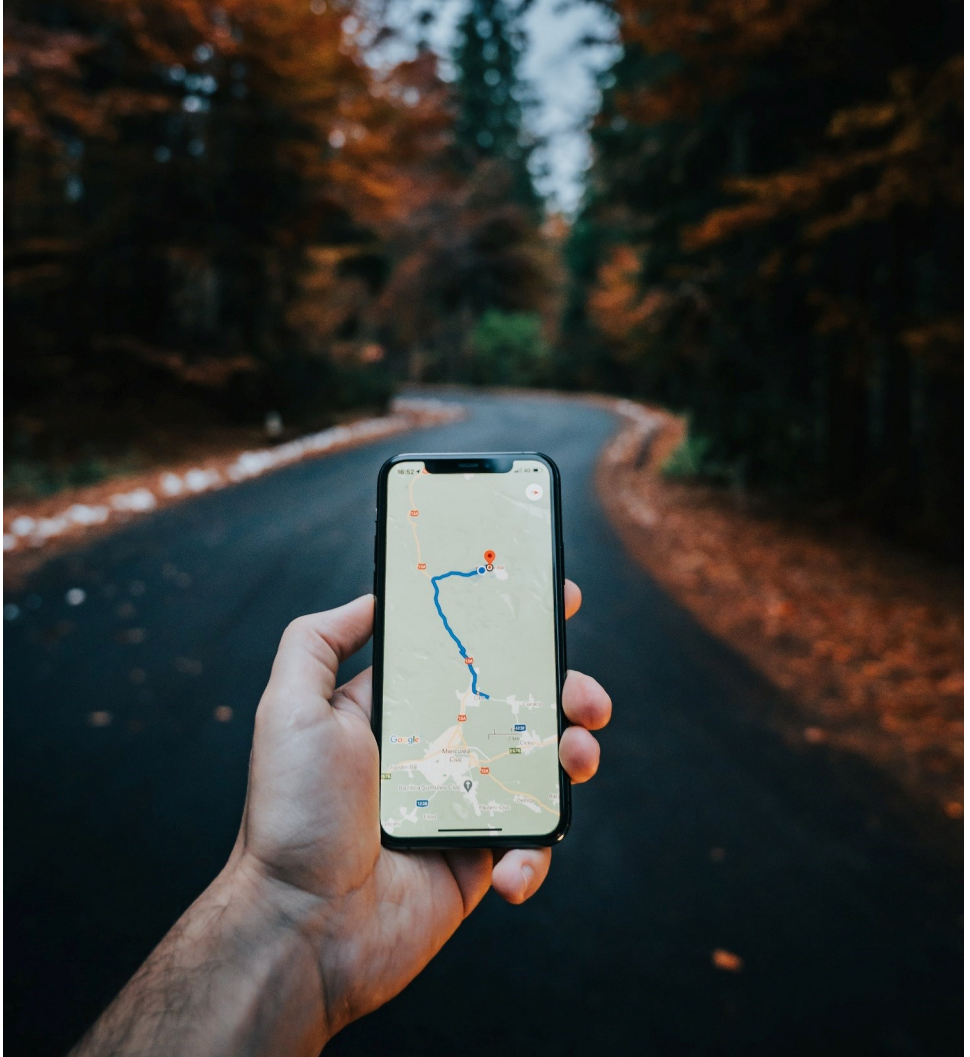




NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Tamas Tuzs-Katai / Unsplash

What's guiding you on your journey?

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St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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“He is Rosen indeed!”

At least that's how someone once put it



A good friend included the above in a Tweet sent out on Easter Sunday last year and it immediately struck a chord. As a socialist Jew whose teaching is beloved by many, but who is often vilified by others, and who (nearly) died and rose again, I could understand their thinking, albeit actually just a typographical error. Michael Rosen wrote an excellent book compiled from the entries made into a diary kept at his bedside by the NHS staff that took care of him during his time in hospital whilst suffering the effects of coronavirus, coupled with his own prose poems. Called “Many different kinds of love — A story of life, death and the NHS”, it is a tale of his journey to near death and back to health.

