



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Revd Julian Sanders

A very warm welcome to Louise!

Volume 89 Issue 09 — September 2023

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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Musings from the Manse

*A great occasion for everyone,
but Noah stole the show!*

It probably won't surprise any of you to know that my first addition to Newstand is going to be primarily about the fantastic occasion on 29th July that was my Ordination and Induction at St Andrew's.

What a special day, one that I will treasure forever! To be able to share with so many friends, old and new, all coming together in one place, was such a blessing to the start of my ministry.

Many of the people I have spoken with since that day have commented that their favourite part of the service was the one captured in this image – it is no surprise to me that Noah stole the show! My family have been such an integral part of my journey, putting up with college residentials and my many weekends away from home. I have missed many family occasions, Julian's induction to St George's URC, family birthdays, first days at new schools to name just a few, but they never grumbled (much!), instead recognising that this was a journey I had been called to make.

It was a journey I wasn't sure I wanted to take, but I trusted that God would not be calling me to something that he wouldn't equip me to do.



And this reminds me of Moses, who, when called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, responded by saying, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God's reply? "I will be with you." Those five words have given me the comfort and the confidence to ignore the nagging self-doubt and trust that I am where God wants me to be and doing what God wants me to do.

In the coming weeks and months there are going to be many 'firsts', my first harvest with you, my first Remembrance, my first Advent and Christmas services, and I cannot wait to see where God will lead us together as we bring the Good News of the Gospel to anyone with ears to listen!

Louise

We're all a bit older now

*And things aren't quite
how they used to be*



Old age is golden I've heard it said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick up my heels right over my head.
When I was older my slippers were blue
And still I could dance the whole night right through.
But now I am old my slippers are black,
And I walk to the store and puff all the way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the "Obits"
And if my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead
So I have a good breakfast — and go back to bed.

Submitted by John Gibbon

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people from St Andrew's who worked tirelessly to make my Ordination and Induction such a wonderful occasion.

The day was such a blessing and I appreciate that it gave some people a few sleepless nights, but what a team! From setting out chairs, stewarding on the day, serving food and drink to operating the technology, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I could not have had a more memorable day to mark the end of training and the start of my ministry - so thank you one and all!

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd September

10 am – 12 noon

We look forward to meeting up with friends over refreshments at our usual monthly Coffee Morning. There will be a raffle and a bric-a-brac stall.

Film Club

Friday 15th September

2 pm

This month's film is *Empire of Light* (15) starring Olivia Coleman. The film is set in an English coastal town in the early 1980s and is a moving drama about the power of human connection during turbulent times.

Poetry Evening

Saturday 16th September

7 pm

These evenings are proving popular with a regular group of folk but people who haven't been before are very welcome. We usually have a wide variety of poetry including poems by Cyril Fletcher and John Betjeman, for example. There is the opportunity to read your chosen poem or just listen while enjoying a glass of wine or a soft drink. Tickets at £5 are available.

Dates for the Diary

- **Art Exhibition**
– Saturday 7th October
- **Games Evening (Beetle & Dominoes) with Fish & Chip Supper**
– Saturday 21st October
- **Church Fair**
– Saturday 18th November

Ann Hammond



A race to remember

Will you sponsor Amanda to run the distance?



Peter McDermott / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 2.0

Last February and with a significant birthday looming on the horizon for the following year (don't ask), I had a 'now or never' moment. Some may call me brave and others, foolhardy but I signed myself up for the Great North Run.

As some of you may know, I suffered greatly from anxiety and depression during the covid period and I took up running as a way of coping and keeping fit. The road hasn't been easy (both physically and metaphorically), in fact it was quite a learning curve and as my enthusiasm and inexperience greatly outmatched my fitness levels, many injuries ensued. Still, undaunted, I soldiered on and despite periods of enforced rest, with the help of various sports therapists, targeted exercises and more suitable sportswear, I made steady progress.

It feels somewhat daunting to be running a half-marathon with about 60,000 other runners (and I am not at

the starting line yet) but it is something I have long since wanted to do and with the Red Arrows and Mo Farah making an appearance it is going to be a fantastic experience and a day to remember. So please silently cheer me on come 10th September and pray for continued fitness, fair weather, cool(ish) temperatures and above all else a westerly wind (I need all the help I can get)!

