



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Etienne GONTIER / Pixabay

A pause in Lent, for mothers everywhere

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St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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Musing from the Manse

This Time of Lent



John Cutting / Unsplash

When we lived in Thetford, there was a lady who would never eat a hot-cross bun before Good Friday! For me this is a travesty!! They are too good to be saved for only one day of the year, and we have in fact been eating them in our house since January!

Lent is traditionally that time when we might choose to give something up, and conversations can be heard along the lines of, "What have you given up for Lent?" Previous years have seen me give up various treats such as biscuits, crisps, cakes, chocolate or one year, even sugar!! That was definitely the hardest!

This year, instead of giving something up, I have decided to 'take something up'. I have decided to read a Lent book which gives me daily readings as I journey into the wilderness and try to answer the question, "Who am I becoming this Lent?"

Instead of spending the next six weeks focusing on the things I am going without, I want to use this time to consider what I have learnt about myself and how is God transforming

me through this journey. I want to find space that will allow me to learn new lessons, to grow in faith and to give God the chance to meet me in a new way.

My hope is that I will learn the benefits of allowing space for God to speak to me in different ways. That rather than being desperate for it to be Easter so I can eat whatever it is I have given up, I will have spent time journeying through the wilderness with more of an awareness of what Christ gave up for me.

I remember watching an Alpha video several years ago and hearing something that even today I struggle to take in - "Even if you were the only person on the earth, Jesus would still have gone to the cross for you!" These are powerful words and ones which can be hard to hear regardless of how long we have considered ourselves to be a Christian.

I pray that this time of Lent and journeying through the wilderness will be a time of blessing for us all, regardless of whether we have given something up or taken something up!

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Film Club – Friday 8th March, 2.00 pm

This month *The Miracle Club* (12) starring Maggie Smith will be shown. Set in 1967, *The Miracle Club* is a heartwarming film that follows the story of three generations of close friends in Ballygar, a hard-knocks community in Dublin, who have one tantalizing dream: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes.



Poetry Evening – Saturday 16th March, 7.00 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.



Pyproductions / freepik

Dates for the Diary

Tynemouth Choral Society Concert –
Saturday 23rd March, 7.30pm

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

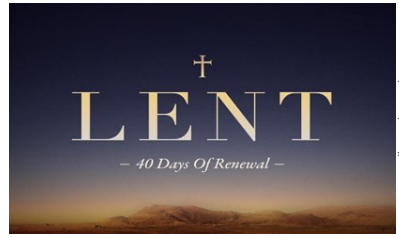
Film Club – Friday 12th April, 2.00 pm

Jazz Evening with Rendezvous Jazz,
Saturday 20th April, 7.30 pm

Ann Hammond

Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*



A time for quiet and prayer

I take this moment, time and space
to come before You God
and to make this place where Your
love is found.

I take this moment, time and space
to mend who I am, what I have been,
and all I have failed to do.

I take this moment, time and space
to take my sorrow and regret
and let Your forgiveness touch all I
can't forget.

I take this moment, time and space
to find the child in me,
scared of growing old;
take my talents and my skills,
take what's yet to be;
let my life be Yours,
and yet, let it still be me.

*John L. Bell (b 1949) and Graham Maule
(1958-2020) and amended.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come; thy will be done...For thine is
the kingdom, the power, and the
glory, for ever and ever **AMEN**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God, we give You thanks for a
world of wonder and mystery;
we give You thanks for the variety of
human life,
and for all good things around us.

We give You thanks for everything
good that has happened to us,
for people whose kindness never
meets front-page headlines,
and for prayers that have been
answered.

Loving God, we give You thanks for
opportunities to praise You; for
opportunities to learn, to grow,
to reflect and be quiet. .

We give You thanks for this time of
Lent;
that we grow up in faith during this
time,
that we renew our hope, refocus,
and renew our relationship with God
and with each other.

We thank You for Jesus Christ,
who walked before You in trust and in
truth
and who walks alongside us and gives
us light,
whose walk has taken Him to death
and beyond for our sakes.

Prayer for others

Loving God, we come before You with a moment of silence, to reflect on our journeys and the journeys of others, and to collect our thoughts before God.

SILENCE

Loving God, we bring our hurting world to You. Gaza and Israel and we remember the people of Ukraine, and many other war-torn parts of the world.

You see the hatred and the fear...

We pray for those in our communities who are struggling to live in peace...

SILENCE

We pray the hungry might be fed, in body, mind and spirit, that the thirsty be satisfied, that God will hear the cry of those who long for justice...