I too recently went on something of a journey of discovery. This past weekend I was due to head down to Cambridge to collect Andrew from University. We would spend the night in Northamptonshire at my Mum’s house and see my Dad before returning to Northumberland. A journey we have done before, but this time was to be different. As some of you may know, I had been hoping to get my new electric car a few weeks ago and this would have been its first long journey, though delayed delivery

meant I ultimately ended up in an electric hire car. Trying to put aside all the tales of woe about range and broken or otherwise unavailable chargers, I headed off. It wasn’t without event, but none of that was to do with range or charging, just the weather and a 10 mile diversion that added nearly an hour to my journey. I was guided by the sat nav. I was assisted by the Adaptive Cruise Control that kept me in the lanes, and stopped and started the car as other vehicles around me did (especially useful in the queues through the diversion!). I had faith that all my woes would be unfounded and I would ultimately be guided to my destinations, and so I was.

In the same way we must be guided on our faith journey through study of the “map” — the Bible, taking time to stop and think what certain things mean, taking guidance from others who perhaps read the “map” in a different way to ourselves, before we start again, knowing that we will reach our ultimate goal, and having had a good journey to get there.

Let’s use this time of new life to make sure our own journeys are the best they can be.

Blessings and a joyous Easter,
Tim

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Craft Fair – Saturday 1st April, 10 am – 2 pm

It's been a while since we held a Craft Fair so we look forward to welcoming local crafters back to St Andrew's. There will be a variety of stalls providing opportunities to buy Easter gifts plus St Andrew's refreshments of coffee, tea and light lunches, including St Andrew's homemade soups, will be available. Do come along if you can to browse and buy, have lunch and take the opportunity to meet up with old friends and perhaps make some new ones.

Film Club – Friday 14th April, 2 pm

This month's film is *A Man Called Otto (15)* starring Tom Hanks. It's a heart-warming and funny story about love, loss and life. The film shows that family can sometimes be found in the most unexpected places.

Poetry and Plonk Evening – Saturday 15th April, 7 pm

We look forward to another evening of sharing poems together while enjoying a glass of wine or soft drink. Tickets at £5 include drinks and nibbles.

Dates for the Diary

**Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper
– Saturday 13th May**

**Charity Cheque Presentation
– Sunday 14th May at Coffee
after the Service.**

**Art Exhibition
– Saturday 7th October**

**Church Fair
– Saturday 18th November**

Ann Hammond

A few answers for last month's questions

What three digit number with consecutive digits is 2 more than a square and 2 less than a cube? *123 (121 is 11 squared, 125 is 5 cubed).*

What are the next two numbers in this sequence and why: 5, 4, 10, 8, 15, 16, 20, 32, 25, 64, ?, ? *30 and 128. Alternate numbers increase by 5 and double respectively.*

Midweek Prayers at 10

*Joining in our own way
to bring our concerns to God*



Opening Prayer

Lord, we bring ourselves
to You,
perhaps a little tired;
perhaps a little preoccupied.
We bring our thoughts,
some thankful and happy;
some worried and anxious;
some trivial and some deep.
We come to You
in the ordinariness of our daily lives
to share this time with You
with our expressions of faith and fear,
of doubt and hope.
Let us come into Your waiting arms
surrounding us and shaping us
as You would want us to be. AMEN

Prayer of Confession

Lord, as we come before You
we bring our brokenness to You.
So often we travel our own ways
to satisfy our own hidden desires
and trust the falsehoods of the world.
Lord, whose unconditional love
overflows and fills our deepest hopes,
have mercy on us.

And in an Assurance of Pardon

'God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
that everyone who has faith in him
may not perish
but have eternal life.'
To all who repent and believe
we declare in the name of the Father,

the Son and the Holy Spirit:
God grants you the forgiveness of
your sins. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

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

Prayers of Concern

Lord, we bring to You the deep
concerns we have for this battered
and damaged world.
We pray for places of conflict, war
and intolerance.
Lord, where there is hatred bring Your
love.

We bring to You broken relationships
and mistrust:
between nations, governments,
ethnic, racial and religious divisions,
divisions within churches,
all families where there is division,
and all discrimination of gender.
Lord, where there is injury, bring Your
pardon and reconciliation.

