



Taking time to just "be" Volume 89 Issue 10 — October 2023

### St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 $8\mathrm{LU}$ 

http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk

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## Musing from the Manse

Have you heard that still small voice of calm?



A few years ago while walking through Newcastle, Julian and I were admiring the architecture when we spotted this rather familiar wee dog sitting in the upstairs window of a rather dilapidated building. Many of you will recognise 'Nipper', the iconic dog from the labels of many record companies over the years including EMI and HMV.

The painting was made in 1898 by Francis Barraud and he said this: "It is difficult to say how the idea came to me beyond the fact that it suddenly occurred to me that to have a dog listening to the phonograph, with an intelligent and rather puzzled expression, and call it 'His Masters Voice' would make an excellent subject. We had a phonograph and I often noticed how puzzled he was to make out where the voice came from. It certainly was the happiest thought I ever had".

In the first book of Samuel, chapter 3, we read about the young Samuel who is alone with Eli when he hears a voice call out his name. He runs to Eli but is told it was not him who called to him. After this has happened a third time Eli realises it is indeed God who is calling out to Samuel and he tells him to return to bed and when he hears

the voice again to answer, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." Which of course Samuel does and the rest they say is history!

I wonder how many times we miss the wee small voice of God because of our busy lives? How easy is it to hear our Master's voice amidst the clamour of the many other voices calling out to us?

Taking time to just 'be' is not always easy, especially when there are demands of family life, work, church business or meetings to attend. I know that I am always promising myself that I will take some time once I have just finished this – but maybe our priority shouldn't be what we are 'doing', maybe it should be who we are listening out for. What are we missing while we are busy doing?

Take time to listen for the Master's Voice – for it is only when we do that we can honestly reply with, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

Louise

## The changing face of Harvest Festival

From farm produce to food banks

Although there is no official date assigned for our Harvest Festivals it is often celebrated in churches on the first Sunday of October, which is also usually the closest Sunday to the Autumn Equinox that marks the start of Autumn. It is time when we thank God for the, hopefully, plentiful supply of food -and was traditionally held at the end of the harvest season when the country was much more reliant on home-grown food.

The festival, as we know it today, is attributed to Revd Robert Hawker who, in 1843, invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service in Morwenstow, Cornwall. As well as thanking God, gifts of produce and flowers were brought to church to be shared among the less fortunate in the parish.

These celebrations date from about 3.500 years ago in Old Testament days when God gave Moses instructions for seven annual feasts (Leviticus 23) which included three harvests: First Fruits in spring for the barley harvest: Weeks in early summer for the wheat harvest; and Tabernacles, or the ingathering, in the autumn when thanks was given for all the year's crops and prayers offered for the coming year.

As well as wheat and barley, the other main Biblical crops were grapes, figs, dates, olives, and pomegranates. These seven foods are sometimes called the 'Seven Species' of the Bible. They are those God told the Israelites they would enjoy when they arrived in the Promised Land.

In Revd Hawker's days most of the UK population relied totally on growing their food locally and a good harvest was vital for their wellbeina throughout the coming year. Today, few people in the UK rely on home grown food or source it entirely from within their community, so the underlying nature of Harvest Festival has changed significantly. While some people still take home grown food to church for their local Harvest Festival it is becoming more common for gifts of dried and tinned food which can be distributed via foodbanks, and/or cash collections for local, national or international charitable causes, such as the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

Christian Aid is trying something new this year for its Harvest Appeal. It is working with churches and Quaker meetings across the UK to ask people to put their faith into action by considering leaving a gift in their Will to their church and Christian Aid, as well as the more usual donations.

## Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



#### St Andrew's Art Exhibition and Sale -Saturday 7th October, 10 am - 2 pm

We look forward this month to the popular Annual Art Exhibition and Sale organised by St Andrew's Art Club. The Activities Team will be serving coffee and light lunches during the day. Do come along if you can to browse and/or buy and enjoy St Andrew's renowned refreshments.

