



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



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Come and join the celebration

Volume 90 Issue 1 — January 2024

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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Musing from the Manse

The Tapestry of Life



As I sit to write this month's 'Musings' I am looking at the lights of my Christmas tree, anticipating Christmas Day in 8 days and finding it hard to imagine that by the time you read this, it will be 2024!

As another year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the passage of time and the myriad experiences that have shaped the last 365 days. The journey has been a mosaic of highs and lows, a kaleidoscope of emotions that has left an indelible mark on my soul.

In the tapestry of life, each year represents a thread, woven into the complex fabric of our existence. Some threads are vibrant and full of colour, representing moments of joy, accomplishment, and growth. These are the threads that make the journey worthwhile, the threads that sparkle in the tapestry of memories.

Yet, woven alongside these bright threads are the darker ones – the challenges, the setbacks, and the moments of heartache. These threads are just as crucial, for they add depth and texture to the overall narrative of our lives. They teach us resilience, fortitude, and the importance of navigating through the storms with grace.

As the year draws to a close, there is a natural inclination to ponder the passage of time and to measure the

distance we have travelled. It's a moment to take stock of the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the challenges overcome. It's an opportunity to express gratitude for the moments that brought warmth to our hearts and to acknowledge the strength that emerged from facing adversity.

As Christians, that strength comes from the hope we have in Christ Jesus. In a God who loves us and desires a relationship with us through prayer, praise and worship. As we look back at the tapestry of our lives, we can see the places where God has added colour to the threads, or has lifted us up when the colour appears to be missing.

Looking ahead, a new year beckons, new threads are ready to be woven into our tapestry. There is a sense of renewal and hope, an opportunity perhaps to share our faith with those around us. The lessons of the past year serve as a compass, guiding us forward with newfound wisdom and resilience.

For in the ebb and flow of time, we find the rhythm of our existence, a rhythm that continues to play on, shaping the beautiful tapestry of our lives.

Happy New Year – may 2024 be a blessing to us all.

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th, 10 am – 12 noon

This is the first of our regular monthly Coffee Mornings for 2024, do come along if you can to meet with friends over a cup of coffee/tea. All are welcome.

Film Club – Friday 12th January, 2.00 pm

This month the film '*Shall we Dance?*' (12) starring Richard Gere will be shown. This is a romantic comedy about a workaholic who feels trapped in a dull, mind-numbing existence. However, one night his whole life changes when the sight of a beautiful dance instructor inspires him to break out of his mould and sign up for ballroom dancing lessons.

Poetry and Plonk Evening – Saturday 20th January, 7.00 pm

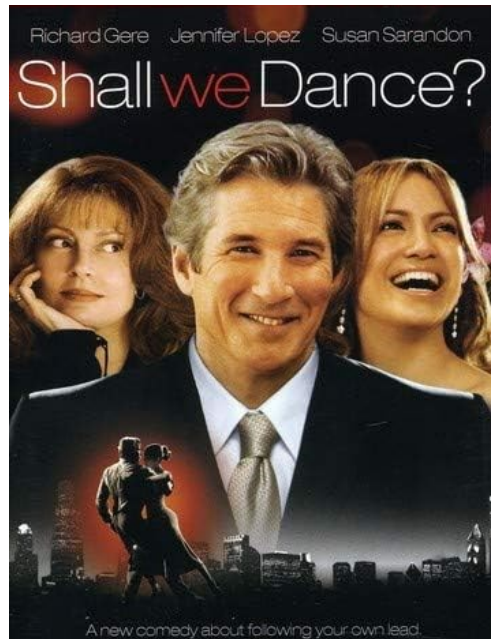
These evenings provide an opportunity either to take part or just listen to a wide variety of poems while enjoying a glass of wine or soft drink. Tickets are available at £5 (to include wine/soft drinks and nibbles).

Dates for the Diary

**Ecumenical Coffee Morning –
Saturday 3rd February 2024, 10
am – 12 noon**

**Film Club – Friday 9th February
2024, 2.00 pm**

**Ceilidh – Saturday 10th February
2024, 7.00 pm**



Ann Hammond

Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*



Opening Sentences

As the old year passes
we look back, reflect:
times of joy and promise,
times we best forget.

As the old year passes
sorrow wells within:
loved ones no more round us,
all that could have been.

As the old year passes
we cry for our struggling world.
Climate ever-changing, fighting too
often heard.

As the new year dawns
we come to You Lord,
lead us onward
in new ways,
to love and serve You
in the faith of Christ,
in Your Spirit's future:
people of a new life. AMEN

Prayer of Approach

Father in heaven,
after the rush and pause of Advent,
after the whirl and joy of Christmas,
in the quiet dark tiredness of
midwinter help me to release my
resolutions into Your hands.