Lord, we bring to You all human
sorrow:
we bring to You the bereaved, the
lonely, the anxious,
the sick in mind and body.
Lord, we ask You to bring them Your
comfort and healing.

Lord, we pray for true peace,
founded on justice and respect for
human rights.
May we be channels of Your peace
and love and bless us in Your service.
We offer these prayers in the name of
Your Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ. AMEN

— of Maundy Thursday before the
shadows and the chaos of Good
Friday — the sufferings and death of
Christ our Lord upon the cross leading
to Easter Sunday...the new day that
arises in resurrection light...this is the
day that starts new life; the day to
sing for joy — for Christ our Lord has
risen.

As we draw towards the end of the
period of Lent, we hold in our
thoughts and prayers the days ahead
— Palm Sunday and Holy Week; in
remembrance on the Holiest of nights

Submitted by Ann Sinclair

Charity Scheme

Our supported organisations for 2022 and 2023

The Activities Team have agreed that for this year
the charities that will benefit from our fund-raising are
Home (My Harbour) and Northumberland National Park Mountain
Rescue, both of which were nominated for 2022 but not successful.

A reminder that the charities chosen for 2022, and to be presented with
cheques at coffee on Sunday 14th May, are: North Tyneside Young
Carers and the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

Ray Hammond



Annual Church Meeting

Your church, your say

Sunday 19th March, ~12 noon



The meeting was held following the 11 am service and copies of the Minutes are displayed on the notice board in the vestibule of the Church beside the Flower Room.

Below is a précis of the meeting.

The meeting was opened with worship.

The reports of Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and church organisations were received and approved as appropriate.

The church accounts for 2022 were received and approved.

The Budget for 2023 was approved.

Church Officers and Representatives:

Nominations to posts for 2023 were received and agreed (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

Heather Carr stood down as Press Officer and was thanked for the sterling work that she had carried out over many years.

Church Teams:

Nominations to Teams for 2023 received and agreed (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

Safeguarding:

Lucy Cooke, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, gave an outline of the URC policy on safeguarding (Good Practice 5), its aims and purpose, definitions of who it applies to, recognising abuse and what to do if abuse is observed.

Terms of Settlement for

Mrs Louise Sanders:

It was reported that the Elders had agreed the ToS for Louise. One change in her ministry is that due to the unforeseen dissolution of SENEA (URC/Methodist cooperation in South East Northumberland) there was an urgent need for ministry to URC members in that area and so Louise's 25% will be there and not in our area. This will not affect the plans for the 50/50 ministry for us and St Columba's on Trevor Jamison's retirement.

Date of next Church Meeting:

Sunday 25th June 2023 following the 11.00 am service.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

Anyone for Tiffin?

A sweet treat for Easter or anytime of year



- 300g digestive biscuits
- 50g cocoa powder
- 100g raisins or sultanas
- 50g glacé cherries halved
- 150g butter
- 125g golden syrup
- 100g dark chocolate
- 100g milk chocolate
- 150g Easter chocolate treats. — mini eggs, chocolate eggs, creme eggs — broken up.

1. Grease & line 20x20cm baking tin with baking parchment
2. Crush the biscuits, using a food processor or placing biscuits in a plastic bag and crushing them with a rolling pin;
3. In a bowl combine the crumbs with cocoa powder, dried fruit and cherries.

4. In a small pan, melt the butter and golden syrup together until smooth. Add a pinch of sea salt then pour onto dry ingredients and mix well.
5. Tip mixture into lined tin and using a spatula press the mixture firmly into an even layer. Chill for 20 minutes.
6. Meanwhile, melt the chocolates together in a bowl over a pan of gently simmering water until smooth. Pour the melted chocolate over the chilled base and spread evenly. Sprinkle the broken Easter treats over the chocolate, then chill for another 30 minutes.
7. Slice into squares, use a sharp knife dipped in boiling water to cut evenly.

Enjoy!!!