I am raising money for the Marie Curie charity and if anyone would like to sponsor me, my online fundraising page can be accessed on the Great North Run official sponsorship website <https://greatnorthrun2023.enthuse.com/pf/amanda-anderson>. Alternatively, please catch me in church and I can take sponsorship in a more traditional paper-based way and submit it on your behalf.

Thank you.

Amanda Anderson

I would like to thank all my friends at St. Andrew's for their kind messages, cards and flowers and for the wonderful support I have had over the last 3 months and continue to have as I undergo further treatment.

Rhoda Lee

Midweek Prayers at 10

*Let us share the harvest,
not store it all for ourselves*



Niamh Sinclair

Opening Words

Come, into the quiet
of this time and this place Lord.

Come, and let me feel Your presence
around me and within me.

Come, into the quiet
of this time and this place Lord
to hear Your Word whispered in the
silence; to feel the strength of Your
arms around me, holding me in the
quiet of this time and place. AMEN

A Prayer of Confession

Gracious and forgiving God,
I bow my head before You,
and ask Your forgiveness,
for the words I have left unsaid;
for the things I should have done but
haven't; for being so totally wrapped
in my own busyness, totally closed to
all that is going on around me and
not giving time to people in true
need.

Gracious and loving God,
in forgiving and being forgiven,
surround us with Your grace
and Your healing so we can grow
again surrounded by Your strength
to step out and look to others in
healing and with grace. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name...

Prayers of Intercession in our Concerns for the world

Generous God,
Lord of the Harvest,
we thank You for the gift
that is creation;
the beauty of the earth
and all that is within it;
the gift of food that nourishes us.

We hold in our prayers
those who will have no harvest
this year; those whose store
cupboards will be empty through
droughts, floods, fire, through
destruction by war and climate
change.

Lord of the Harvest,
help those with abundance to
work together to share the world's
resources so no one goes hungry.

Lord of the Harvest,
we thank You for the gift of those who
plant, those who sow
and those who harvest;
those who labour and care for crops.

We pray for justice in sharing systems of payment, a fair wage and fair work conditions.

Lord of the Harvest,
help those with abundance to work together to share the world's resources so everyone is treated fairly.

Lord of the Harvest,
we thank You for all the gifts You give each one of us:
the Bread of life You feed us;
the food of growth in faith in loving You.

As we enjoy the fruits and gifts of Your creation, fill us with thanks and praise, that we may sow the seeds, feed the

plants, nurture faith and hope, and live in love as Your Son showed us.

We bring these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Blessing

All that You give us,
You call us to share,
May we live Your life,
and breathe with Your breath
and work with You for justice in this needy world. AMEN

Ann Sinclair
Inspiration Jan Berry

Worship and Friendship

Afternoon services open to all

On Monday 25 September at 2 pm the Worship Group, together with the Activities Team, will be leading another service of seasonal hymns, readings and prayers, followed by tea or coffee and cake. The service itself will last for round 30 minutes, and will take place in the church, with the refreshments, also in the church, being served immediately afterwards.

These afternoons are very much appreciated by all those who attend, but some people are still under the misapprehension that they are only for the house-bound or those who can't get to church on Sundays, and consequently they have not been particularly well supported since resuming after the pandemic. Please remember that EVERYONE is welcome, and come along if you possibly can. Lifts can be arranged if required.

Carole Mallett



Aaron Burden / Unsplash

All in a garden

*Where we reap what we sow
and what we tend*



The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 13, was the focus of the Lectionary for a number of weeks in July. In a service at St Andrew's, one of the Stewards commented to me that from the Order of Service the theme that morning was very much towards gardening, and yes it was. Matthew 13 does indeed focus on 'gardening' in all aspects from sowing seeds, the type of soil the seeds were planted in, to coping with weeds and eventually flourishing plants — all central elements of gardening on whatever scale, small gardens to large fields.

Matthew 13 was a turning point in Jesus' ministry and part of a major teaching block in this Gospel. The doors of synagogues were closing to Jesus — the official leaders of the Jewish orthodoxy had voiced their opposition to Jesus, watched his every action and listened to him to find some charges to bring against him. But that did not stop Jesus from teaching and healing those who gathered around him. Jesus found another way by taking his message outside for example to a lakeside, wherever people were gathered and Jesus taught through parables, stories of places and events the people would recognise. In Chapter 13 sowing and planting would be very

much recognised by the people listening to Jesus of familiar occupations.

