, O come, Immanuel!
Ransom those in exile.
Care for those who have fled their
homeland in fear.
Nurture those who live under
oppressive regimes.
Give the marginalized the strength
and assurance of Your presence.

O come, O come, Wisdom from
above!
Guide all who govern the nations.
Be a sign of integrity for government
ministers and civil leaders.
Lead our politicians to honest goals
without distorting the truth.
Grant stability and continuity to
faithful servants of the nations.

O come, O come, Key of David!
Open the hearts of the hard-hearted
and callous.
Unlock the forgiving spirit and those
held in the bonds of prejudice.
Proclaim again that the gates of
heaven are open wide.
May all people walk into the light of
Your new day!

O come, O come, Immanuel!
Be born again in Bethlehem of our
time.
Live in the Galilee of our generation.
And be raised high amongst us, by
the power of God.
Jesus! Immanuel! Sign the Kingdom!
Come!
We bring these prayers in the name of
Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.
AMEN

Closing Prayer

Go out to celebrate in love and
laughter!
Go as lights of the world! Shine in the
darkness!
Go out: act justly and walk humbly
with God!
Go in the name who was the true light
of the world
And humbled himself as a manger
child.
AMEN

May the peace and joy be with each
one of you this Christmas...the Hope 4
Team!

*Submitted by the Hope 4 Team
inspired by Thom M Shuman
& Donald Hilton*

Bible Study returns

Bible Study Group begins again on Friday mornings.
The first study is on 2nd December via Zoom, 10.30 -
11.30. Through this Advent Season we are going to
be following 'Sharing the Christmas Story' by Sally
Welch, a Bible Reading Fellowship Book. If you
would like to join us you would be very welcome.

Please contact Alison Mood:
alison.mood@talktalk.net or Ann Sinclair
eannsinclair14@gmail.com for further details.

The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87441397490?pwd=WDRYeXVnRlh1RGtHMIZrRncwOHNQZz09>.



Alison Mood & Ann Sinclair

Snippets from Synod meeting

St. Andrew's acts as host to the wider URC, 15 Oct 2022



The meeting was held at St Andrew's and was chaired, in the absence of the Moderator, by Revd Dr Trevor Jamison.

On behalf of St Andrew's, Valerie Taylor opened the meeting with a short act of worship.

A discussion took place concerning the surplus manses around the Synod. (This is relevant to St Andrew's.) We were reassured that no manses would be sold without local church approval, but we were reminded that the church should not be in the business of holding on to property. Speaking on behalf of the Trust, Revd David Grosch-Miller told us that help could be available to assist churches struggling with heating bills at this difficult time.

Members of the local branch of Church Action on Poverty reminded us how inflation may mean some belt-tightening for us, but it means real poverty for many. John Stephenson (Synod Youth Officer), whose wife is from Ukraine, reminded us how difficult life is for families finding refuge here – navigating shopping, travel and school when you don't speak much English.

John Stephenson and Hannah Middleton (Children and Youth Work) told us about their work and about

the Christmas resources to enthuse families and children with the message of Jesus. Ann, Fliss and Alison (Church Related Community Workers) are busy taking the message of Jesus out of church and into the communities where they work.

Sandy Ogilvie reported on the Children & Youth Work Committee and we shared in the singing of the old Sunday School favourite "This little light of mine", accompanied by a wonderful video of an animated light bulb.

Lucy Cooke introduced herself as Synod's new Learning Development Officer and showed us a video from the Stepwise Programme, encouraging us to join in to explore what it means to follow Jesus.

David Grosch-Miller told us about the Korean Peace Appeal, which began in 1950 and has never properly ended. An armistice was signed in 1953, but this did not end hostilities. Instead, the Korean peninsula is divided and families are split, causing huge pain to millions of people right up to today. David urged us to ask our MP to do all they can to move this forward so that justice is done.

**Sue Ames,
Synod Representative**

St Andrew's Church, Eastfield Ave, Monkseaton

Church Fair

Saturday, 3rd December

10.00 - 2.00

jewellery

sweets

Cakes

tombolas

preserves

bric-a-brac

scarves

Refreshments

books

nearly new clothes

Christmas gifts

games

toys



All proceeds in aid of church funds and charitable works

Longest Night Service

A reflective service for those suffering from pain, loss or confusion at Christmas



Christmas time can be difficult when we have sadness in our life. We can feel disconnected from the joy and happiness of the festivities, or can have a sense of loss or emptiness. In a season of great joy, there seems to be little space for sadness and grief.