Submitted by Ann Sinclair

Space for a couple of answers

1. What do these words have in common: Light, High, Jacket, Last, Dogs? *They can all be combined with a different meal — Light Lunch, High Tea, Dinner Jacket, Last Supper, Dog's Dinner*
2. Which is the odd one out: Argentina, Norway, Bolivia, Hungary, Philippines, Kenya? Norway — all the others contain names: Tina, Olivia, Gary, Philip, Ken

More than just 11am on Sundays

Other ways to worship

This is a reminder that complementing our regular Sunday 11am worship, the following additional services will take place during April::

Thursday, 6th April at 7.30 pm.

Service of Tenebrae led by Dr Ann Sinclair. This is a very moving service, using candles and darkness to remember Christ's last few hours on earth.

Friday 7th April at 10.30 am.

Good Friday Service led by Lucy Cooke.

Friday 7th April at 11.30am.

A time of ecumenical worship, starting at 11.30 am with craft activities outside the Methodist chapel, and then moving to outside the Black Horse/Ship Inns for a short act of worship. Most of the local churches, including St Andrew's, will be taking part.

Sunday 9th April, exact time to be confirmed (~6am). Sunrise Service at Spanish City Plaza on the sea front, led by Valerie Taylor. Held in the open air, this is a fairly short service, well worth the early start, and we are



usually joined by a few people from other churches.

Sunday 9th April at 9.30 am.

'Let's Sing' service led by Mandy Watson.

Sunday 9th April at 10.30 am.

Prayer Group meets, led by Mandy Watson.

These three events on 9th April are of course followed at **11.00 am** by our **Easter Sunday Communion Service** led by Revd Ron Forster.

Monday 17th April at 2.00 pm.

Monday Afternoon Service, organised by the Worship Group with assistance from the Activities Team. This is a service of seasonal hymns, readings and prayers, lasting for about 35 minutes and followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome – not just those who are unable to worship with us on Sundays.

Please do come and join in with these extra opportunities for worship, as we journey with Jesus to the cross and onward to his triumphant resurrection.

Carole Mallett

May Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 30th April.
Please have contributions to Tim by 24th April.

Come, rest a while and “be” ...

**... with others
... with yourself
... with God.**



Wednesday 17 May 2023 - 11am - 5pm

St Cuthbert's Centre - Holy Island

(causeway open 4.55am - 11.45am & 5.15pm - 12.20am)

You are invited to join us for a day of peace, space and a chance to rest a while with God.

Your base for the day will be the St Cuthbert's Centre - the URC's presence on the island. You will be guided and accompanied throughout the day, though you will be free to use the time in any way you choose, at your own pace.

The day is free to attend and light refreshments will be available - please bring a packed lunch or be prepared to seek out sustenance on the island!

Transport can be arranged for those who need it.



To find out more, or to book a place please get in touch:

Lucy Cooke

Learning and Development Officer

lucy.cooke@urc-northernsynod.org or 07752 385 197

Think of the Anemone

From small and wrinkly to bold and beautiful — a lesson for us all



*Think of a world
without any flowers,
think of a world without any trees,
think of a world
without any sunshine,
think of the air without any breeze.
We thank You, Lord,
for flow'rs and trees and sunshine.
We thank You, Lord,
and praise Your Holy Name.
Doreen E. Newport.*

Perhaps you sang this hymn as a child in School Assembly or in Sunday School. I did. But the verses of this hymn have been going round my head for the past few weeks all because the spring bulbs in my garden have been coming through the wet dark earth. There has been, what I can only describe, as an explosion of colour in my garden. Spring bulbs have been bursting in a blaze of colour, from snowdrops to daffodils, tulips to grape hyacinths. But there is one bulb that never fails to amaze me and that is the anemone. They are the most amazing flowers in my book that

grow from little knobby tubers, you would almost pass over, to the wonderful flowers that emerge. It is hard to distinguish the right way up to plant these bulbs in the autumn but it doesn't really matter, the leaves find their own way up. They are part of the buttercup family and clever. Just like the snowdrop, anemones close up when it is dark and cold to protect themselves, but when there is sunshine, their petals open out wide and show their wonderful colours. My favourite colour is purple, indeed all shades of purple. It amazes me how, on closer inspection, the colours are often light at the outside of the petals and deep at the centre.