Leaning not on my own
understanding, relying not on my own
strength and will, but on Your grace,
Your peace, Your love. AMEN

Prayer of Confession

Father in heaven,
another year beckons us on,
it is our time to start over,
Father, forgive us our past
and affirm our future,
touched by You grace.
As we start over, Father,
we commit ourselves to You,
to speak Your truth in the ordinariness
of our lives and fulfill Your promise in
Your coming among us again and
again and again.

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

Prayer of Assurance

Father God, Your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord came with the love and light of
forgiveness, that we may see You.
Because of him our sins are forgiven.
AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power, and the glory,
forever and ever.

AMEN

Prayers of Intercession and concern.

Loving God, You are our provider
and we give You thanks
for the many blessings in our lives.

We bring to You, Loving God, those
who have nothing,
who have no warm homes and food,
those who are living among the
devastation and the destruction of
war;
those who are living amidst natural
disasters.

Loving God,
may they feel the presence of Your
love and strength.

Bless those who work tirelessly
to bring comfort and warmth,
rescuing and tending the injured,
give them courage and strength to
continue their love and care.

We bring to You, Loving God,
leaders of nations,
guide that their decisions be made
with integrity;
for peace among nations
and the needs of the people they
serve.

Bless those who work tirelessly
to bring justice and peace,
give them courage and strength to
continue their love and care.

We bring to You, Loving God,
those who are in dark places,
who are lonely, sad and ill;
those who have suffered loss
of a loved one;
bless all people where there is hurt
and suffering.

Bless those who work tirelessly
to bring comfort and healing;
give them courage and strength to
continue their love and care.

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

Blessing

God behind us in the past;
Christ before us, the way ahead;
Christ beside us in this moment;
Christ beneath us in our weakness;
Christ above us to shield us-
Christ in us equipping us with his all-
sufficient grace.

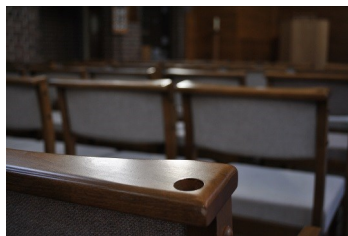
May the blessing of God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit be upon us,
now and forever more. AMEN

Ann Sinclair

*Inspired by; Hay & Stardust and Winter and the
authors: that include: Ian Cowie, David
MacGregor, Evelyn Sweets, Tina Kemps and
amended. Both Glasgow Wild Goose
Publications 2005 & 2016 respectively*

November Church Meeting

*A précis of the meeting held on
26 November 2023*



Copies of the Minutes are displayed on the Notice Board in the vestibule of the Church. In case you were not able to be present here is a précis of the meeting.

Church Secretary reported:

- Meetings held: Since the September meeting - Elders twice, Executive Team once, Pastoral Team once and Worship Group twice.
- At the last Elders' Meeting the annual revision of the Roll was carried out. Julie Edwardson, Revd David and Mrs Pat Peel, who no longer worship at St Andrew's, were recommended for transfer to the Roll of Adherents. Laura Fleetham was recommended for addition to the Roll of Adherents. Agreed by Church meeting.
- Two new laptops and new Wifi equipment purchased from Development Fund.
- Work undertaken to rectify roof leak in the church. More work to be undertaken. (Quinquennial Report).
- Garden maintenance undertaken and new window cleaner engaged.
- Activities Team pleased with support, from church and

community, for social events organised especially the annual Art Exhibition and the Church Fair. All help and support appreciated.

- Premises continue to be well used and pleased to be able to offer free use of the Minor Hall on Sundays to the local Society of Friends while they cannot use their premises.
- Northern Synod has accepted an offer for the Manse. Completion of sale probably January 2024.

Treasurer reported:

- Continuing to overspend each month as expected and shown in the budget.
- Development Fund continues to be used to fill the gap on general expenditure.
- £1,100 sent to Red Cross Israeli and Palestinian Appeal.
- St Andrew's and Northern Synod are the main beneficiaries of Dorothy Postle's estate.
- Some recovery with income from Hall Letting and events organised by Activities Team.
- Projected large deficit for year due to overspend in day to day expenses.

- Very fortunate to have Development Fund to fall back on and fill the gap.

Minister reported:

- On the Northern Synod Posadas for use this Christmas.
- The forthcoming joint Bible Study.
- On the progress of her interviews with Elders.

The Way Forward:

- St Andrew's considered to be a 'wealthy' church with the Development Fund being built up from various legacies.

- The 'wealth' now increased by a large legacy from estate of Dorothy Postle.
- Further income to be forthcoming when the Manse is sold.
- Elders propose that a 'Way Forward Group' be established to review the life, worship and witness of St Andrew's.
- See article elsewhere in Newstand.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 17th March 2024 in the Main Hall following morning worship and during coffee .