The Longest Night Service (also known as a "Blue Christmas" service) is an opportunity to come together in a simple, reflective service to remember those known to us who have died, and to recognise our sadness and our loss. Whether that be a recent bereavement – or one long past – we remember those dear to us and take time to be in God's presence in our vulnerability.

Our Longest Night Service, led by the Cooke family, takes place on Wednesday, 21st December at 7pm,

lasting about 30 minutes. The Church will be open for reflection from 6.30pm.

You are invited to send us any names you wish to be included (email, post, phone, or in person). These might be the names of those who have died, or the names of family, friends – or even ourselves – whose sadness we want to mark in this service. We will add them to the names on the roll that we have collected in previous years, so if you have previously had names included be assured they still will be.

The service is open to all, so please do ask friends and neighbours who might be interested in being involved – either by submitting a name, or by being present.

Tim & Lucy Cooke
(contact details on page 2)

Biblical History Study Group

Following the very successful first meeting of this study led by Dr Rhoda Lee we are moving to a larger venue...the Minor Hall! Our next Meeting will take place on 28th November 2022, 2-3pm. If you wish to join in you will be very welcome.

For any further details please contact rhodalee@btinternet.com or eannsincclair14@gmail.com.

Let's Sing!

A time of modern worship songs and prayer

This is a reminder that on the second Sunday of each month our 'Let's Sing' service takes place, led by Mandy Watson and assisted by Tim Cooke who looks after the technical aspect. 'Let's Sing' is the current name for the former 'Praise Service', and it is an informal service of (mainly) modern worship songs interspersed with prayer, beginning at 9.30 am and lasting for just over half an hour. Originally scheduled to re-commence on September 11th, the service was deferred until October due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen .

Attendance in October and November has been a little disappointing compared to the number of worshippers who used to come prior to lockdown, but it may be that some of those people are not aware that the service has re-started, or have been confused by the change of name. If you have not been to this service before, please come and try it – the format is



different to the 11 o'clock service, and you might find that you quite like it!

Similarly, the Prayer Group, which for a number of years was led by Valerie Taylor, but which has latterly been led by Mandy Watson, also meets on the second Sunday of the month, at 10.15 am in the Meeting Room, to pray for relevant situations and people. Again, if you have not previously been a part of this group, please consider giving it a try; prayer is such an important part of worship and can make a real difference.

Thank you!
Carole Mallett
(for Worship Group).

"Holding a grudge doesn't make you stronger, it makes you bitter.
Forgiving doesn't make you weak, it sets you free."

Dave Willis, The Seven Laws of Love

Christ the light of the world

*But he started life under
a different star*



'The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven, a glittering array in the heights of the Lord. '

Ecclesiasticus 43:9.

Walking along Earsdon Road, West Monkseaton a few weeks ago, 15th November to be precise, I was quite shocked. It was dusk but there at the next roundabout I spotted lights... colourful lights...colourful lights on a Christmas tree! North Tyneside Council were clearly fast off the starting line with their Christmas decorations although I did feel they perhaps jumped the gun but Christmas is coming and now it is just around the corner.

Messy Church groups, churches and schools up and down the country are now preparing for their Christmas services and the acting of the Nativity story. Think of all the characters in the story...the inn keeper, shepherds, the wise men, the Angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph and the all-important Baby. Not the Baby of course, but perhaps anyone of these characters may have a speaking part, dressed in best tea towel headdresses, perhaps a few toy sheep and then there is the shiny material for cloaks and highly decorated crowns not forgetting of course the gifts: gold, frankincense

and myrrh all beautifully presented. But there are other figures in this scene with no speaking parts: a donkey, sheep, they always have a place and perhaps a camel or two acted out by children and adults with cardboard masks and costumes symbolising the respective animals.

But there is another part in the story-a quiet part. Someone may be dressed as this part in the story, this very quiet part...the STAR...tinsel or foil personified. But there are other ingenious ways of having this part played out. A number of years ago I was helping create a Nativity story and the pillars in that particular church presented themselves with a shining opportunity of having sloping wires and a pulley system between them so the STAR really did, with some ingenuity, travel from the east.

Stars shine and twinkle and just do that and have done since the world and the universe began, they come and go- growing and imploding but we won't go into that.

