



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Pisit Heng / Unsplash

The door is open - time to go out into the world

Volume 90 Issue 4 — April 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

Holy Fire



Image by macrovector on Freepik

In the Orthodox tradition there is a tradition tied in with Easter of a Holy Fire which is a miraculous event that occurs on Easter Saturday each year. The Holy Fire is a miracle that occurs annually in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where a blue light appears, rising from the stone bed believed to be that on which Jesus' body was laid. This blue light forms a column of fire, from which the candles of those present are lit, and it is also said to miraculously light other lamps and candles around the church.

Whether or not you believe the miracle of a 'blue light' is up to you to decide for yourself, but it did get me thinking about this central flame associated with Easter that then starts to burn in our own individual lives, and then spreads further afield to bring light to other areas of the church and world.

I wonder if this Easter you have been 'set on fire'? Has the Easter story ignited something within you to burn with a heat and light discovered through the death and resurrection of Jesus? Are you passing this fire on to others that you meet in your daily lives?

When Jesus met with the disciples on the beach after the first Easter, the disciples were surprised that a

charcoal fire had been started on which breakfast was cooking. And when Jesus met with the disciples on the road to Emmaus that fire was evident again:

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us'"
Luke 24:30-32

This Easter I would hope that we can light the fire within our congregation so that we may have our own individual lights lit which we can then take out into the world.

At our Synod meeting on 16th March, Rev'd Alex Mabbs opened with worship and included a suggestion that we are required to be 'Easter Sunday People in a Good Friday World'. There is so much darkness in our world, but we can make a difference. Because if we take our light and shine brightly to those around us, we might start to see a miracle of that same fire appearing in those places around us.

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



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

These monthly Coffee Mornings provide an opportunity to meet with friends old and new over a cup of coffee/tea or soft drink. There will be the usual raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

Film Club – Friday 12th April, 2.00 pm

This month *Stan and Ollie* (PG) starring Steve Coogan and John C Reilly will be shown. This tells the untold story of the world's greatest comedy act Laurel and Hardy. In the twilight of their careers and facing an uncertain future, Laurel and Hardy set out on a tour of Great Britain and Ireland. After an inauspicious beginning their friendship and performances shine through, making each other and their audiences laugh whilst winning the love and affection of legions of adoring fans.



Dates for the Diary:

**Christian Aid Coffee Morning -
Saturday 4th May, 10 am – 12
noon**

Film Club - Friday 10th May, 2 pm

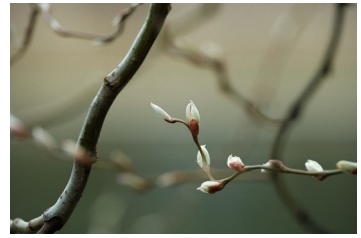
Jazz Evening with Rendezvous Jazz, Saturday 20th April, 7.30 pm

We look forward to welcoming back Maureen Hall and Rendezvous Jazz for an evening of 'toe tapping, finger snapping' music. The evening will include the popular Brolly Parade. Tickets at £10 are now available.

Ann Hammond

Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*



Cosmin Nedelcu / Pixabay

The Easter wheel turns

*From the confusion of pain and
bewilderment to the discovery of
newness, life and hope.*

Opening Words

Lord, we come to You
in the peace and quiet
of this time,
we come into Your presence
and bring You, our prayers.

As the seasons move on
and the bleak coldness of winter
is warmed by the spring air-
new shoots push through soil
and buds open to the sun,
we celebrate the newness of life.

When weariness and quiet
have rested body and spirit
and energy flows again.
When the heaviness of grief
and anger are lifted by hope,
we celebrate the newness of life.

When defeat and despair are
transformed,
tears wiped away
by the power of faith,
from the ashes of our dreams
new visions grow,
we celebrate the newness of life.

Lord, as you fill us with new life
this spring time

may we share it with others
and celebrate the newness of life.

AMEN

In a Prayer of Confession

We walk through life carrying the
burden of our sins.
Loving and generous God,
we come with open hands
and open hearts,
bringing our confessions to You.
We bring our sorrow
when we forget the needs of others
through the narrowness of our
thoughts;
when we forget to really listen to
others
so full of our selfish preoccupations.
Loving God, forgive us and in Your
mercy
guide us to a truer understanding
of Your will and Your ways.

In a Prayer of Assurance

The Lord is with us
from everlasting to everlasting.
God speaks in our hearts
the words that will declare
forgiveness for our sins.
God will strengthen
and put hope into our hearts
in the days lying before us.

AMEN

In the Prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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 sin against
us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever.

AMEN

Prayer of Intercession in our concerns for the world

Lord God, be with us
and hear our prayers.
We bring before You the places in
the world
where there is poverty, fear and war.
May all who know You hear You
calling them to be peacemakers

We bring before You all those who
are ill;
those who are anxious in concern for
their health
or those they love;
for those who are struggling with any
kind of need.
May all who know You and hear You
calling them
be comforters and strength givers.

We bring before You all those who
are bereaved.
In their loss may they know Your love
and those they are parted from in
this life
are safe in Your everlasting love.

