



# NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Heidi B / Pixabay

*Time for a re-read*

Volume 90 Issue 5 — May 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 Word of God Alive and Available For Us Today!*



Image by chandelervd85 on Freepik

I have just finished reading a really good book and I always feel sad when that happens. To lose myself in the characters, the plot, the twists and turns of the story, is perfect escapism from some of the more mundane aspects of day to day life. So knowing I have to start all over again with something not yet familiar, always makes finishing a good book somewhat bittersweet.

I wonder how many of you are able to reread your books? Not the non-fiction, fact-finding books we turn to again and again, but the fiction books that fill our bookshelves? I really struggle with doing that, and partly it's because I can always remember how they end, so what's the point? We do such a fantastic trade on the book trolley in the reception area that I suspect I am not alone in reading my fiction books once and then going in search of something new to distract me!

Of course, there is one book that I hope we all read again, and again, and again. Even though we have read it many times before. Even though we know all the characters. All the plots. All the twists and turns, and could probably recite parts of it off by heart! I am speaking of course of the Bible - in whichever translation we choose, and let's face it, there are a great many translations to choose from. Whether it's the traditional King James Version, the

much favoured NIV or the more modern language of The Message, we all have our favourite that we return to again and again (I hope!).

Unlike the books that we read once and move on from because we know how they end, the Bible offers something new to us every time we open its pages. Even those familiar passages that we hear and think we know, can speak to us afresh in every situation. For example, we may think we know the story of the Good Samaritan so well that we don't need to read it again — but try it. Take your time with it and I guarantee that something different will occur to you while you do. Something you hadn't thought about before, something that makes you view things happening in your life a little differently.

The Statement of Faith adopted by the URC in 1972, speaks of the Holy Spirit making effective in our lives the forgiveness of sins and newness of life made possible through 'this glorious gospel'. As relevant today as when it was written, the Bible still has much to teach us if we just take time to open it and read, again and again, and again. Happy rereading my friends!

*Louise*

# Activities Team update

*More things to look forward to!*



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

The Coffee Morning this month will be held in aid of Christian Aid Week which runs from 12th to 18th May. Do come along if you can to meet with friends and support this worthy cause. There will be the usual raffle and bric-a-brac stall plus a cake stall for which donations would be welcome.

## **Play Reading Evening – Saturday 11th May, 7 pm**

We have another opportunity either to take part or just listen to a play, usually a comedy, being read and these evenings are proving to be entertaining and sociable occasions. Tickets are available at £5 (to include wine/soft drinks and nibbles).

## **Film Club – Friday 10th May, 2.00 pm**

This month's film is *One Life (12)* starring Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham Carter. It tells the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a young London broker, who in the months leading up to World War II rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis. The film is described as "deeply moving" and "genuinely uplifting".

## **Dates for the Diary:**

**Coffee Morning, Saturday 1st  
June, 10 am – 12 noon**

**Film Club - Friday 14th June, 2 pm**

**Poetry Evening – Saturday 22nd  
June**

**Quiz and Fish & Chips – Saturday  
20th July, 6 pm**

*Ann Hammond*



SAVE ONE LIFE. SAVE THE WORLD.



ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHNNY FLYNN and HELENA BONHAM CARTER

# ONE LIFE



# Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together  
in a moment of peace*



Cered Allmann / Pixabay

***Pentecost, observed seven weeks after Easter, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles***

*She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters, hovering on the chaos of the world's first day; She sighs, she sings, mothering creation waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.*

*(Enemy of Apathy by John Bell and Graham Maule. Wild Goose Publications)*

## **Opening Words**

God speaks to us in the riches of creation.

God speaks to us in the stories of Jesus.

God speaks to us in the lives of other people.

God speaks to us in words and ways that we can understand.

God of Pentecost kindle Your love in our lives.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, loving Jesus.

Come, glorious God.

Come among us and bless our prayers.

**Amen**

## **Prayer of Confession**

Breathe on me, Breath of God  
fill me with life anew,

that I may love the way You love  
and do what thou would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure;  
until with You I will one will,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
direct my heart's desire;  
till every earthly part of me  
glows with Your holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with You the perfect life  
of Your eternity.

**Amen**

*Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) (altd.)*

## **Assurance of Pardon, from Ezekiel 37:14**

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord."

**Amen**

## **An Affirmation for Pentecost**

We believe in a loving God, whose  
Word sustains our lives and the work of  
our hands in the world. God is life.