Stars follow a fixed path but in the story of the birth of Christ we are told that one star was a wandering star with a specific mission to light a path that night to rest over where the Baby Jesus was born, in a stable, in

Bethlehem. Whoever is playing the part of the Star in the Nativity story has no words to learn or to say just to be there -shining. But as the story tells us the STAR in the story that night travelled and stopped over the stable where the Christ child lay in a manger. The Star stayed and shone so brightly to guide those coming to worship the new born baby ...a baby who would be the light of the world. And the Star that night reflected His brightness onto the darkness of the

world. You don't have to make a great noise, to shout or sing out loud to make a difference, you can just be there shining brightly.

Jesus, true light of the world, shine with your divine brightness that all darkness may be overcome and that each one of us may reflect your light into the world.

*Blessings,
Ann Sinclair
(Inspired by Andrew Nunn)*

The Priory Singers present
A Festive Evening of
**Favourite Carols
and Mince Pies**



in St Andrew's URC on
Monday December 19th 2022 at 7.30pm
Entry £7 (Pay on the door)
All welcome

With thanks

The latest addition to the 'Octogenarian club' would like to say THANK YOU for all the Birthday Wishes and the beautiful flowers and card sent from "all friends in St. Andrew's". Feeling truly Blessed.

Marilyn Walton

Dorothy Postle

*Guiding County Commissioner
North Tyneside, 1973 – 1981*



During the summer Dorothy Postle passed away aged 99 years. She was the first County Commissioner for the newly formed Metropolitan Borough of North Tyneside.

Dorothy was an exceptional person and embodied her Guide Promise 'to do her best, do her duty to God and to serve the Queen, help other people and obey the Guide Law'. She gave freely of her time, her organisational skills and knowledgeable advice on money matters.

She began her Guiding life in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. She was a valued member of Northumberland County team, serving as County Training Officer and on the Youth Advisory Sub Committee, helping cement ties with other Youth Organisations.

Dorothy was appointed Tynemouth Division Commissioner in 1957. On her retirement in 1967 she was presented with the Laurel Award, one of the highest awards in Guiding. It is a national award, given to an active member, and represents her outstanding contribution to Guiding with impact beyond a local level.

She was part of the team founding Girlguiding in North Tyneside. Her

background in banking was an asset in fundraising which resulted in the purchase of Trefoil House in North Shields and a school in Kirkwhelpington, Northumberland, which became an Outdoor Activities Centre. (The distribution of 'Smarties' tubes to all members, to be filled with coins, is legendary.)

She was appointed first North Tyneside County Commissioner in 1973 and continued to firmly establish the new County using her driving force and enthusiasm until her retirement.

Yet there was another side to Dorothy's character that ran parallel with her dedication to Guiding and that was her deep Christian faith. Her life was informed by her Guide Promise and her Christian faith through her love for others, a love that she carried out quietly and in her own resolute style.

Some would say that she was a serious person, abiding strictly to her commitment to obedience to God. Her approach to life could easily be understood as firm, with no room for frivolity. What she thought the right action was undertaken with diligence and rigid steadiness. Yet Dorothy was a quiet, generous person who few knew about. Her charity work was

undertaken with no one aware of the depth or breadth of her generous giving, not just locally and to those around her but also across the globe. Her generosity stretched to practical levels on more than one occasion, supporting and helping folks. The quiet care given by Dorothy made the presence of God known.

Dorothy was an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher in the United Reformed Church, inducted in April 1980. She was an active member of one of the coast churches in the North East, holding roles that included Lay Preacher and also Church Secretary, Elder, team leader for the Worship

Group and organist. She also held positions of responsibility on District Committees in the U.R.C. Northern Synod. She was very able at keeping all in order at the meetings, the Minutes and also the Ministers.

In Guiding, Church life and her charity work Dorothy demonstrated a rigid steadiness yet undoubtedly all who met this diminutive woman were unmistakably touched by the Grace of God - a woman called Dorothy.

*Ann Stembidge and Ann Sinclair.
(Former Guiders in North Tyneside).*

Also published in Guiding Magazine.

St. Peter's Players

Returning to the stage

Some of you will be aware that the Players' production of 'Finger of Fate' and 'The Witching Hour', which was scheduled to take place at the end of October, sadly had to be postponed at the last minute, due to illness of some of the cast. However, the good news is that new dates have now been fixed for the performance, and these are Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st January 2023, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Crosskeys Hall, Elmwood Road, Monkseaton.