We bring before You Lord ourselves.
Our hopes, our questions our needs
and our dreams.
Fill us with new life
this spring time
and guide us to celebrate the
newness of life.
Renew our lives with love.
God in Your mercy
hear our prayers we offer in the
name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ.

AMEN

Blessing

Christ is risen! May the newness of this
springtime renew and reconnect you
with your walk with our Lord.

AMEN

Ann Sinclair

(Inspiration from Fire & Bread Ruth
Burgess; Words Thought and Said
W.J.G McDonald)

Evening Services

A new way to worship



Myriams-Fotos / Pixabay

I thought it might be helpful in this edition of Newstand to make you aware of the introduction of evening services which will commence on **Sunday 5th May.**

These will happen once a month on the **first** Sunday of the month starting at 6.30pm. I often find Sunday mornings to be quite a busy time with lots going on, and this is especially true of the first Sunday when we celebrate communion. My intention therefore, is that the evening services will be more reflective and allow those present to set aside the busyness of the day and come to worship God in a more relaxed and informal way.

They will be around 45 minutes long and will not have a traditional 'sermon', instead having readings, songs, prayers and reflections based around a theme for that particular week. At the time of writing this I haven't discussed with the relevant people whether or not refreshments will be served afterward so I shall confirm this at a later date.

If you would like any more information, please just ask me, or if you would like to be involved in reading or leading prayers, then let me know. I am hopeful this will be a time of blessing for all those who attend.

Louise

A belated thank you

Thank you to everyone at St Andrews Church for helping with Jo and Evgenij's wedding blessing and making it such a fabulous day on January 6th.

Special thanks must go to the Flower Committee for the beautiful flowers, Louise for leading the service so well and to Tim for sorting out all the music as well as recording the event; it was greatly appreciated.

Finally, many thanks to Ray and Ann Hammond for all their support and help with everything.

Christine Lynch

(with apologies from the Editor!)

Faithful Flourishing:

discipleship development and training opportunities



**Come rest a while and be still ...
... with others, with yourself, with God.**

St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island
Saturday 4th May
Friday 27 September



Keld Resource Centre
Thursday 9th May
Saturday 14th September

Take time out for a day of peace, space, and to rest a while with God.

Whether on Holy Island or at the Keld Resource Centre, your day will be gently guided, though you will be free to use the time in any way you choose and at your own pace. Bring a packed lunch (tea, coffee and snacks will be available)

To book a place contact Lucy (details below)



Lucy Cooke
Learning & Development Officer
Email: lucy.cooke@urc-northernstsynod.org
Tel: 07752 385197

Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 17 March 2024 after the service and during coffee



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

Below is a précis of the meeting.

- The meeting was opened with worship.
- The reports of the Minister, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and church organisations, which had been circulated, were received and approved as appropriate.
- The church accounts for 2023, which had been circulated, were received and approved.
- The Budget for 2024, which had been circulated, was approved.

Church Officers and Representatives:

Nominations to posts for 2024 were received and agreed (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

Lucy Cooke stood down as Safeguarding Coordinator and was thanked for the sterling work that she had carried out whilst in that post. Sue Ames volunteered and was elected to the role as she was standing down as St Andrew's representative to Northern Synod, for which a new volunteer is sought.

Church Teams

Nominations to Teams for 2024 received and agreed (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

Safeguarding

Lucy Cooke, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, gave an outline of the recent URC Good Practice 6 document and the recently reviewed St Andrew's policy.

Date of next Church Meeting

Sunday 16th June 2024 during coffee following the 11.00 am service.

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

St Andrew's Church, Eastfield Ave., Monkseaton

Jazz Evening

with Maureen Hall's

RENDEZVOUS JAZZ

**Saturday,
20th April 2024
at 7.30pm**

£10

Tickets

Bar

Brolly Parade

Raffle

Tel. 0191 252 3319

Mob. 07866 690604

In aid of church funds and charitable works

Time for JAM

So it's appropriate we're having a Jazz Evening!



Vicki Hamilton / Pixabay

Jazz Appreciation Month, aptly called JAM, is a music festival held every April in recognition of the significant contribution that jazz music has made to society. The organisers say that it: aims to pay tribute to jazz for its historic and cultural significance by encouraging schools, governments, and organisations to participate in various events such as free jazz concerts and educational programs.

JAM was started in 2001 by John Edward Hasse, a curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and it was funded by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, whose archives are housed at the Smithsonian.

In 2012, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings group received permission from the estate of Louis Armstrong to

release his recordings on a new album titled Satchmo. The release was made at the 2012 annual Jazz Appreciation Month events in the US. Today, it is a worldwide event.

Through jazz-focused events, JAM works to support today's jazz scene and encourages an appreciation of jazz music in people of all ages. Throughout April, people will be encouraged to participate in jazz activities such as studying jazz music, attending jazz concerts, reading books about jazz and its history, or just simply listening to good jazz music – perhaps Louis Armstrong if you enjoy traditional Jazz, or Dave Brubeck if Modern Jazz is your preference.

Or, even better, buy a ticket or a few for the Jazz Evening at St. Andrew's!

This could make you scream!