The common name for the anemone is 'windflower' from the Greek meaning daughter of the wind. These flowers also share a name with undersea creatures. But the flower has a long historical story spanning Greek mythology. Legend sits around the flower from the goddess Aphrodite or from the

Phoenician name for Adonis tracing back to an earlier Syrian myth of the god of vegetation. The flower also has roots in Roman Empire and Eastern and Western Cultures. The Victorians were passionate on the language of flowers, with different colours representing different meaning with red and pink meaning forsaken love or death, white for sincerity and purple for warding off evil. In paintings of the crucifixion red anemones were often included to symbolize the blood of Christ shed and Matisse and Monet often included anemones in their paintings through their love of the flowers.

Anemones grow from such a wrinkled tiny bulb to a flower with such depth of colour and richness. In thinking of the words of 'Think of a world without any flowers...' we can see all around us the wonders of God's world given to us, the anemone is but one small flower in among all the riches that are God given. But there is also a mirror image here, not that I am suggesting that people are

knobby tubers — if we transpose that image of the anemone bulb to people living in the dark and coming to know the love of God through Jesus Christ -of coming through into the light of the world, the light that is Jesus Christ...and then to be clothed in splendour is quite an image and one that can be realised through belief and faith in Jesus Christ.

As I write, this morning 19th March, Alison Moodie used the Reading from Colossians 3:12: 'clothe yourselves in tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience' (NLT) to use the image of coming out of the dark and into the light and splendour of the anemone and to think of the list Paul gives us to clothe ourselves in is a good image as we come out of winter and into spring, to come through the period of Lent and into Easter and the resurrection to come alive and in the splendour of the love of God through Jesus Christ.

***Blessings,
Ann Sinclair***

What are the next three letters in this sequence: U, D, T, Q, C, S, S, ?, ?, ?

A few more speakers

A summary of the 58 Society recent talks



M.Accelerator / Unsplash

20th February 2023

Ms Marion Anderson Fraser Hurrah for the Hancocks

Marion gave us an excellent talk on the formation of the Hancock Naturalist and Ancient History Museum from the private collection of Marmaduke Tunstall back in 1780. The original exhibits were a collection of natural history material accumulated from around the world, which after Marmaduke's death was purchased in 1790 by George Allen of Darlington to compliment his own private collection. The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle then acquired the collection in 1823 and transferred it to its scientific branch.

Among the original members of the scientific arm of the Society were Joshua Alder and Albany Hancock, noted Victorian naturalists and both supporters of Charles Darwin. Albany's brother John and sister Mary Jane Hancock were also noted naturalists and provided many artifacts for the Museum. Albany is best known for his works on marine animals and coal-measure fossils. John Hancock, as well as being a naturalist, ornithologist, and landscape architect is considered to be the "father of modern taxidermy".

John and his brother Albany founded the Museum in Newcastle, which includes many specimens from the brothers' collections. Their sister Mary Jane Hancock, who acted as the housekeeper for her bachelor brothers, was a botanist and accomplished water colourist. The Natural History Society holds more than 60 of her paintings and over 300 of her botany specimens. During Victorian times lady naturalists such as Mary Jane Hancock were classed as 'hobbyists', as their work was considered to be a female pastime without scientific importance. Her work has now received overdue credit in an exhibition in the Great North Museum: Hancock library. Joshua Alder was a zoologist and a malacologist, who specialized in the Tunicata, and in gastropods. The Alders were an old Alnwick family, but Joshua was brought up and spent most of his adult life based in Newcastle. The exhibits from around the world were collected by the Hancocks and Alder with finance from local philandrists including William Armstrong. Even today the exhibits collected by these Victorian naturalists are a major factor of the Great North Museum: Hancock being so highly acclaimed in its field, making it a 'must visit' Museum.

The talk on the history of the Museum given by Marion was both informative and interesting and was enjoyed by all.