Tickets, priced at £8 if pre-booked, will shortly be



Julia Schwab/Pixabay

available from Sue Ames or myself, or if preferred, it is possible just to buy a ticket on the night at the door, in which case the price increases to £9.

These two short plays are spookily themed comedy thrillers, each of one act, so **do please come and help support live drama in Monkseaton.**

Carole Mallett

58 Society reports

Geordie doon the pit & A funny thing happened.

3rd October 2022

Mr Bill Haddon

Geordie Doon the Pit

Bill gave us an excellent talk on social history of miners and their families working in coal mines in the North East together with the distinctive common phrases used in the Geordie language. A brief report follows:-

Mining was a dangerous profession with terrible working conditions especially in the early 19th century.

It was not uncommon for the miners' wives and their children, some as young as 3 years old, to work as a

team working the coal seam, collecting and putting the coal in horse drawn tubs, which when full would be taken to the weighing station. The miner's wage was calculated on the total weight of coal mined/collected and no wages were paid whilst locating and preparing a new seam for mining after extracting all the coal from the previous seam.

In the early days the miners used hand picks, and conditions were cramped with little health and safety provision. There were hazards and dangers everywhere from explosions, fires and roof falls, to suffocating gases and flooding. The miners laboured in cramped conditions

which often resulted in them developing physical/health conditions like "bandy legs" and lung diseases. The life expectancy of miners at this time was about 40 years. There were many disasters such as the West Stanley pit disaster in 1909 in which 160 men lost their lives. The whole mine shook from two devastating blasts caused by illegal safety lamps. Fifty-nine of the victims were under 20 years of age and their families received minimal compensation. The funerals of the victims were terrible with many of the men buried in trenches.

31st October 2022

Revd. Bill Miller

A funny Thing happened

Revd. Bill gave us a very interesting and very humorous talk on incidents which occurred during his time as a curate/parish priest in various parishes in the North East and latterly as Chaplain of King's School Tynemouth. A brief report follows:-

He mentioned that when wearing a 'dog collar' the general public treated him quite differently from a normal human being. He related an experience of getting on a bus soon



M. ACCELERATOR/Unsplash

after becoming a young curate and the driver asked him to bless the bus. After getting over the shock of the request he said a prayer and blessed the bus but the next time he boarded the same bus the driver refused to let him on the bus. He therefore asked the driver why and the driver responded saying that 30 minutes after he blessed the bus and its passengers the bus caught fire.

This set the tone of his talk during his time as a parish priest undertaking baptisms, marriages, funerals, and an exorcism of an old ladies home in which the unexplained events turned out to be due to traffic passing the property and a very good home helper. After explaining this to the old lady she refused to accept this explanation and said she intended to get another priest from another religion.

For the final 20 years of his vocation he was Chaplain at King's School, Tynemouth, although after being contacted by the Archbishop regarding the vacancy, which initially

did not interest him, despite this 10 minutes after the Archbishop rang him the principal of King's School rang saying he had heard he was interested in the position of the College's Chaplain. After a conversation with the school principal he accepted the post of Chaplain which he admitted turned out to be an excellent move. During this period he related that he was very involved with the choir at King's School which because of his love of music was very enjoyable. As Chaplain he accompanied the choir when the school choir performed at the various venues throughout Europe. During the tours to Europe the choir often were requested to sing in the local language but during one of the tours he was asked to take church services in French and German which he managed to do using his secondary school education in these subjects and of course the help of the local people.

Reports by John Thorpe



Or in other words...

Bisons from Buffalo that the other Bisons from Buffalo bully, they themselves bully the other Bisons from Buffalo.

Not that hard to understand!

Stepping out in faith

Walking with others on the journey with Jesus



Have you ever thought about exploring and enriching your personal faith?

Do you enjoy meeting with others in fellowship and friendship?

Would you like to discover more about where God might be leading you?

If you have answered “yes” to any of these questions – welcome to Stepwise!

The discipleship programme from the URC, Stepwise is an opportunity to deepen your faith and explore, through individual reflection and group discussion, what God might be calling you to – walking the way of Jesus alongside others. The first part, or “stream” of the programme – “Faith Filled Life” is the start of a journey that could take you in many directions. Over the course of a few weeks or months (the pace is set by you and your fellow travellers) you will think about where you see God in the

world around you, grow in confidence, learn new skills and be inspired as you follow Jesus.