#### Film Club – Friday 13th October, 2 pm

This month we will be showing My Week with Marilyn (15). Based on books by Colin Clark, this drama follows a week in the life of the Hollywood star Marilyn Monroe during the making of the 1957 film The Prince and the Showgirl which starred Marilyn and Laurence Olivier. Clark was responsible for escorting Marilyn around Britain, giving him a unique insight into her life away from the glitz and flashbulbs.

#### **Games Evening**

Fun and games for all ages take place on **Saturday 21st October from 6 pm** when we will be playing Dominoes and Beetle plus enjoying a Fish & Chip Supper.

Tickets at  $\pounds 10$  available soon.

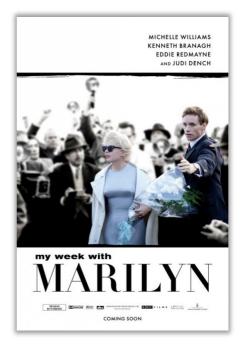
#### Dates for the Diary

Coffee Morning – Saturday 4th November

Film Club – Friday 10th November

Church Fair – Saturday 18th November

Ann Hammond



## A race remembered

# Going the distance, and (just) avoiding the weather

Well here we are on the other side of the Great North Run half-marathon. It was hot and sunny and very, very crowded (imagine a congested motorway but with people) but with stoic determination I am delighted to say that I ran the full 13.1 miles (in fancy dress) and at a reasonably respectable time of 2 hours 44 minutes, coming 33,519th out of 60,000 runners. No-one can say I didn't prepare, I packed suncream, an umbrella and a raincoat and needed all of them! Thankfully I was well past the finishing line by the time the storm hit and by good fortune (well actually more down to good management) I was sipping Prosecco in the Marie Curie tent during the worst of it. Unfortunately, due to the consequential flooding of the Metro line, I got caught up in the subsequent gruelling two and a half hour queue for the Shields ferry (but that's a story for another time).

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone at St Andrews for their good wishes, support and generosity. I have, to date, raised a total of £490 in donations for Marie Curie which is fantastic.



People have been asking me what the best part of the day was but I really can't put it down to any one thing. Perhaps it was the anticipation or the atmosphere or more likely, the sense of pride and achievement or maybe all of these things but as the printing on my finisher's t-shirt so succinctly put it: "Every story has a start and finish but it's the journey in the middle that makes it great".

Thank you all once again.

Amanda Anderson

## Prayers at Home

Bringing ourselves together in a moment of peace

#### **Coming to Prayer**

Stepping into this moment, we come to You Lord. Stepping into this space, we bring ourselves into Your presence. We come to You Lord to offer our prayers; hold our hands through darkness; hold our hands to find strength and peace in whatever we face. Be with us in love. AMEN

#### A Prayer of Confession

As we come before You God of love,

You know our innermost thoughts. We ask Your forgiveness for our everyday flaws and failings,

when we have hidden behind closed doors frightened to speak out for what we believe,

protecting ourselves from hostility and conflict.

God of love,

we ask Your forgiveness when we prefer the comfort of being with people like us and exclude others.

#### God of love,

forgive us when we have closed our minds to new opportunities,



to take risks of new possibilities. God of love, forgive us, renew our faith and lead us in Your ways. AMEN

#### Assurance of Pardon

God of love, You hold us in Your ever-loving arms, Your love and faithfulness surrounds and fills us as we walk with You. We are assured of Your blessing, You are our refuge and our strength. May we live and hope as Your faithful people. AMEN

## And in the Prayer our Lord Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Your name;

...For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

#### Prayers of Concern for the World

Lord, we come to You holding those who are suffering grief and loss; those who are suffering the pain of broken relationships and those whose dreams and hopes have been shattered. Lord, may Your love lead them in the hope of healing.

Lord, in homes where violence and abuse are part of normal life; where communities are broken through unemployment and crime; where prejudice and fear bring division and hatred.

Lord, may Your love lead them in the hope of healing.