Readings from this chapter continued in the Lectionary and sowing and planting were still very much the focus of Jesus' teaching. A few weeks after the service at St Andrew's I was planning the service for a church in Newcastle and I asked the Church Secretary if there was an expert gardener among the folks there who would be happy to speak to the congregation on planting seeds and nurturing plants and far more knowledgeable than my feeble efforts in gardening. There was a gardener from Newcastle City Council... a true expert of sowing, planting, weeding and nurturing young plants on a very large scale. However, I was unsure even on the morning of the service if the gentleman would come forward to speak; he had never done anything like this in church before. However, he did come forward to the lectern and spoke eloquently on his subject drawing on his great knowledge and giving sound advice. His closing words were spoken with deep sincerity, words that he drew from his gardening experiences. Words that formed a lesson for all who heard

them that morning and perhaps all who read them now:

'A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness. It teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.'

The parables of sowing and planting present a clear picture that sits beautifully with discipleship of complete trust in God and taking the Word of God out to others, whether the Word roots or falls on stony ground with perhaps no hope of flourishing, but the action by all disciples in faith and hope to take the Word of God out into the world.

In the words from a hymn by Carol Dixon I used at St Andrew's in July:

'Listen to my Father's words, and then your faith will grow.' (V3)
In our lives plant seeds of hope,
In our homes plant seeds of love,
In our church plant seeds of joy.
Tell the world about God's love,
Tell the world about God's love...

Carol Dixon (b1947)

Blessings
Ann Sinclair

On the subject of gardens...

A Sunday school teacher asked her class to draw a picture of their favourite Old Testament story, and as she moved around the class, she saw there were many wonderful drawings being done. Then she came across Douglas, who had drawn an old man driving a car. In the back seat were two passengers, both apparently naked.

"It's a lovely picture," said the teacher, "but which story does it tell?"



Douglas seemed surprised at the question. "Doesn't it say in the Bible that God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden?"

Submitted by Louise

Are we here to serve or be served?

From URC Daily Devotions

How do we older folk serve those who come after us? Do we encourage worship in a way that helps them to engage and develop their own relationship with God? Do we offer genuine opportunities for others to share new ideas?

We ponder Romans 9.

Romans 9: 1 - 18

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but 'It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.' This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the

children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. For this is what the promise said, 'About this time I will return and Sarah shall have a son.' Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac. Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, not by works but by his call) she was told, 'The elder shall serve the younger.' As it is written,

'I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau.'

What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses,

'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.'

So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. For the scripture says to Pharaoh, 'I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.' So then he has mercy on whomsoever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomsoever he chooses.



Reflection

"The Elder shall serve the younger", eh? That message seems to have got lost in translation over the generations - or, maybe, just conveniently ignored as an inconvenient truth.

How do we older folk serve those who come after us? Do we encourage worship in a way that helps them to engage and develop their own relationship with God? Do we explain why things are done a certain way or just insist that it is 'because'? Do we offer genuine opportunities for others to share new ideas? Do we listen to them when they do? Are we honestly open to change?

Or do we carry on doing what we've always been doing, thinking "They can change things when I'm gone but not before"?

That's quite a risk - because, if we don't help younger generations feel at home in our churches, in our worship, in our processes and practices, there will potentially be nobody to come after us. They'll have

voted with their feet, as so many have done in the past and, if we're honest, as many of us wish we'd had the courage to do when we were their age.

So let's take time to think about how we can serve them, rather than the other way around. Let's see what happens when our world is turned upside down. Let's let them speak their truth in Christ. Who knows, it might actually lead to an improvement?

Prayer

Oh Lord All The World Belongs To You
And You Are Always Making All Things
New.

Send Your Spirit On All In Your Church
Whom You Call
To Be Turning The World Upside Down.

Patrick Appleford

*Bible text from New Revised Standard Version
Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995
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CCL No. 213535*

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly.

"How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Submitted by Louise

Christian Aid Week

*It may have been in May,
but your donations matter
throughout the year*



It is some time since Christian Aid Week in May, but I thought you would like to hear of the outcome.

Over several years St. Andrew's has supported the week. How many of you can remember pacing the streets, in all weathers, posting envelopes through local letterboxes, and shortly afterwards collecting - or at least trying to collect - them back from (sometimes very reluctant) residents?