Here in the Northern Synod, we are hoping to get up and running with Stepwise (no pun intended!) and this is your chance to be part of one of the first groups in our region. You can find out more detailed information about the programme at www.urch.org.uk/stepwise but if you would like to chat about being part of one of our inaugural groups, please get in touch with me at lucy.cooke@urch-northernsynod.org or give me a call on 07752385197. I usually work Thursdays and Fridays so will respond to your email/call as soon as I can.

I will look forward to hearing from you and to walking alongside you on your Stepwise journey!

Lucy Cooke
Learning & Development Officer

With thanks

Thank you so much to you all for your kind words, cards and gifts for our Luca's christening. It was so lovely to see lots of you at his baptism. We are so very lucky to have you all in our lives and are so grateful for all your love and care.

Love from Laura, Rory and Luca xxx

Turkey and Apricot Crumble

A delicious way to enjoy that excess Christmas turkey!



For the filling

- 2 teaspoons sunflower oil
- 350g (12oz) cooked turkey, cubed
- 2 large leeks, sliced
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 300ml (½ pint) chicken stock
- 150 ml (¼ pint) cider
- 8-10 ready to eat moist packed apricots (halved)
- ½ teaspoon dried, thyme
- salt & freshly ground black pepper

For the crumble

- 140g (5oz) plain flour
- 2½ tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted
- 70g (2½oz) butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried sage
- 1½ teaspoons snipped fresh chives

Method

Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 5/190C/375F.

Heat the oil in a saucepan, add the leeks and fry gently for 10 minutes until softened. Stir in the turkey, sprinkle on the flour, and cook gently for one minute. Gradually blend in the stock and the cider, stirring continuously until the sauce thickens. Stir in the apricots and thyme, season with salt and pepper. Put into a 1.2 litre (2 pint) casserole dish. To make the crumble sift the flour into a large mixing bowl, stir in the toasted sesame seeds and add a pinch of salt. Rub in the butter/margarine until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the herbs. Sprinkle the crumble topping over the turkey and cook for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

Serve with carrots and green beans.

Questions before Christmas

But don't take all Advent

As complicated as maths gets

If $1+9+8=1$, what does $2+8+9$ equal?

Colour me pretty?

Two of these don't belong for different reasons. Which and why?

Green, Yellow, Dead, Black, Red

Mechanical words?

Which of these is the odd one out and why?

Stargazer, Eastwards, Cassettes, Vertebrae, Authentic, Aftercare

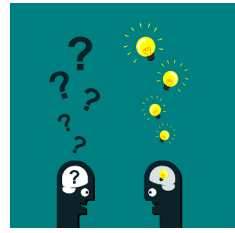
Rising to the occasion

What comes next and why?

Doughnut
Reign
Meow
Farcical
Solar
Latté
?????

Must try harder

I recently took 9 tests where my average score was 68%. If the lowest score was removed, what is the



nugroho dwi hartawan/
Pixabay

highest average I could obtain?

Testing my Geography

Which of these places is the odd one out and why?

Manchester, Dundee, Cardiff, Leicester, Exeter, Ventnor, Ipswich

Letter by letter

What letters replace the question marks?

Y Y H L Y E Y T ? ? ? ?

Is this more addition?

Add two letters to each word to get three new words. The added letters themselves create another word.

With, Brow, Dire

Fruity footie

At the World Cup, the captains lined up holding a fruit or vegetable to represent their country.

Croatia held an apple. Wales held a leek. England held a lime. America held a radish. What did Denmark hold?

For those still seeking answers

How did you do this time?



Gerd Altmann / Pixabay

Something to take away

Removing a letter from the first word gave the second word obtained from the definitions:

- Aspiring / Aspirin
- Fang / Fan
- Song / Son

You need better batteries!

To avoid crossing the bridge in the dark, Alice and Bob cross in 2 minutes,

then Alice returns in 1. Cathy and Dave cross in 8 minutes and Bob returns in 2. Finally Alice and Bob cross again in 2 minutes, just as the torch gives up.

I want this in writing

What linked the words? They were all in the titles of Charles Dickens novels.

All the King's horses

There were 8 grooms holding 14 horses.

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The October draw took place on 30th October, when Jennifer Fleetham drew the following numbers:



1)	Number 6	Ann Sinclair	£118.50
2)	Number 99	Geoff Hopper	£59.25
3)	Number 1	Liz Fletcher	£19.75

With £197.50 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

With thanks

Thank You to everyone I have talked to on the telephone during my recent treatment and stay in hospital, and for their kindness.