Lord, in the many places in Your world torn by war, violence, displacement, poverty and environmental disasters; where people live in fear for their beliefs.

Lord, may Your love lead them in the hope of healing.

Lord, in churches where men and women are tired and weary;

where there is a desire for new vision; where there is division.

Lord, may Your love lead them in the hope of healing.

God of love,

bless all those who care and stretch out to those who are suffering and broken.

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

#### **Closing our Prayers**

May the blessing and love of God be with us and remain with us always. AMEN

#### Blessings, Ann Sinclair

Inspiration: Naming God, Jan Berry & Bare Feet & Buttercups, Ruth Burgess



## **Churches Together**

# A report on the latest meeting

## Whitley Bay & District CHURCHES + TOGETHER

Well, I know some of these reports can be a bit "dry". However, at this meeting held at Hillheads Community Church, which 16 people attended, lots of items were discussed. It transpires that many of the activities organised by members of the churches in Whitley Bay are in desperate need of volunteers! So perhaps, on reading this report, something might "capture" your imagination – ironically a lot of these activities are not short of money, just people!

Our opening devotions were led by a member of the Hillheads Church – he asked us to pause and consider the world around us – quoting from Luke's gospel, chapter 12 vv 22-24 – look it up!

In the administration section it was pointed out there will be a change. We have yet to appoint a new Chairman and the website, Facebook and emailing is being adjusted. Our new Treasurer, Jenny – our Jenny – pointed out that our finances were very healthy – so what can we do with the money? It was decided to give a donation to a new venture, 'Christians Against Poverty', being set up by representatives from the Bay Church and Whitley Bay Baptist Church. It will be up and running from

January. Can you volunteer?

The next 'Fiesta' event will be on Sunday 1st October, in the grounds of St Paul's.

There were then three reports from Parish Nursing, Street Pastors and SWEP (government protocol supplying overnight accommodation for the homeless of North Tyneside) all of which are in desperate need of volunteers. Can you help?

The Bay Foodbank, run through referrals, with the help of volunteers – can you help? Ask one of our volunteers from our church if you need any more information!

Then there is 'Warm Spaces' – using church premises from September to March. Churches need to register with the Council and there is a grant. But again volunteers are needed!

DePaul Society are again organising Christmas hampers. We will, as a church, be asked to contribute – more information shortly. Whitley Bay and District Churches Together are organising a Christmas Carol Concert to be held at St Paul's. Details to follow.

This year St John's are holding their Charity Market on Saturday 4th November. They would greatly appreciate more charities taking part. Then there is 'Night Stop' based in the regional office. Can you offer your 'spare room' and dinner, bed and breakfast? See the leaflet. The contact number is 0191 253 6164.

Lastly, there is refugee work – again needing volunteers – based in the North Shields Baptist Church – see the flier! very rewarding to realise how our churches are involved in so many projects. But these can only be successful with people willing to give up their time to help others. Can you be one of these people? God bless you!

Valerie Taylor

WB&D Churches Together Representative

Oh well folks, it was a busy night but

Dear all,

Thank you to everyone who made the 40th anniversary of my Ordination service so special. Thanks to all who took part, speaking, playing and organising singing, and working the technology, and to the refreshment team.

Thank you too for all your cards, good wishes and gifts. It became a memorable day with many of my family and, of course, St Andrew's family who are so special.

Thank you also to Louise for her graciousness to an oldie so soon after her arrival here. We were so pleased to see you back from holiday just in time to pick up the baton of your Ministry again!

#### Pat Wardle

#### Strictly Come Bowling

St. Andrew's Carpet Bowling club is back

The new season started on 14th September, but all former members and anyone else interested in joining is more than welcome to join at the next session.



Please contact Mary Christopher for further information and if you are interested in joining.

## What in God's name?

A reflection

When naming a newborn child, or changing our name for whatever reason, it is not unusual to turn to a book, or more likely today to search online, to check what the name means. In Biblical times, names were taken much more seriously and would usually reflect the child's ancestry and what that child was expected to achieve in the future. Very often we find that when someone was called by God to serve him, God would change their name to reflect their new calling, for example, Abram became Abraham, Sarai was chanaed to Sarah, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter and so on. This tradition of changing your name when called by God continues today in convents and monasteries when nuns and monks take on a different name from the one they were called in the world outside.

It's not surprising, therefore, that when Moses was sent by God to rescue the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, he asked God for his name so that he could tell Pharoh who had sent him. The name in Hebrew that God gave Moses was YHWH, a name that is unpronounceable in Hebrew or any other language. It was probably because God's real name is unpronounceable that it became a



Jewish tradition that the name of God must never be written down or said out loud. Even the word 'God' would be written, and is still written today by some people, as God.

However, as time went on vowels were added to YHWH and this led to YaHWeH (pronounced yarway) which evolved into Jehovah. We are told in Exodus 3:14 that God answered Moses' question about what his name is by saying, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you." The name 'I am ' implies that God has existed since before time began, that he exists right now and will continue to exist forever, and that his name will not change.

Moving on to the time of Jesus, you can see why the names that Jesus called himself angered the Jewish leaders. Seven times – seven being the Biblical number for completeness -Jesus declared that he was I am, the name of God that is so Holy that noone was allowed to say it, or indeed, write it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the gate; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life; and I am the true vine. Jesus clearly identifies himself as God's son, I am. As such Jesus reveals that he existed with God before the Creation, exists now, and will exist with God the Father for ever.

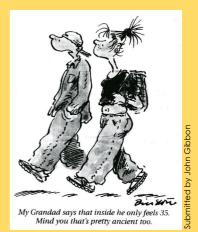
But you may ask, what will God call me? Revelation 2:17 tells us that Christians are promised a white stone with a new name written on it as a reward for their persevering faithfulness: 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.' [New King James Version ]

Via Association for Church Editors

## As We Grow Old

#### Now that I'm older (but refuse to grow up), here's what I discovered

- I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
- My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
- I finally got my head together, now my mind is falling apart.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
- If all is not lost, where is it?
- It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- The only time the world beats a path to your door, is when you're in the bathroom.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes he would have put them on my knees.
- It's not hard to meet expenses...They're everywhere.



• These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something then wonder what I'm hereafter.

## The votes are in!

A clear result for the Church Meeting time



9

2

Thank you to those who completed the voting slips and expressed a preference as to when Church Meetings should take place. The results were:

- Sundays after the service WITHOUT LUNCH 33
- Sundays after the service WITH LUNCH
- Midweek in the evening

Regards Ray & Louise

#### **Church Register**



Davison

Margery, aged 97 years, on 24th August 2023. Service and committal at Tynemouth on 13th September, conducted by Revd Louise Sanders.

I would like to thank the incredible team at St. Andrew's who gave up their time to support my daughter Jane at her recent wedding to Philip Carroll.

Special thanks too, to the Flower Team of Beryl and Mary for the spectacular flowers, Tim for producing the music, and to Val Taylor for leading the event in such a calm way.

We really want to thank everyone for all their help and support. We couldn't have done it without you all.

**Christine Lynch** 

## Costa del Packet!

This holiday seems like a bit of a carry on

St. Peter's Players' next production will take place on Thursday/Friday/ Saturday 9/10/11 November in the Crosskeys Hall, Elmwood Road, Monkseaton, commencing at 7.30 pm. We shall be performing 'Costa del Packet!', a one-act comedy written by Anthony Booth.

Four women arrive at Del Sol on a package tour. They find themselves stranded in a workman's hut on the site of their hotel, which is not even constructed yet. Determined not to



let their husbands know that they have been conned, they decide not to return home and determinedly try to make the best of everything. It is, however, far from easy.

Tickets will shortly be available, and can be obtained via Sue Ames, Joan Blanchfield or myself. Please do come along and support live theatre in Monkseaton.

**Carole Mallett** 

## St. Andrew's 100 Club

#### You have to be in it to win it!

The August draw took place on 26th August when Robert Chisholm drew the following numbers:

1) No 1	Elizabeth Fletcher	£123.00
2) No 51	Carol Turnbull	£61.50
3) No 3	Paul Hartley	£20.50

With £205.00 going to Church Funds.

Could I also remind you that if you wish to continue your membership of the 100 Club your monies were due by September 17th, so please get them to me as soon as possible.

#### Kathleen Hopper

# nylo-unleather.com

## You are what you wear

## Is sustainable fashion the ethical result?



Sustainable fashion is a term progressively being used — and possibly overused — these days, especially within the fashion world. As society's increased spending habits have evolved, we have become aware of the fashion industry's impact on the planet because of fast fashion. This overproduction of clothing is slowly killing our environment, and our clothes are the leading cause of this pollution. Today, anyone, anywhere, can purchase clothing faster, at a lower price, which is more convenient than ever before. So, what's the issue?

Buving fast fashion has been the new normal for online shoppers. This easy way of shopping online has rapidly increased over the past decade. We find ourselves continuously following the craze of purchasing trendy clothing sold at a low cost and designed to be worn just a few times. This widely popular trend will be around for a while as the mass desire for more clothes arows. I believe that we will need to completely rethink our purchasing habits and how we produce and purchase clothing, otherwise all these garments will end up in landfill and will not be recycled. However, sustainable fashion may be the solution!

But what does sustainable fashion even mean? In short, it's a term used for clothing made and consumed in a way that has protected both the environment and those producing the garment. This sustainable business ensures that garment workers are paid a fair wage, have safe working conditions, and that the fabrics and materials used are made ethically.

Fashion brands worldwide have started producing sustainable products that have become increasingly popular online in recent years. Designers such as Stella McCartney and Iris Van Herpen are current luxury runway designers beginning to show the world that fashion can be produced sustainably. These sustainable styles have started to appear more and more and are explicitly designed to look good, but also to be wearable and last a lifetime.

From its early days, the fashion world has been in a never-ending cycle of finding new and innovative ways to make itself appealing to modern-day consumers. This goes from frantically testing out weird and wonderful materials to picking out the latest trends that activists and celebrities alike can't get enough of. The most recent development for this industry has been the use of natural materials to create fashion that will not only have people looking their best but will ensure that these garments will be biodegradable, which is why fabrics such as mycelium are being used to pave the way for sustainability in fashion. But what exactly is this material, and how can it possibly replace the harmful substances the industry is currently using?

Mycelium is the root part of a mushroom and has been created to be a more eco-friendly material as it requires very little water to grow and contains no toxic chemicals, which is a great sustainable substitute for existing fashion materials cotton or nylon. This fully compostable material has been notably recognised by brands across the globe, with many famous fashion brands using Mylo — a leather material created from mycelium — which originated from the brand Bolt Threads, one of the leading technology companies in the production of mycelium.

As this material is still at the start of being mass-produced, we have yet to see it on the market within our local high street stores. However, being sustainable doesn't just mean purchasing new eco-friendly fashions. You can be sustainable right now at home with your current clothing! Being sustainable sounds complex, but it really isn't! Whether purchasing or donating your old clothes in a charity shop, recycling and upcycling garments, or creating new pieces yourself, being sustainable at home can significantly help reduce our fast fashion habits. Every small step we take can help ensure that our garments aren't thrown into landfill.

With second-hand and vintage clothing becoming trendy online, Generations Z and Alpha have made sustainable fashion the new norm. This young cohort uses pre-loved clothing items to create unique styles to add to their wardrobe and create individual pieces that no one else will have. This audience has been inspired by celebrities such as the singer Billie Eilish and model Bella Hadid, who are known to wear vintage and secondhand clothing.

The fashion industry has continuously made substantial efforts in recent years to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly because of climate change. However, we can hope to see more changes made to help reduce fast fashion within the industry and tackle this worldwide issue.

Could you see yourself and your favourite celebrities one-day wearing fashions made from mushrooms?

#### Harriet Nelson

Harriet is a recent graduate in fashion marketing and member of St. Andrew's Church , Sonning, Berkshire. Via Association for Church Editors

## Northern Synod Prayer Diary

Joining in our weekly prayers with the wider URC



1	St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park; Revd Adele Moorhouse; Revd Annie Gray.
8	Homeless Sunday; Synod Meeting (14 <sup>th</sup> October); our new Moderator, Revd Kim Plumpton; Synod Admin Team: Synod Operations Coordinator Lisa McAvoy; Office Manager & Moderator's PA Wendy Watson; Trust Officer Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer Helen Hogg.
15	Trinity, Gosforth; Revd Alex Mabbs
22	St Margaret's, South Shields; Roker; Stockton Road, Sunderland; Grindon Church Community Project; Revd Jane Rowell; Church-Related Community Work Minister Alison Dalton.
29	One World Week; Methodist Newcastle District; District Chair Revd Stephen Lindridge.

## From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

- Charles Gordon Mallett Edward Rye Eleanor Jackson Isabella Fisher Henry Brandon Mary Brandon Anne Robson
- Jack Pearson Peggy Pearson Hughina Simpson Winifred Charlton Winifred Emily Rye Edith Robson Joan Mary Forster Joy Adamson
- William Malcolm Dickinson Alec William Skee Sheila Hartley Fiona Wright Olive Fisher

## **October Rotas**

Make sure the dates you are on duty are safely gathered in



#### Please see Church Diary for service leaders

ELDERS:	Vestry Catriona Fenwick Communion Carole Mallett	Reception Ann Hammond
STEWARDS:	Vestibule Celia Purves	Finance Pat Wardle
Sunday 1st	Organ Paul Hartley Readers Jenny Hooper / Kevin Prayers Hazel Hall	n Ames
Tuesday 3rd	Prayers Carole Mallett	
Sunday 8th	Organ Helen Storey Readers Joan Blanchfield / Sc Prayers Val Taylor	andra Pine
Tuesday 10th	Prayers Louise Sanders	
Sunday 15th	Organ Paul Hartley Readers Celia Purves / Mary O Prayers Chris Hales	Christopher
Tuesday 17th	Prayers Sandra Pine	
Sunday 22nd	Organ Alex Readers Ann Hammond / Ray Prayers Una Ketteridge	y Hammond
Tuesday 24th	Prayers Una Ketteridge	
Sunday 29th	Organ Paul Hartley Readers Kathleen Hopper / C Prayers Ann Hammond	Catriona Fenwick
Tuesday 31st	Prayers Sue Ames	

### Church Calendar for October / November

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	1	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am	
Monday	2	Fifty Eight Society re-commences	7.30 pm	
Saturday	7	Art Exhibition	10.00 am	
Sunday	8	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	9.30 am	
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am	
		Morning Worship; Revd Peter Moth	11.00 am	
Thursday	12	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm	
Friday	13	Film Club – 'My week with Marilyn'	2.00 pm	
Sunday	15	Morning Worship; Revd Dr Trevor Jamison	11.00 am	
Monday	16	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm	
Saturday	21	Games Evening with Fish & Chips Supper	6.00 pm	
Sunday	22	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders 11.00 am		
Sunday	29	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders and Worship Group	11.00 am	
Monday	30	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm	
NOVEMBER 2023				
Saturday	4	Coffee Morning	10.00 am	
Sunday	5	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am	

#### October Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 29th Oct. Please have contributions to Tim by 23rd October.

### Pause in this

#### moment

A place for prayers, thoughts and poems



The Breath Prayer Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit I receive your love and release my insecurity I receive your joy and release my unhappiness I receive your peace and release my anxiety I receive your patience and release my impulsiveness I receive your kindness and release my indifference I receive your goodness and release my ungodliness I receive your faithfulness and release my disloyalty I receive your gentleness and release my severity I receive your self-control and release my self-indulgence Amen