I myself can recall one year collecting in a snowstorm in the middle of May. On another occasion, the door was opened by a gentleman who calmly told me - 'There's nobody in'. That threw me a bit - was it a ghost, a burglar, or what ?

I also recall that Paul was one of the first to sign the list of collectors, and he always chose Cauldwell Lane, with its 155 houses. I guess his step count was

well up in that week.

Anyway, for several reasons, we no longer carry out door-to-door collections, mainly because we are all a lot older, and so this year we held a Coffee Morning. At the same time, St. Peter's were holding a 'Christian Aid Big Breakfast', and their profits were greatly increased with takeaway orders from St. Andrew's.

The Coffee Morning raised £560, which was more than we had made from the last few street collections. One could argue that it is not a large amount, a drop in the ocean perhaps, but together with thousands of churches, chapels, clubs, organisations and individuals, that ocean grew to £2.3 million, and I am told that the money is still coming in.

***Sue and Kevin
Christian Aid co-ordinators***

Church Register

Marriage

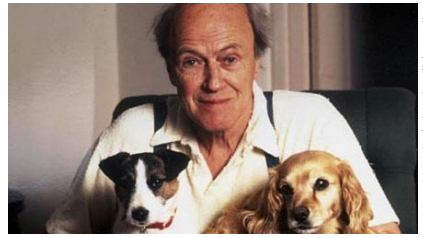
CARROLL – LYNCH

In church on 18 August 2023,
by Mrs Valerie Taylor,
Philip Anthony Carroll to Jane Alison Lynch.



A birthday to remember

The fighter pilot who became famous for his children's stories



Hardwick4 / Wikimedia Commons / CC by SA-4

Before he became one of the world's best-loved storytellers Roald Dahl was an RAF fighter pilot, intelligence officer, and diplomat. Born in Wales on 13 September 1916, he had a fascinating life before becoming an author. He was named after the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, and at an early age developed an adventurous spirit.

When he left school he worked for Shell Petroleum in Tanzania, and then became an aircraftman for the Royal Air Force in 1939 – just as World War II began on 1 September 1939. It also finished in September 1945. After surviving a desert crash landing and the Battle of Athens, Dahl was appointed assistant air attaché at the British Embassy in Washington, DC and he supplied intelligence to Winston Churchill that helped to smooth the relationship between the British Prime Minister and President Franklin Roosevelt.

Roald Dahl's military career inspired his early writing. His first published story recounts his crash landing, while his first children's book, *The Gremlins*, has mischievous creatures that sabotage RAF aircraft. He also drew inspiration from Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, the village his family

called home. He wrote over 30 novels, creating iconic characters including Willy Wonka, Matilda, and Mr Fox, as well as many screenplays for shows such as Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

Matilda, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *James and the Giant Peach*, are among his most popular children's stories that feature zany characters, touching storylines and adult villains, and they have been adapted into dozens of plays and films. And then, of course, there were his screenplays for hit films such as *Chitty Chitty BangBang*.

He died on 23 November 1990. His books have sold more than 300 million worldwide.



Gratitude

And all over a pack of cards



A young soldier was in his bunkhouse all alone one Sunday morning in the desert. It was quiet that day; the guns and the mortars, and the landmines, for some reason hadn't made a noise. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord."

The sergeant said, "Looks like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said, "No, sir, you see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see:

"The Ace reminds me that there is only one God.

"The Two represents the two parts of the Bible: Old and New Testaments.

"The Three represents the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

"The Four stands for the four apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

"The Five is for the five bridesmaids that had enough oil in their lamps.

"The Six is for the six days it took God to create the heavens and earth.

"The Seven is for the day God rested after working the six days.

"The Eight is for the eighth day, the day the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples.

"The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy but who didn't say 'thank you'.

"The Ten represents the ten commandments.

"The Jack is a reminder of Satan — an angel who rebelled and is now the knave of hell.

"The Queen stands for the Bride of Christ, the church.

"The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.