We believe in God's Son amongst us, sowing the seed of life's renewal. He lived with the poor to show meaning of love. Jesus Christ is Lord.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life, making us one with God, renewing our strength with Her own. The Spirit is love.

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
they 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, the power  
and the glory forever and ever **Amen**

### **Prayers of Concern**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Come Holy Spirit come!  
For the grace to see this world and its  
needs and problems through the eyes  
of hope, love, justice and mercy;

For the grace to abandon prejudice  
and build bridges of reconciliation  
among broken nations.

Come Holy Spirit come!

For the Spirit of loving kindness to heal  
family rifts; broken relationships; for the

wholeness and wellbeing of the sick, in  
body and mind for the anxiety of those  
for their loved ones, for courage and  
patience in all suffering.

Come Holy Spirit come!

For loved ones who have died and are  
now safe in the arms of God.

For those who are bereaved, sad in  
their loss, give them strength and  
comfort.

Come Holy Spirit come!

For a deeper knowledge of the love of  
God who knows each one of us by  
name and loves us completely.

Come Holy Spirit come!

Merciful Father, we offer these prayers  
in the name of Your Son our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*For she is the Spirit, one with God in  
essence, gifted by the Saviour in  
eternal love; she is the key opening the  
scriptures, enemy of apathy and  
heavenly dove.*

*(Enemy of Apathy by John Bell and  
Graham Maule Wild Goose Publications)*

### **Blessing**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with each of you; and  
those you love now and forever more.

**Amen.**

*Ann Sinclair*

*Inspiration: Fire & Bread Ruth Burgess;  
John Harvey; Faithward; Susan Sayers.*

## ***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-northernynod.org](mailto:lucy.cooke@urc-northernynod.org)**  
**Tel: 07752 385197**

# Famous Misprints

## *The Bible, but not as it was intended*



G.C. / Pixabay

### **Camel's Bible**

In 1832 an edition of the Bible had Rebecca leaving her tent to meet Isaac with a group of, not "damsels", but "camels".

### **Wife-Hater Bible**

An 1810 version read, "If any man come to me, and hate not.....his own wife (instead of life), he cannot be my disciple".

### **"Sin On" Bible**

The first English-language Bible to be printed in Ireland, in 1716, encouraged its readers to "sin on more" rather than "sin no more". A similar error in 1653 had declared: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God?"

### **The Wicked Bible**

A 1631 Bible reported the seventh commandment as "Thou shall commit

adultery", a mistake that infuriated King Charles. He ordered all copies destroyed and fined all printers whose hands had touched the edition.

### **Murderer's Bible**

This 19th century faux pas had Mark 7:27 as "Let the children be killed", instead of "filled".

### **Placemaker Bible**

A 16th century printer had Jesus blessing the "placemakers" instead of "peacemakers". An American printer later substituted the "parable of the vinegar" for the "vineyard".

### **Printer's Bible**

Perhaps King David was on target in a 1702 edition which quoted him as saying, "Printers (instead of princes) have persecuted me without cause".

*Taken from A Bundle of Laughs,  
Mark Stibbe (Author) & J. John*

## **Belated Thanks**

This is a belated thank you for the lovely phone calls and flowers received during my recent illness.

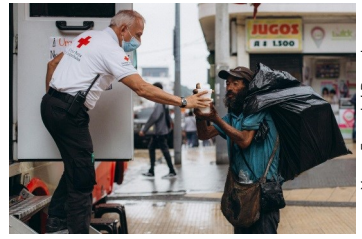
I was also very touched by the welcome I had at the Coffee Morning and Film Club; back among friends again.

**Gill Bloomfield**



# Righteousness

*A daily reflection from Swallow's Nest by Tom Gordon*



Yura Foinat / Pexels.com

*"Listen to me, you who are pursuing righteousness, you who are seeking the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug."*

*Bible, Isaiah 51:1*

A friend was including a poem in a church magazine that contained the word "righteousness". She wasn't sure people would understand "an archaic word". Could another word be used? I suggested she should just use the word anyway.

