



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Hope is in the living water

Volume 90 Issue 6 — June 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 Hayes

'Accidental Theme?'



Image by Louise Sanders (Swanwick)

Last night I had an email from Tim - "have I forgotten that it's Newstand this week and am I working on this month's 'Musings'?" Basically, yes I had forgotten and no I am not working on anything! But I do have a good excuse - I am currently sitting in the 'Vinery' at the Hayes Christian Conference Centre in Swanwick, attending my first Ministers' May School with approximately 35 other ministers from across 3 different synods, as well as various speakers and 3 Training and Development Officers.

We have been engaging with a theme of 'Challenging Church, Challenging Context' and considering the various issues that face the churches today, but also some of the challenges for congregations as they seek to engage with the diverse range of people they may come into contact with.

I am always on the look out at these kind of gatherings for what I call an 'accidental theme'. Something which the organisers may not have planned, that the speakers haven't been in 'cahoots' about, but which have arisen anyway, I believe, because of the nudging of the Holy Spirit.

I was delighted when it happened today - especially as it instantly gave me an idea for this 'Musings'! Now I've peaked your interest, I'll tell you in what it was.

In our first session, Victoria led a session asking where the church is when it comes to having a voice in the public square, and speaking into the issues that are affecting our society, and she drew attention to a verse from 1 Peter 3:15 - "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*"

Later in the afternoon, Glynn then led a session inviting us to consider how we reach the 'nones' (those with no concept of faith or of a God who loves them), and he gave us examples of work he is doing with groups of people across the country, and again he quoted 1 Peter 3:15. And the best part? He wasn't in Victoria's session and didn't know she had quoted that same verse!

For me this all comes down to witness. How good are we at answering someone if they ask us where our hope comes from? Are we able to articulate it and speak from the heart about a God who has an everlasting love for each and every one of us, regardless of age, gender, class, race or sexual orientation - or any of the other differences we use to divide us?

I'm going to leave you to ponder this one because Lucy has just told me it's dinner time!

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



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

All are welcome to come along and meet with friends old and new for a chat over a cup of coffee/tea or soft drink. There will be the usual raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

Looking ahead to July, unfortunately we will not be able to have our regular Coffee Morning as on the first two Saturdays the premises are already booked, firstly by Northern Synod and secondly by Whitley Women.

Film Club – Friday 14th June, 2.00 pm.

This month's film is *Little Women* (PG) and is an adaptation of the much loved 1868 novel of the same name by Louisa May Alcott. It chronicles the lives of the March sisters - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. The film is described as a "timeless masterpiece" and a "heartfelt uplifting movie".

Poetry Evening – Saturday 22nd June, 7 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).

Lots of dates for the diary!

Film Club - Friday 12th July, 2 pm

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

**Play Reading Evening – Saturday
27th July, 7 pm**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning –
Saturday 14th September**

**Art Exhibition – Saturday 5th
October**

**Evening with Newcastle Concert
Band – Saturday 19th October**

**Church Fair – Saturday 16th
November**

Ann Hammond



Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*

'Summer suns are glowing,
over land and sea...'
(W.W.How 1823-97)

OPENING WORDS

Lord, we come to You,
each of us at different times and from
different places, but we come
together in prayer, to be before You.
We open our hearts and minds
and thoughts to all that is going on
around us, with our families, in our
local area, our nation and around the
world.

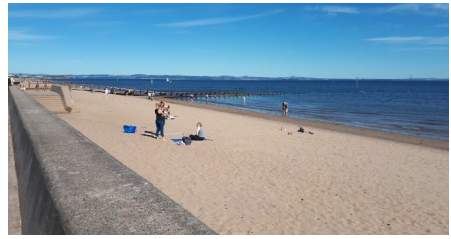
Lord, come to us, surround us and fill
us with Your love and grace.

Lord, hear our prayers. **AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

Loving and Gracious God,
You see us and know us,
and You love us.
We come before You for cleansing,
In the busyness and the distractions in
our lives, we sometimes push aside
what we should do as other
considerations crowd into our lives.

Forgive us the many things we have
done wrong,
the times we have forgotten
to listen to someone in need,
or simply to listen and to care.
Loving and Gracious God,
forgive us, and help us
to live as Your children,



Cered Allmann / Pixabay

to know and follow
Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ. **AMEN**

Prayer of Assurance

May God who is full of love
forgive us, free us,
heal and strengthen us
and help us to live each day
in the new life of Jesus Christ
with the strength and guidance of the
Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

And in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name...For thine is
the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession...our Prayers of concern

Lord God,
we come before You to place
our concerns for the world in Your
hands.