SILENCE

We pray for those we meet each day and we pray for one another, that we grow up in faith during this period of Lent, that we renew our hope, that we open our hearts to the deep love of God...

SILENCE

Loving God, we offer these prayers in the name of Your Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ **AMEN**

Blessing

The peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, guard your thoughts and your hearts in Jesus Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you and those you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Ann Sinclair

From the Worship Group

A reminder that on Monday 25th March at 2 pm, together with the Activities Team, we shall be holding another of our afternoon services, this time with an Easter theme, followed by tea or coffee, and cake.

These services are open to **everyone**, not just those who are unable to attend church on Sundays, and provide the opportunity for a shorter period of worship (around 30 minutes) together with the usual fellowship, refreshments and chat in convivial surroundings.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Carole Mallett

Churches Together

Meeting summary
12 February 2024

Whitley Bay & District
CHURCHES+TOGETHER

Attended by 14 people.

This meeting was low key, lacking fellowship and poorly attended so I'm only going to highlight the few 'highlights' of the meeting.

Firstly, and most importantly, we've appointed a new Chairperson, the Revd Janet Appleby – so perhaps, with her leadership, we might get back on track and work together as an ecumenical Christian group in Whitley Bay!!

Secondly, CAP (Christians Against Poverty) is now, or will be, up and running in March launching at the Whitley Bay Baptist Church on 7th April and then on 27th April at the Bay Church. Both these churches have taken the initiative for CAP but would like as much support (financially especially) over the next three years from as many churches as possible.

Thirdly, reports from SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol), Street

Pastors, the Bay Food Bank and Parish Nurses were all given. Each of them is looking for volunteers so they can operate successfully.

Fourthly, World Day of Prayer – the contents of the service have been supplied by the women of Palestine. It is on Friday 1st March at 2 pm at the Hillheads Community Church in Whitley Bay.

Fifthly, several outdoor and indoor ecumenical services were mentioned – Lent Services, Good Friday Services and Sunrise Services at Easter – in several churches and outdoor venues.

Our next meeting is to be held in our church on Thursday 16th May, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

I hope it is more of a fellowship and ecumenical meeting!

Valerie Taylor
WB&D Churches Together
Representative

Thank you from the Whistler School of Highland Dance

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the dancing school through the purchase of raffle tickets at the ceilidh, which we all really enjoyed. We made £202 which will go towards much needed new trophies for the bi-annual competition the school runs!

Laura Fleetham

Charity Scheme

Request for nominations for 2024 charities



j.comp / freepik

We are once again seeking from church members suggestions of charities, preferably with a local connection, to receive the 10% charity money which will be raised from social events held during 2024 (to be presented in 2025).

Nominations to me, with some background information on the charity if

possible, by the end of March please following which voting papers will be issued.

A reminder that the charities chosen for 2023, and to be presented with cheques in the near future, are: Home (My Harbour) and Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team.

Ray Hammond

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The January draw took place on 28th January when Rhoda Lee drew the following numbers:



1) No 87	Beryl Thompson	£121.50
2) No 4	Douglas McFarlane	£60.75
3) No 27	Ray Hammond	£20.25

With £202.50 going to Church Funds.

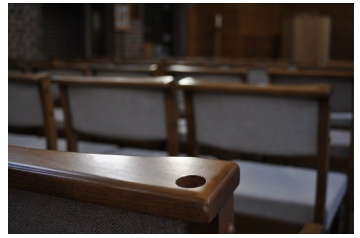
Kathleen Hopper

'I would like to thank the Flower Committee for the beautiful flowers Pat and I received, which have greatly cheered me as I recover from the flu and chest infection which has laid me low.'

Iain Ord

Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 17 March 2024 after the service and during coffee



This is the meeting at which the various officers and Teams that run the church on a day to day basis are elected.

Details of the current Teams and their membership are posted up in the church vestibule on the notice board adjacent to the Flower Room door, along with all official lists, duty rotas etc.

Notices seeking nominations of people to serve as officers or on the Teams will be posted up shortly on the church notice board in the Reception Area and the Agenda and the Annual Report will be circulated by email or by your Elder nearer the day.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

Church Register

DEATHS

YARROW

Gordon James, aged 94 years,
on 17 January 2024.

Committal at Tynemouth on 2nd February
followed by service at St Andrew's,
conducted by Revd Louise Sanders.

ADAM

Sarah Jane, aged 85 years,
on 18th January 2024.

Service at St Andrew's on 12th February
followed by committal at Whitley Bay
conducted by Revd Dr Trevor Jamison.