Scream in terror, for the day of the LORD has arrived — the time for the Screaming Almighty to destroy (Isaiah 13:6)

Screaming Day on 26 April, raises awareness of the health benefits of screaming out loud. At some point, all of us have benefited from letting out a

long howl, whether it was screaming into a pillow, in the car, in an empty room, or in any space where we feel comfortable.

Screaming has been considered healing for centuries. Primal screaming was designed by Arthur Yanov to process emotions and let it all out with a long howl.

So feel free to let a scream out every now and then!



Faithful Flourishing

A Northern Synod festival of faith, fellowship & fun!

Saturday 15th June 2024

10am - 4.30pm

The Auckland Project, Bishop Auckland

In 2022 we celebrated the URC's 50th birthday with a party at Beamish.....

In 2023 we gathered under the summer sun at The Alnwick Garden...

This year you're invited to something a little different as we come together in Bishop Auckland to celebrate and explore our faith and what it means to us in our daily lives....

- ♦ Come together with folks from across the Synod in fellowship
- ♦ Explore The Auckland Project venues:
Auckland Tower & Castle
Faith Museum—newly opened in 2023
Spanish Gallery
- ♦ Learn about the place of faith in our communities
- ♦ Join in with music, poetry and prayer
- ♦ Make something to take home!



Places are free of charge and include access to The Auckland Project Venues and a packed lunch.

Support with transport costs may also be available for churches who want to come as a group.

To book your place, visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/ULCgTqLVwd>

For further information, contact Lucy Cooke on the details below.



The
United
Reformed
Church
Northern
Synod

Lucy Cooke
Learning & Development Officer
Email: lucy.cooke@urc-northernsynod.org

Tel: 07752 385197

Northern Synod Prayer Diary

*Joining in our weekly prayers
with the wider URC*



7	Churches: Trinity, Ashington LEP; St Andrew's, Monkseaton; Minister: Revd Louise Sanders. Widdrington; St George's Morpeth; Great Bavington; Minister: Revd Julian Sanders.
14	Pastoral Committee, all members and Convenor Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn.
21	World Earth Day (22 nd). Green Apostle: Revd Alex Mabbs and Charles Jolly.
28	Churches: Trinity, Bedlington LEP; Seaton Delaval LEP; St Andrew's and St Mark's, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea LEP; Minister: Revd Alan McGougan.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Karen Watkin
David Smith Fisher
Helen McNeill Dall
Janette A. Charlton
Gladys Wilson
Nell and Eric Hammond
William Noel Jackson

John Arthur (Jack) Melding
David King
Jim Sinclair
Minnie Skee
Lynne Chisholm
Dorothy Postle

April Rotas

Time to spring into action!



ELDERS	Vestry Reception Communion	Val Taylor (7th Hazel Hall) Chris Hales Jennifer Fleetham
STEWARDS	Vestibule Finance	Ann Stembridge Alison Mood (7th Pat Wardle, 28th Marilyn Walton)
Tuesday 2nd	Prayers	Revd Douglas McFarlane
Sunday 7th	Preacher Readers Prayers	John Paul Celia Purves; Mary Christopher Chris Hales Organ Helen Storey
Tuesday 9th	Prayers	Dr Ann Sinclair
Sunday 14th	Preacher Readers Prayers	Ann Sinclair Ann Hammond; Ray Hammond Hazel Hall Organ Helen Storey
Tuesday 16th	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Sunday 21st	Preacher Readers Prayers	Louise Sanders Kathleen Hopper; Catriona Fenwick Ann Hammond Organ Paul Hartley
Tuesday 23rd	Prayers	Carole Mallett
Sunday 28th	Preacher Readers Prayers	Louise Sanders Hazel Hall; Alison Mood Val Taylor Organ Alex
Tuesday 30th	Prayers	Una Ketteridge

May Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 28th April.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 21st April.**

Church Calendar for April / May

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	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Revd John Paul	11.00 am
Thursday	11	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	12	Film Club – 'Stan & Ollie'	2.00 pm
Sunday	14	Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Saturday	20	Jazz Evening	7.30 pm
Sunday	21	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders.	11.00 am
Sunday	28	Communion Service: Mrs Valerie Taylor	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
MAY 2024			
Friday	3	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	4	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	5	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The February draw took place on 25th February when Eddie Thompson drew the following numbers:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------|
| 1) No 56 | Elaine Geddes | £121.50 |
| 2) No 490 | Anne Cockburn | £60.75 |
| 3) No 67 | Ray Hammond | £20.25 |

With £202.50 going to Church Funds.



Kathleen Hopper

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

More Doggerel Days

by Jane Gascoine

Give me green fields
And green hills
And sheep and cattle and trees.
Give me running brooks
And homing rooks
And bells on the evening breeze.
And sunny lawns
And bright new dawns
And gentle rain on my face.
And heavenly choirs
And dreaming spires
And I'll know I have found my place.
Autumn inspires
Cosy fires
And a need to stay close to home.
The song of the birds
Are comforting words
To those unable to roam.
Music and dance,
Books and romance,
Pets and laughter and space.
Friendship and love
And heavens above,
I'll know that I've found my place.