Creator God, we thank You for all the
beautiful and generous gifts that You
have given us.
Remind each of us of the role we
have in caring for Your creation.
Encourage those who seek climate
justice, and those who work to restore
our land, rivers and seas.
Creator God, help us work together to
heal Your earth.

Comforter God, we bring to You all of those who are struggling with poor physical or mental health, comfort them and bring them Your peace.

Walk alongside them that they may know Your healing love.

We pray for those who work in healthcare.

Grant them strength and wisdom for every challenge they face.

God of peace, we look around our world and see war and destruction. Bring peace to every situation that knows the torment and uncertainty that war brings.

Protect those who are fleeing from violence and conflict; grant them safe passage, and help them to find welcome and acceptance wherever they find a home.

Loving God, we pray for our churches: locally, nationally and around the world.

Let them be a light in the darkness and beacons of hope in situations that seem hopeless.

Help us to reach out to those in our communities who have yet to know You for themselves.

Grant us wisdom to speak into the situations that need to hear our voice and be with us in the silence when words fail us.

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

A Prayer for our young people

Loving God, we pray for all our young people as they prepare and take their school, university and college exams. Their results can open doors to their future lives. We ask Your blessings on those we know and those we don't know and we entrust them to Your care. **AMEN**

Blessing

On our daily journey.

God of our past,
reconcile our brokenness.
God of our future, renew our faith.
God of the present moment,
reach out and touch us,
and through us,
the lives of all we meet on our daily journey.

May we be made whole through the holiness of God the Father, the humanity, of Christ the Son, and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Ann Sinclair

*Inspired by Bare Feet and Buttercups:
Ruth Burgess*

If there is an occasion when you feel you cannot be kind,
at least have the decency to be vague.

The Lord's Prayer

*Many tongues
but the same words*

In a Pentecost service at Robert Stewart Memorial on 19th May, I spoke of the ability through the Holy Spirit for the crowds on that Pentecost Day to be able to understand each other. I set a challenge for the folks at RSM to say the Lord's Prayer in a different tongue. We had several versions going on at the same time... the sounds were all different but we were all saying the same thing! Below is the Church Secretary's offering, an enthusiastic Newcastle United supporter with a Geordie version:

Wor Fatha, whee art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Nyame .
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be dyun ,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Gissies this dyah wor daily bread.
An forgive weh wor trespasses,
As wi forgive those whee trespass
against weh.



Pexels. / Pixabay

An lead weh not into temptation,
But deliver weh frem evil.
Fre thine is the kingdom, an the
power, an the glory, fre ever an
ever. Amen.

I gave a Scots version: (W. L. Lorimer)

Oor Faither in heiven,
be hallowt thy name ;
thy Kíngdom come;
thy will be dune on the yird,
as in heiven.
Gíe us our breid for this incomin day;
forgíe us the wrangs we hae wrocht,
as we hae foríen the wrangs we hae
dree'd;
an sey-us-na sairlie, but sauf us frae
the Ill Ane: for the Kíngdom, the
pouer an the glorie ar thine for ivver
an aye. Amen.

As an Anglified Scot it took me a
week to practise that version!

Ann Sinclair

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

L.R.Knost

St. Andrew's 100 Club

*Two months of results
for the price of two*



This month you're getting two months of 100 Club results due to Tim inadvertently missing them last month (apologies to Kathleen!).

The March draw took place on Easter Sunday 31st March when Elaine Geddes drew the following numbers:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| 1) No 95 | Dawn Rudd | £126.00 |
| 2) No 75 | Joan Yarrow | £63.00 |
| 3) No 13 | Kathleen Hopper | £21.00 |

With £210 going to Church funds

The April draw took place on Sunday 28th April when Joan Yarrow drew the following numbers:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------|
| 1) No 9 | Ian Gordon | £127.50 |
| 2) No 69 | Sandra Pine | £63.75 |
| 3) No 27 | Ray Hammond | £21.25 |

With £212.50 going to Church funds

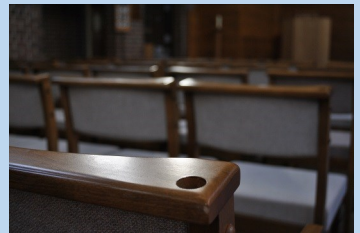
Kathleen Hopper

Church Meeting

Sunday 16th June

The next Church Meeting is scheduled to take place during coffee following the service on Sunday 16th June.