A very big thank you to all my friends at St. Andrew's for all of the cards, beautiful flowers and kind wishes throughout my illness in 2023. I'm delighted to say that I'm now doing well and have been discharged from hospital care. Very best wishes to you all for 2024.

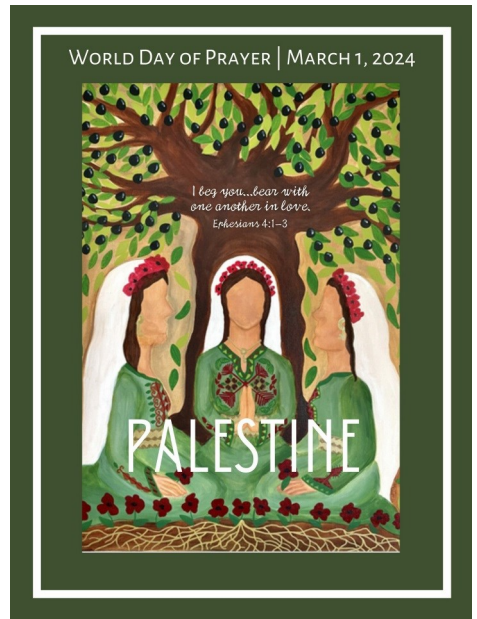
Kath Hales

World Day of Prayer

Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action

Women's World Day of Prayer this year invites us all to services held throughout the country and world to remember those affected by the war in Palestine.

Here in the North East, we are invited to the service held at Hillheads Community Church, Kingsley Avenue, Whitley Bay on Friday 1st March at 2pm, to be followed by refreshments.



A few thoughts about Mothers for Mothering Sunday

- 'Life began with waking up and loving my mother's face.' - George Eliot
- 'All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.'- Abraham Lincoln
- 'When you look into your mother's eyes, you know that is the purest love you can find on this earth.- Mitch Albom
- 'Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother.' - Unknown
- 'Motherhood: All love begins and ends there. - Robert Browning
- 'God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.' - Rudyard Kipling
- 'Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws.' - Barbara Kingsolver

How would you describe mother and motherhood in a few words?

On the first Sunday in February, I was received into a full membership of St. Andrew's Church during the service led by Louise.

At coffee time, I was warmly welcomed by many members of the congregation and delighted to receive the church flowers.

Thank you, Rachel Ward

Gordon Yarrow

*Some words of thanks from
Joan and the family*



Joan and the Yarrow family have been overwhelmed with the kindness shown by so many people following Gordon's death. We would like to thank all those who sent cards, letters and phone messages, as well as the many people who attended his funeral.

Everyone has commented on the lovely Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration conducted by Louise, who has been a great support at this sad time.

We would like to express our appreciation to all who were involved

in the Church Service and at the Crematorium, with special thanks to Tim for his technical expertise which allowed our granddaughter in Cape Town to watch the event live.

We are very grateful to all those who gave a donation in memory of Gordon, which resulted in £700 being sent to the Alzheimer's Society.

Gordon had a deep faith throughout his long and active life, and will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Joan and the family

St Andrew's 58 Society

March Meetings and events

- 2nd 10am — Noon **Coffee Morning**
- 4th 7.30pm **Durham Cathedral — A Different perspective**
Malcolm Wilkinson
- 18th 7.30pm **Cuthbert Collingwood** John Gibson.
- 25th 7.00 for 7.30pm **End of year buffet.**

Meetings will restart in October.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



3	Preparation for Synod, Synod Moderator: Revd Kim Plumpton, Synod Clerk: Revd Dr Trevor Jamison. Staff Team: Andrew Atkinson, Lisa McAvoy, Wendy Watson, Helen Hogg.
10	Churches: Wooler; St James's, Alnwick; Revd Joan Grindrod Helmn; St Mark's, Amble; Revd Alison Mills; St Andrew's, Glanton; Longframlington and Rothbury; Revd Ed Butlin.
17	Northerly Synods: Moderators: Jamie Kissack, Lindsey Sanderson, Geoff Felton and Clare Downing.
24	Ecumenical Colleagues: Anglican Bishops of Durham: Rt Revd Paul Butler; Newcastle: Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley; Berwick: Rt Revd Mark Wroe; Jarrow: Rt Revd Sarah Clerk; Whitby: Rt Revd Paul Ferguson.
31	Easter Sunday.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Baby Holborn
Stuart Mackay Adamson
Jenny Evelyn Merrick
Edna Thwaites
Ann Mitchell Young

James Alexander Murphy
Arthur Parr
Constance Mary Lisle
Jeanne Kynoch
Judith Christine Coulson

March Rotas

*I hope you'll be marching
into church on the right days*



ELDERS:	Vestry	Carole Mallett
	Reception	Catriona Fenwick
	Communion	Jennifer Fleetham
STEWARDS:	Vestibule	Eddie Thompson
	Finance	Beryl Thompson
Sunday 3rd	Organ	Helen
	Readers	Iain Ord / Joan Blanchfield
	Prayers	Hazel Hall
Tuesday 5th	Prayers	Carole Mallett
Sunday 10th	Organ	Helen
	Readers	Val Taylor / Chris Hales
	Prayers	Val Taylor
Tuesday 12th	Prayers	Catriona Fenwick
Sunday 17th	Organ	Hymnal
	Readers	Susan Clark / Paul Hartley
	Prayers	Ann Hammond
Tuesday 19th	Prayers	Una Ketteridge
Sunday 24th	Parade Service	Organ Alex
	Readers	Sandra Pine / Andrew Cooke
	Prayers	Una Ketteridge
Tuesday 26th	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Good Friday 29th 2.30pm	Organ	Paul
Sunday 31st	Organ	Paul
	Readers	Jenny Hooper / Kevin Ames
	Prayers	Andrew Cooke

Church Calendar for March / April

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	1	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Ecumenical Lent Service at St Andrew's, followed by soup and a roll	12.30 pm
		World Day of Prayer Service	2.00 pm
Saturday	2	Fifty Eight Society Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	3	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	4	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Andrew's)	2.00 pm
		(via Zoom)	7.15 pm
		Fifty Eight Society: Durham Cathedral — A Different Perspective.	7.30 pm
Tuesday	5	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	7	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Columba's, North Shields)	7.15 pm
Friday	8	Ecumenical Lent Service at St Andrew's, followed by soup and a roll	12.30 pm
		Film Club – 'The Miracle Club'	2.00 pm
Sunday	10	Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Monday	11	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Andrew's)	2.00 pm
		(via Zoom)	7.15 pm
Thursday	14	(at St Columba's)	7.15 pm
		Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	15	Ecumenical Lent Service, followed by soup and a roll	12.30 pm
Saturday	16	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	17	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders. CHURCH AGM FOLLOWS SERVICE.	11.00 am

Monday	18	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Andrew's)	2.00 pm
		(via Zoom)	7.15 pm
		Fifty Eight Society – Cuthbert Collingwood	7.30 pm
Wednesday	20	Worship Group Meeting, VIA ZOOM	7.00 pm
Thursday	21	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Columba's, North Shields)	7.15 pm
Friday	22	Ecumenical Lent Service, followed by soup and a roll	12.30 pm
Saturday	23	Tynemouth Choral Society Concert at St Andrew's	7.30 pm
Sunday	24	Palm Sunday Parade Service: Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	25	Afternoon Service followed by refreshments: Worship Group/Activities Team	2.00 pm
		Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Andrew's)	2.00 pm
		(via Zoom)	7.15 pm
		Fifty Eight Society end of session buffet meal	7.00 for 7.30 pm
Thursday	28	Lent course: Women of Holy Week (at St Columba's, North Shields)	7.15 pm
		Service of Tenebrae: Dr Ann Sinclair	7.30 pm
Friday	29	Good Friday Ecumenical Service outside Black Horse Inn, Monkseaton	12 noon
		Good Friday Service: Revd Louise Sanders <u>NOTE TIME</u>	2.30 pm
Sunday	31	Sunrise Service in front of the Dome; Mrs Valerie Taylor	TBA
		Easter Sunday Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders & Worship Group	11.00 am
APRIL 2024			
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

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

In thanks for those who beautify St. Andrew's each week

Among the unsung heroes
who grace this world of ours
are those who give, and who arrange
our church's lovely flowers.

I wonder if they realise
the pleasure that they bring
to people who will gather here
to worship and to sing.

Or for the warmth of friendship
and the pleasure that they send,
when given to all those people,
unable to attend.

Una Ketteridge

For World Day of Prayer

Be still and know that I am God.
As we sat and listened,
nothing could I hear.
O God open my ears.

As we sat and looked around,
nothing could I see.
O God open my eyes.

As we sat to read,
no book could be found.
O God give me your word.

As we sat to be in your presence,
nothing could I feel.

As we sat my senses awoke,
my ears could hear,
my eyes could see.

As we sat, the peace came,
I was filled with the Holy Spirit.
Thank you God. Amen

Mary Judd