The word "righteousness" is common in all world religions: Judaism, as in the quotation from the prophet Isaiah above; Islam, as in the Quran, By no means shall you attain to righteousness until you spend (benevolently) out of what you love; Christianity, as in Jesus words in Matthew's Gospel, For I say to you that if your righteousness does not surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; the philosophy of Confucius, The superior [person] is aware of righteousness. Of course it may seem to be an archaic word to some. But Thomas Watson, a 17th century English non-conformist, Puritan preacher and author gives us this useful insight:

*Leaving sin is not enough, unless we embrace righteousness.*

Righteousness, therefore, is not a "state of being", a kind of "holier than thou" position, no matter what religion or philosophy you might follow. Righteousness is an active concept, a searching, developing, striving, kind of thing. It's a reaching out for a better way of living.

Tullian Tchividjian, an American author, writes this in his 2013 book, "One Way Love: Inexhaustible Grace for an Exhausted World":

*Passive righteousness tells us that God does not need our good works. Active righteousness tells us that our neighbour does. The aim and direction of good works are horizontal, not vertical.*

So let's not get hung up on getting the meaning of righteousness, be it archaic or not, through one religion or the other, or to see such righteousness as designed only to please our God. But let's reach out to our neighbour, strive to do good for them. For if we do, then surely the meaning and benefit of righteousness will come along soon enough.

## **A prayer for today**

Lord, I am not righteous for you, but for my neighbour. But then, isn't that also for you?

*Submitted by Ann Sinclair*

*More at: <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>*

# Could the Bible save a life?

*Based on a true story*



Wirestock / Freepik

"I'm not supposed to give these away," the young man said, handing me a display Bible, "but I sense you should have this." I shrugged and absently tucked it away. We had a Bible at home. I'd only stopped at the Gideon's table because nothing else at the Iowa State Fair was set up.

A few days later I was walking to town when a car pulled up beside me. "Get in," the driver snarled, pointing a gun at me. I did as he said. Soon he pulled over, grabbed me and tried to force me down on the seat. I struggled with all my strength. Finally he ordered me out of the car.

Before both my feet were on the ground, I heard a shot and felt a sharp pain in my side. I collapsed and the man came around the car. He picked up my purse, took out my wallet then threw the purse on my head and shot it. I felt a dreadful

impact. Still conscious, I lay silent, hoping he would think I was dead. I heard the car drive away, and I stumbled to a nearby farmhouse. A woman called for help, and soon the police were closing in on the drug-crazed driver based on the description I had given them.

At the hospital, just before going into surgery to remove the bullet from my side, my sister came to see me. "Do you know what saved your life, Mavis?" she asked.

She handed me the Bible that had been in my purse. A bullet was lodged inside, its tip stopping exactly at Psalm 37:14-15: "The wicked draw the sword, and bend the bow... to slay those whose ways are upright. But their swords shall pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken."

*Taken from A Bucket Full of Surprises  
Mark Stibbe (Author) & J. John*

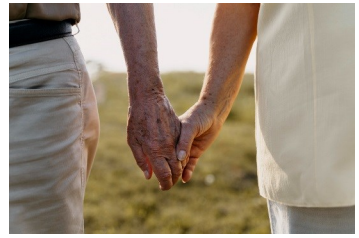


**BACKWORTH**  
MALE VOICE

Saturday 18th May 2024 at 7.00pm  
Tickets £10 / Telephone Catriona 2529913  
In aid of Flower Team funds

# When did we two begin to grow so old?

*A sonnet by Roger Bloor*



Freepik

Matured to Garden Centre café meals  
our cups of tea come free with loyalty points,  
so supping slow we rest our aching joints  
and search the menu for the small-meal deals.

We eat our bowls of soup with buttered toast  
among the walking sticks and Zimmer frames  
see friends with only half remembered names  
who sit and eat the midweek Sunday Roast.

We wear wide fitting Velcro-fastened shoes  
avoid all spicy foods and only drink  
one glass of wine a night and fondly think  
of student days and parties packed with booze.

But now our lifetime membership is fully paid  
we've joined the 'two spoons, just one pudding' Life Brigade.

*Roger Bloor is a parishioner at  
St. John the Baptist Church, Ashley,  
near Market Drayton*

## Christian Aid 2024

*Please support in any way you can*



### Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th May  
10:00am — 12:00noon

- ⇒ Raffle
- ⇒ Bric-a-brac stall
- ⇒ Cake stall

### Christian Aid Week

12th — 18th May

**Your gift can change lives!**  
**Find out more at [caid.org.uk](http://caid.org.uk)**

The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of  
Christian Aid. Christian Aid is a member of ACT Alliance.