6th March 2023

Prof. Neville Harris

Winnie the Pooh – A.A. Milne

Neville gave us a very interesting talk on Alan Alexander Milne and his inspiration for the series of Winnie the Pooh books. A. A. Milne was born in 1882 and educated at Westminster School and Trinity College. After leaving University in 1903, he became Assistant Editor of the "Punch Magazine" in 1906. He published three novels and several plays during his period as Assistant Editor at the "Punch Magazine", where he met E. H. Shepard the staff cartoonist who eventually illustrated all the Winnie the Pooh books. His son Christopher Robin was born in 1920, later becoming his inspiration for the Winnie the Pooh series of stories. As a family they moved to Cotchford Farm, Hartfield, in East Sussex, very near to Ashdown Forest which became the fictional

Hundred Acre Wood of the Winnie the Pooh books. These books were adored by the public and became much more successful than his previous novels. The themes used in the "Pooh" series of books were based on the language used by Christopher Robin during his formative years, including the names of most of his toys and fictional Hundred Acre Wood.

As he got older, A.A. Milne used his teenage son to publicise the books, which later in life Christopher Robin resented to such an extent that he became estranged from his father. A major factor in the success of the "Pooh" books were the illustrations produced by E. H. Shepard which gave life to the stories. One of the amazing facts about the relationship between A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard was that they were reputed to have only met up with each other on one occasion.

The talk on A. A. Milne by Professor Harris was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Odd ones out

Which is the rogue one in each of these sets and why?

1. Brain, Heat, Ring, Sound, Shock, Crime
2. Cannelloni, Ravioli, Pappardelle, Tortellini
3. Alice, Dormouse, Hatter, Queen of Hearts, March Hare

Love it or hate it

*For some it's Marmite™,
for others it's asparagus*



Traditionally, the British asparagus season runs from St George's Day on 23 April to the Summer Solstice on 21 June. It is one of the earliest of ancient, annual vegetables and is like Marmite – you either love it or you hate it.

Although there is evidence of it being grown in the ancient world since Biblical times, it is never mentioned by name in the Bible and theologians seem to be divided as to whether it is classed as a good or a forbidden food. There have been times when the first crops of asparagus have been blessed in church, although some bishops have declared it sinful to do so. In the UK there are some local events such as the British Asparagus Festival on 23 April in Evesham and the Asparagus Harvest

Festival on 27 May in Deeside that celebrate asparagus.

There are many different varieties, but four general types: green, white, purple, and wild. Within these four types there many varieties with various colours, tastes, textures, and hardiness. Some varieties of asparagus plants can live up to 30 years. There are some that are also grown for aesthetics and should not be consumed because they are toxic.

To say the least, asparagus is controversial and if you look online you will find lots of different views on the mythical legends that have probably evolved from growers trying to sell their crops.

It's time for the Techie Team!

If you would be willing to join a small team to assist in providing technical support during services, both on Sundays and other times such as funerals, please can you meet with Tim and Carole Moore after the service on **Sunday 30th April 2023**. We will initially be going through use of the audio system and cameras, with further sessions on using the computer and Hymnal to follow. Written instructions will be available to take away, as well as copies kept in the church.

No need to formally sign-up, but please do let us know if you are interested in helping out.

Tim and Carole.

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The February draw took place on 26th February, when Jennifer Fleetham drew the following numbers:



- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------------------|----------|
| 1) | No 4 | Douglas McFarlane | £118. 50 |
| 2) | No 88 | Susan Clark | £59. 25 |
| 3) | No 70 | Catherine Kester | £19. 75 |

With £197.50 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

Words of thanks

From them to you

We would like to say thank you so much to the lovely people at St Andrew's for your good wishes after Ingrid's recent knee replacement surgery.

Thank you for the cards, gifts, gorgeous flowers and kind enquiries.

Also the expressions of sympathy for Gordon in his new nursing role, which he rose to bravely!

I think [hope!] I'm doing pretty well.

Many thanks again

Ingrid & Gordon Connacher

A heartfelt thanks to everyone at St Andrew's for their love, support, calls, emails, flowers and especially prayers as I have waited and then received a pacemaker to keep my heart beating regularly.