Harry Lowrie

December Rotas

Are you ready to make your presence felt this Advent?



Elders:	Vestry	Carole Mallett	
	Reception	Hazel Hall	
	Communion	Joan Blanchfield	
Stewards:	Vestibule	Jean Jackson	
	Finance	Jenny Hooper	
Sunday 4th	Preacher: Lucy Cooke		Organ: Paul Hartley
	Readers: Jean Jackson, Tim Cooke		Prayers: Chris Hales
Tuesday 6th	Prayers: Sue Ames		
Sunday 11th	9.30 Let's Sing Service & 10.15 Prayers: Mandy Watson		
	Preacher: Philip Gray		Organ: Hymnal
	Readers: Iain Ord, Joan Blanchfield		Prayers: Barbara Burgess
Tuesday 13th	Prayers: Sandra Pine		
Sunday 18th	Preacher: Trevor Jamison		Organ: Paul Hartley
	Readers: Val Taylor, Chris Hales		Prayers: Val Taylor
Tuesday 20th	Prayers: Ann Sinclair		
Wednesday 21st	7.00 p.m. Longest Night Service: The Cooke Family		
Saturday 24th	11.30 Christmas Eve Service: Val Taylor		Organ: Alex
Sunday 25th	10.30 Christmas Day Service: Ann Sinclair		Organ: Alex
	Readers: Susan Clark, Paul Hartley		Prayers: Hazel Hall
Tuesday 27th	Prayers: Carole Mallett		

With thanks

Sincere thanks to the members of St Andrew's Church for the beautiful flowers and the many spoken and written good wishes on the occasion of my 90th Birthday.

Douglas

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



4	PCM and the work of Mozambique Council of Churches. Independent Churches Representative in the NE, Dr Mark Bonnington; Human Rights Day (10 th December).
11	The Ministries and Development Committee and Convenor, Revd Ron Forster. St Columba's URC, North Shields; Revd Trevor Jamison; St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton.
18	Stamfordham LEP (Methodist/URC); Revds Jona Sewell and Colin Barrick (Methodist); Bellingham LEP (Methodist/URC); Falstone with Kielder URC; Wark LEP (Methodist/URC); Deacon Anne Taylor (Methodist).
25	Christmas Day. St John the Evangelist LEP (Anglican/Baptist/Methodist/URC), Kingston Park; Revd Adele Moorhouse (Methodist) and Revd Annie Gray (Anglican).

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

George Charlton
Cynthia Workman
Robert Smith Niven

Alistair Fraser
Mrs. Dorothy Paterson Packer
Elsie Scrafton

Church Calendar for December / January

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.

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10 am followed by Open Door Coffee Morning.

Open Door Coffee Morning: Thursday 10.30 am - Noon.

Sunday	4	Communion Service; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Thursday	8	Pastoral Team Meeting, followed by Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	9	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	11	'Let's Sing'	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.15 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Philip Gray	11.00 am
		Messy Church	3.00 pm
Monday	12	Fifty Eight Society Christmas Dinner <u>7.00 pm for</u>	7.30 pm
Thursday	15	Carol singing round the doors	6.00 pm
Saturday	17	Ecumenical Carol Service beside the Black Horse Inn	4.00 pm
Sunday	18	Children's Festival & Parade Service; Revd Trevor Jamison	11.00 am
Monday	19	Priory Singers Concert	7.30 pm
Wed'day	21	Longest Night Service; The Cooke family	7.00 pm
Saturday	24	Carols by Candlelight; Mrs Valerie Taylor (refreshments from 11.00 pm)	11.30 pm
Sunday	25	Christmas Day Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	10.30 am
JANUARY 2023			
Sunday	1	Communion Service; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Saturday	7	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	8	'Let's Sing'	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.15 am
		Morning Worship; Mrs Louise Sanders (followed by Church Meeting)	11.00 am

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

Prayer based on an ancient Celtic blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be on your back,
May the sun shine warm on you
And the rain fall gently down.

May God hold you, ever hold you,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand,
Gently hold you, come enfold you,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May the stars come out to greet you,
As you lie your head to rest,
May the moonlight smile upon you
And your dreams be ever blessed.

Submitted by Sue Ames

An Ancient Prayer for Christmas

By St Augustine of Hippo (354-440)

Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
for their Saviour is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
for their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.
Amen.