# 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.



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**Tel: 07752 385197**

# Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers and lectionary readings from the URC*



5	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique.	Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17
12	Christian Aid 14 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> . Pray for all working on our behalf across the world. Commitment for Life.	Acts 1.15-17,21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19
19	Synod Executive: Synod Treasurer: Gordon Wanless. Convenors of sub-committees; Willie Duncan. Property Consultant: Graham Hatt.	Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Ezekiel 37.1-14; John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
26	Churches: St Aidan's, Hexham; St John's, Wideopen.	Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

## From the Book of Remembrance

*Remembering those who have gone before us*

Annie Adamson Saunders  
Dr. James Fraser M.B.Ch.B.  
Vera W. B. Heighton  
Stanley & Margaret Joyce Ord  
Peter Hawkins Morley  
Margaret (Peggy) Thomson Smith  
John Williams

Elizabeth Carmen Patterson  
Janet Norrie Caldwell  
Frank Packer  
John Blaney Walton  
Bill Waugh  
Derek Milton Lowdon

# May the rotas be with you

*Go fourth and tell*



<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Vestry</b> Jennifer Fleetham	
	<b>Reception</b> Various (see below)	
	<b>Communion</b> Carole Mallett	
<b>Stewards:</b>	Valerie Thompson	Marilyn Walton
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>Reception Elder</b> Catriona Fenwick	<b>Organ</b> Helen Storey
	<b>Readers:</b> Geoff Mills; Carole Mallett	
	<b>Prayers:</b> Una Ketteridge	
<b>Tuesday 7th</b>	<b>Prayers</b> Carole Mallett	
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>Reception Elder</b> Chris Hales	<b>Organ</b> Helen Storey
	<b>Readers:</b> Jennifer Fleetham; Marilyn Walton	
	<b>Prayers</b> Val Taylor	
<b>Tuesday 14th</b>	<b>Prayers</b> TBC	
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>Reception Elder</b> Ann Hammond	<b>Organ</b> Paul Hartley
	<b>Readers:</b> Ann Stemberidge; Susan Anderson	
	<b>Prayers:</b> Chris Hales	
<b>Tuesday 21st</b>	<b>Prayers</b> Dr Ann Sinclair	
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>Reception Elder</b> Bill Hopper	<b>Organ</b> Alex
	<b>Readers:</b> Jean Jackson; Tim Cooke	
	<b>Prayers</b> Hazel Hall	
<b>Tuesday 28th</b>	<b>Prayers</b> Una Ketteridge	

## June Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 26th May.  
Please have contributions to Tim **by 20th May**.

# Church Calendar for May / June

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	3	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	4	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
Tuesday	7	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	9	Pastoral Team Meeting, followed by Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Friday	10	Film Club – 'One Life'	2.00 pm
Saturday	11	Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Monday	13	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Saturday	18	Flower Team Concert – Backworth Male Voice Choir	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
		<b>Prayer Group – Mandy Watson</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>
		<b>Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders.</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
Wednesday	22	Worship Group Meeting (at St Andrew's)	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Communion Service: Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
		<b>Morning Worship; Mrs Helen Cooper</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Joint Evening Service at St Columba's</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
<b>JUNE 2024</b>			
Saturday	1	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
Friday	7	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am

# Pause in this moment

A place for  
prayers,  
thoughts  
and poems



## **A Prayer (for the 80 year olds)**

Today Dear Lord I am eighty  
and there's much I haven't done  
I hope Dear Lord you let me live  
until I'm eighty one  
But then, if I haven't finished  
all I want to do  
Would you let me stay awhile  
until I'm eighty two?  
So many places I want to go,  
so much to see  
Do you think that you could manage  
to make it eighty three?  
The world is changing very fast,  
there is so much in store  
I'd like it very much to live  
until I'm eighty four  
And if by then I'm still alive,  
I'd like to stay till eighty five  
More planes will be up in the air,  
so I'd really like to stick  
And see what happens to the world  
when I'm eighty six  
I know Dear Lord it's a lot to ask,  
and it must be nice in heaven  
But I really would like to stay  
until I'm eighty seven  
I know by then I won't be fast  
and sometimes will be late  
But it would be so pleasant  
to be around at eighty eight  
I will have seen so many things  
and had a wonderful time  
So, I'm sure that I'd be willing  
to leave at eighty nine – maybe...  
Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord,  
And I thank you kindly.  
But if it's okay with you, I'd love to live past 90!

*Anonymous*