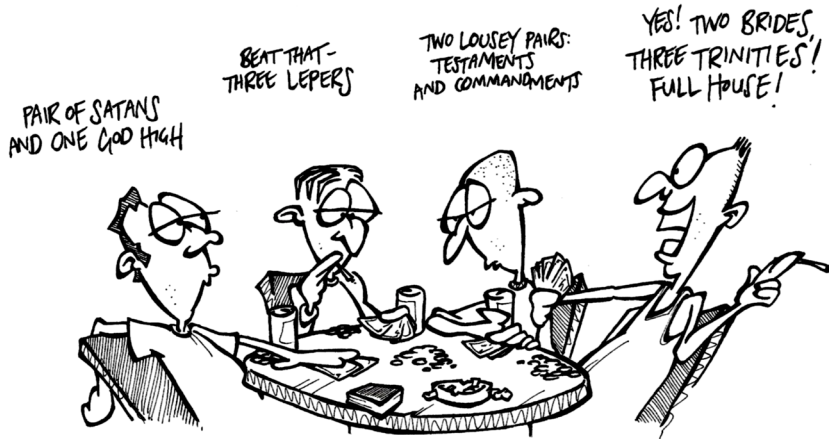
"When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year.

"There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week, the 52 weeks of the year.

"The four suits represent the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter, ordained by God.

"Each suit has thirteen cards; there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

"So when I want to talk to God, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."



Text and image from *A Bundle of laughs*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books
Submitted by Louise

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The July draw took place on 30th July when Alison Ridley drew the following numbers:



- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------|
| 1) No 105 | Neil Cockburn | £121.50 |
| 2) No 30 | Phil Brown | £60.75 |
| 3) No 56 | Elaine Geddes | £20.25 |

With £202.50 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



3	Creation Time; Green Apostle the Revd Trevor Jamison.
10	Education Sunday; Lay Preaching Commissioner Dr Ann Sinclair; Learning & Development Officer Mrs Lucy Cooke.
17	St Andrew's, Kenton; Jesmond; St James's, Newcastle; West End, Newcastle; the Revd Ryan Sirmons.
24	Our second world church partner, the United Church of Christ New York Conference; Conference Minister the Revd Dr Marsha Williams.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

John Coull

Amelia Ann Owen

John R. F. Lochrane

Margaret J. Lochrane

James Porterfield

Mabel Jane MacLennan

Rene Cummergen

Mary Milroy Williams

Dennis Forster

Thelma and John Dodd

Dorothy Grandison

Sheila Ann Lowrie

Margaret Norman Lee

Margaret Park

September Rotas

*Schools go back this month —
are you back on duty?*



Please see Church Diary for service leaders

ELDERS:	Vestry	Jennifer Fleetham
	Reception	Bill Hopper
	Communion	Joan Blanchfield
STEWARDS:	Vestibule	Christine Lynch
	Finance	Susan Anderson
Sunday 3rd	Organ Paul Hartley	Prayers Ann Sinclair
	Readers: Jean Jackson/Tim Cooke	
Tuesday 5th	Prayers Rev Douglas McFarlane	
Sunday 10th	Organ Helen Storey	Prayers Ann Hammond
	Readers: Iain Ord/Joan Blanchfield	
Tuesday 12th	Prayers Ray Hammond	
Sunday 17th	Organ Paul Hartley	Prayers Una Ketteridge
	Readers: Val Taylor/Chris Hales	
Tuesday 19th	Prayers Louise Sanders	
Sunday 24th	Organ Alex	Prayers Chris Hales
	Readers: Susan Clark/Paul Hartley	
Tuesday 26th	Prayers Sue Ames	

October Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 24th Sept.
Please have contributions to Tim by 18th September.

Church Calendar for September / October

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	2	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	3	Communion Service; Rev Pat Wardle and other worship leaders	11.00 am
Sunday	10	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	9.30 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Tuesday	12	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	14	Pastoral Team Meeting followed by Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	15	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Film Club –'Empire of Light'	2.00 pm
Saturday	16	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	17	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders. CHURCH MEETING FOLLOWS SERVICE	11.00 am
Monday	18	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Tuesday	19	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Saturday	23	Harvest Coffee Morning	10.00 am
		Induction of Revd Kim Plumpton as Synod Moderator, at St Columba's, North Shields	3.00 pm
Sunday	24	Harvest Festival Parade Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	25	Monday Afternoon Service; Worship Group and Activities Team	2.00 pm
OCTOBER 2023			
Sunday	1	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Saturday	7	Art Exhibition	10.00 am

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

The Bible in 50 Words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained