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

Church Payphone

Following a review of usage and ending of the current contract with the phone line provider, the decision has been taken to remove the payphone. If there are any concerns, please speak to Ray, Kevin or Tim.

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The November draw took place on 26th November when Marilyn Walton drew the following numbers:



1) No 85	Geoff Mills	£121.50
2) No 89	Margaret Varley	£60.75
3) No 34	Hazel Hall	£20.25

With £202.50 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper

The Way Forward

Reviewing life, worship and witness of St. Andrew's



Gied Altman/Pixabay

At the last Church Meeting it was agreed to establish a church group to review the life, worship and witness of St Andrew's with a view to formulating the 'Way Forward' for the church. This discussion followed an Elders' Meeting in which the Elders considered the position that St Andrew's now found itself in financially. From being a 'wealthy' church the legacy of the late Dorothy Postle now saw that wealth increasing considerably and the forthcoming sale of the Manse would mean a further increase.

It is, however, necessary to bear in mind that the current general income and expenditure is such that financially St Andrew's is operating with a deficit.

Anyone interested in being part of the group should give their name to either Louise or myself with the intention of the first meeting being held in January 2024.

Ray Hammond

Love a Gay Gordons?

Want to learn how to reel?

Come and join us on Saturday 11th February at 7pm for a fun-filled evening of dancing with the Whole Shebang Ceilidh Band and the Whistler School of Highland Dance. Tickets include a meal of haggis, neeps and tatties!

Tickets available in the New Year: £20 adult, £10 under 18

Jennifer Fleetham



Days to Remember

*A few dates of significance
in January*



Thursday 4 January: World Braille Day celebrates the birth of Braille's inventor, Louis Braille. Braille's gift to the world has brightened the lives of millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired, and they benefit from his work every day.

Saturday 6 January: The Epiphany will be celebrated by thousands of Christians around the world, while many churches will also celebrate it in their regular Sunday services the next day.

Monday, 15 January: Brew Monday when Samaritans remind us to reach out for a cuppa and a catch-up with the people we care about. While the third Monday in January is sometimes referred to as 'the most difficult day of the year' Samaritans say this is a myth and there is no such thing as 'Blue Monday' – we all have our good days and our bad days, and those aren't for the calendar to decide. Their answer is to have a conversation over a brew – and they add that you can do this any day of the week or the year!

Wednesday 24 January: International Day of Education. The United Nations General Assembly proclaims that education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The day celebrates the role of education

for peace and development, something that our world is in urgent need of.

Friday 26 – Sunday 28 January: Big Garden Birdwatch

BGB is the UK's largest garden wildlife survey. It's been running since 1979, and every year, around 700,000 people take part. It takes place over the last weekend in January each year. It's easy – you simply watch the birds in your garden or local park for one hour, record and report what you see.

You will need to count the birds you see in your garden or in your local park for one hour over the weekend. It doesn't matter what time of day you do it, but you'll see more birds if you do it first thing in the morning. Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time. For example, if you saw four Starlings together, then two Starlings later, your final count will be four (not six). Go online and tell RSPB what you've seen! Even if you didn't see anything at all in your hour the organisers will still want to know. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Newstand Subscriptions

A New Year needs a new reminder of payments due



Olya Abramovich/Pixabay

A reminder for Newstand subscribers that the annual payment will shortly be due, and I shall be grateful if you will arrange for the money to be paid to your distributor (or to myself if you normally pay me direct), before the end of January, please.

The annual payment for 2024 remains at £12.00, i.e. 12 issues at £1.

Should anyone wish to change from buying Newstand at the door

each month, to paying annually and having their copy of the magazine delivered to their home, please contact me. There is also the option of having a copy sent by email if preferred, thereby saving paper.

Thank you.

Carole Mallett
Newstand Business Manager.

**Please don't pay this way!*

Happy New Year

From the 58 Society

The first meeting of 2024 is on
January 8th at 7.30

Great North Air Ambulance by Karen Andrews

January 22nd

Israel and Jordan by Linda Benneworth

Hope to see you.

Catriona Fenwick
Assistant Secretary

Look at the States of this

Start searching for answers



Pink Zebra / Pixabay

The 'word search' grid contains the names of 26 states in the USA. If you find all 26 states you will also notice that the unused letters in the grid spell out a relevant verse from the Good News Bible (1976). You might even manage to identify the verse. Good luck, and God Bless!

ARKANSAS, ALASKA,
CALIFORNIA, COLORADO,
IDAHO, KANSAS,
LOUISIANA, MAINE,
MINNESOTA*, MISSISSIPPI,

MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO,
OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH DAKOTA, TENNESSEE,
TEXAS, UTAH, WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN, WYOMING

S	A	P	E	N	N	S	Y	L	V	A	N	I	A	O
U	K	T	C	O	H	E	K	S	I	U	T	A	H	P
T	S	E	O	O	C	R	B	N	A	W	P	A	L	D
E	A	E	A	K	O	I	R	R	A	X	D	R	O	N
N	L	E	S	Y	A	O	X	S	A	I	E	K	D	A
N	A	L	W	O	F	D	H	E	P	S	L	T	A	L
E	I	E	O	I	U	I	H	P	M	A	K	N	R	S
S	N	S	L	U	N	T	I	T	H	W	A	A	O	I
S	A	A	N	G	I	S	H	O	R	T	E	I	L	E
E	C	S	T	O	S	S	M	D	N	O	N	N	O	D
E	A	O	N	I	C	A	I	O	A	W	N	O	C	O
N	N	O	S	A	R	S	M	A	S	K	E	S	T	H
I	A	S	H	T	K	E	I	A	N	T	O	T	H	R
A	I	G	N	I	M	O	Y	W	E	A	E	T	N	D
M	I	N	E	S	O	T	A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S

Credit to Ralf Hewitt, a member of the Methodist Church

**Incorrect spelling, but is this way in the grid*

February Newstand

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

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



7	New year, fresh possibilities. Holding our vacant pastorates and their Interim Moderators (IM) in prayer: Tees and Swale, IMs Prof Fred Robinson and Sandy Ogilvie. Cleveland Pastorate, IM Maranny Jones. Special Category Ministry Holy Island, Management Group & IM Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn.
14	Children's, Youth and Families Committee. Convenor: Revd Julian Sanders, Field Workers: Hannah Middleton, John Stephenson. Youth Pioneers: Angela Feather and Esther Bailey.
21	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer: Andy Lie. North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT).
28	Bible Sunday. Also pray for Youth Assembly (26th – 28th).

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

John Saunders	Ruby McPhee	Joseph Lee
Frances (Fran) Birt	Denise Muriel Swinton	Florence Burnett-White
Michael James Blackah	Tancock	Joan Margaret
Elizabeth Tait	James Raymond Lisle	Hindmarch
Isabella Paxton Barbour	Amy Adam	
Elizabeth Ettridge	Geoffrey Smith	

January Rotas

*It's a New Year, it's a new day,
there's a new rota, with your
name on it (possibly!)*



ELDERS:	Vestry	Joan Blanchfield
	Reception	Margaret Varley
	Communion	Carole Mallett
STEWARDS:	Vestibule	Mary Christopher
	Finance	Robin Christopher
Tuesday 2nd	Prayers	Carole Mallett
Sunday 7th	Organ	Paul Hartley
	Readers	Celia Purves/ Mary Christopher
	Prayers	Una Ketteridge
Tuesday 9th	Prayers	Ray Hammond
Sunday 14th	Organ	Helen Storey
	Readers	Ann and Ray Hammond
	Prayers	Andrew Cooke
Tuesday 16th	Prayers	Catriona Fenwick
Sunday 21st	Organ	Paul Hartley
	Readers	Kathleen Hopper/ Catriona Fenwick
	Prayers	Chris Hales
Tuesday 23rd	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Sunday 28th	Organ	Alex
	Readers	Hazel Hall/ Alison Mood
	Prayers	Hazel Hall
Tuesday 30th	Prayers	Una Ketteridge

Word Search: The Hidden Bible Verse is from 2 Peter 2:20
(Good News Bible, The Bible Societies 1976):

SUCH PEOPLE ARE IN A WORSE STATE AT THE END

Church Calendar for January / February

Sunday services are streamed 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.

Friday	5	Executive Team meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	8	Activities Team meeting	2.00 pm
		Fifty Eight Society – Great North Air Ambulance	7.30 pm
Tuesday	9	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	11	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	12	Film Club – 'Shall we Dance?'	2.00 pm
Sunday	14	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	9.30 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.15 am
		Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Wednesday	17	Worship Group meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
Friday	19	Service at St John's Methodist Church for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	6.30 pm
Saturday	20	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	21	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	22	Fifty Eight Society - Israel and Jordan	7.30 pm
Sunday	28	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
FEBRUARY 2024			
Saturday	3	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	4	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	5	Fifty Eight Society Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

A Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land

By Rabbi Sheila Weinberg

Two peoples, one land,
three faiths, one root,
one earth, one mother,
one sky, one beginning,
one future, one destiny,
one broken heart, one God.
We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.
May we see the many in the one
and the one in the many.
May you, life of all the worlds,
source of all amazing differences
help us to see clearly.
Guide us gently and firmly toward each
other, toward peace.
Amen