The procedure was at 10am on Tuesday...exactly the time the midweek worship was meeting at St Andrew's. I was confident of the prayers of that group.

What a wonderful Christian family we have! Thank you.

Pat Wardle

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



2	South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area; President the Revd Julian Sanders; Treasurer the Revd Peter Rand; Administrator Paula Scullion.
9	Trinity, Bedlington; Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval; the Revd Alan McGougan.
16	St George's, Morpeth; Great Bavington; Widdrington; the Revd Julian Sanders.
23	The Anglican Diocese of York; Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson.
30	Trinity, Ashington; St Andrew's & St Mark's, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea; The Revd Marie Atwood.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Karen Watkin

David Smith Fisher

Helen McNeill Dall

Janette A. Charlton

Gladys Wilson

Nell and Eric Hammond

William Noel Jackson

John Arthur (Jack) Melding

David King

Jim Sinclair

Minnie Skee

Lynne Chisholm

Dorothy Postle

April Rotas

*Christ rose on the 3rd day.
Let's hope you manage to if
you're on duty!*



- Elders:** **Vestry:** Hazel Hall
 Reception: Chris Hales
 Communion: Carole Mallett
- Stewards:** **Vestibule:** Ann Stembridge
 Finance: Alison Mood
- Sunday 2nd** **Preacher** Ted Marley **Organ** Paul Hartley
 Readers: Andrew Cooke; Kevin Ames
 Prayers Hazel Hall
- Tuesday 4th** **Prayers** Ray Hammond
- Thursday 6th** **Tenebrae** Ann Sinclair **Organ** Hymnal
- Good Friday** **Preacher** Lucy Cooke **Organ** Hymnal
- Sunday 9th** **Sunrise service** Val Taylor
 11.00 Preacher Ron Forster **Organ** Helen
 Readers: Kathleen Hopper; Catriona Fenwick
 Prayers Andrew Cooke
- Tuesday 11th** **Prayers** Una Ketteridge
- Sunday 16th** Worship Group
 Readers: Barbara Burgess; Sandra Pine
- Tuesday 18th** **Prayers** Sandra Pine
- Sunday 23rd** **Preacher** Lucy Cooke **Organ** Alex
 Readers: Celia Purves; Mary Christopher
 Prayers Ann Hammond
- Tuesday 25th** **Prayers** Ann Sinclair
- Sunday 30th** **Preacher** Val Taylor **Organ** Paul Hartley
 Readers: Ann Hammond; Ray Hammond
 Prayers Val Taylor

Church Calendar for April / May

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.

Saturday	1	Craft Fair	10.00 am
Sunday	2	(Palm Sunday) Communion Service; Revd Ted Marley	11.00 am
		Messy Church	3.30 pm
Thursday	6	Italian Class	10.00 am
		Tenebrae Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	7.30 pm
Friday	7	Good Friday Service; Mrs Lucy Cooke	10.30 am
		Good Friday Ecumenical Service outside Black Horse Inn	12 noon
Sunday	9	Sunrise Service at Spanish City Plaza; Mrs Valerie Taylor	TBA (est. 6am)
		'Let's Sing'	9.30 am
		Prayer Group	10.30 am
		Easter Sunday Communion Service; Revd Ron Forster	11.00 am
Thursday	13	Italian class	10.00 am
		Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	14	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Film Club – 'A Man Called Otto'	2.00 pm
Sunday	16	Morning Worship; Worship Group	11.00 am
Monday	17	Monday Afternoon Service, followed by refreshments	2.00 pm
Thursday	20	Italian class	10.00 am
Saturday	22	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	23	Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Monday	24	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Thursday	27	NO ITALIAN CLASS TODAY	
Sunday	30	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
MAY 2023			
Tuesday	2	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
and he is up and risen, long before,
alive, at large, and making his strong way
into the world he gave his life to save.
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
of priests this day, or music from the lips
of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
away from church, shakes off our linen bands
to don his apron with a nurse: he grips
and lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
the frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
breathes with the breathless, lends them
strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
and served us in a thousand names and faces
mopping our sickroom floors and catching
traces of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
that they might share his Easter in their need,
now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Malcolm Guite

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