The Agenda for the Meeting will be posted up the previous week.



Ray Hammond

Flight

A daily reflection from Swallow's Nest by Tom Gordon



Geralt / Pixabay

“Ours is the commencement of a flying age, and I am happy to have popped into existence at a period so interesting.”

Amelia Earhart, 20 Hrs, 40 min (1928)

There are many representations of the Holy Spirit, the story of Pentecost in The Acts of the Apostles giving us the “rushing, mighty wind” and the “tongues of fire”, for example.

However, the traditional symbol for the Holy Spirit has been the dove, pictured in paintings, stained-glass and sculptures through the centuries, including the simple but powerful depiction of the descending dove carved into one of the pillars in Iona Abbey's cloisters. And isn't the peaceful beauty of the descending dove so appropriate, from the dove with its olive branch returning to Noah to indicate that the flood had ended and a new world could begin, to the “Spirit of God descending like a dove” as Matthew describes Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John?

But through the years of the Iona Community, another symbolic representation of the Holy Spirit has been emphasised – the wild goose in flight. Reputed to be a Celtic understanding of the Spirit of God, here is a new, and different,

interpretation of the Spirit – movement, togetherness, newness, restlessness, migration, leadership, shared responsibilities, community, and much more besides. Here is the Spirit of God calling us out and up, to move and be changed, not always to be static and safe.

I suspect the disciples of old would have felt blessed by the Spirit of God on Pentecost – safe, rested, comforted, at one with each other. But they were also called to be apostles – to move into mission, to fly the nest, to trust God in the journey to newness, to get up and travel on.

On the day following Pentecost, let's remember that in the dove of blessing and wild goose of challenge, in safety and movement, in stability and restlessness, being established and creative, the Spirit of God will not be confined. And if that Spirit is the wild goose for us, might we feel, like Amelia Earhart, that we are at “the commencement of a flying age” and be “happy to have popped into existence at a period so interesting” for us?

A prayer for today

Lord, when I am at rest, give me blessings. When I am in flight, lead me on. Amen

Let's get quizzical

A few "Questions of the day" to (possibly) tax your little grey cells.



Jambulbooy / Pixabay

- On a recent shopping trip I was told to buy a total of 100 items and had £100 to spend. I was told to buy only, but at least one each of, T-Shirts, biscuits and chocolate bars. T-Shirts cost £15, biscuits cost £1 and chocolate bars cost 25p. How many of each item did I buy, using up the full £100?
- What words can you get from these definitions and what is the connection between them: Authorisation, Maritime loss, Carried and Engaging?
- What does this phrase mean: MSE with a FS?
- What words can you get from these definitions and what musical theme connects them: a vegetable, a short statement expressing a general truth, something you take with you, and a mistake?
- What is significant about 3rd to 13th September 1752 in the UK?
- What connects the pairs of words derived from each of these definitions: Honest and smelling obnoxious, animal skin and foam, tirade and rodent?
- Which is the odd one out from these words and why: Age, equate, mission, diction, concrete and Minister?
- Especially for editors, which is the odd one out from these sequences of letters and why: DFG, YGR, VBN, FGH, UIO, XCV?
- What are the next two numbers in this sequence and why: 14, 17, 21, 27, 28, 35, ??, ??
- A student took 9 tests each with a maximum score of 100. Their average score was 68. If the lowest score is removed, what is the highest average score they could achieve for the remaining 8 tests?

- 3 T-Shirts, 41 biscuits and 56 chocolate bars.
- All the words contain parts of the body: Clearance (ear), Shipwrecked (hip), Conveyed (eye) and Charm (arm).
- Most sentences end with a full stop.
- Cabbage, Adage, Baggage and Gaff. They all only contain letters that correspond with musical notes (A-G).
- These are the days that the UK lost when it changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, instead jumping direct from 2nd to 14th September, aligning the number 7.
- YGR. All the others are consecutive letters on a computer keyboard.
- Concrete. You can put "Ad" in front of all the other words to get a new word.
- Frank and rank, leather and lother, rant and rat. The second word being the first with one letter removed.
- Concrete. You can put "Ad" in front of all the other words to get a new word.
- YGR. All the others are consecutive letters on a computer keyboard.
- These are the days that the UK lost when it changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, instead jumping direct from 2nd to 14th September, aligning the number 7.
- 3 T-Shirts, 41 biscuits and 56 chocolate bars.

10: 76.5, assuming their lowest score was zero.

My Dad was a D-Day Dodger

Thoughts for the 80th anniversary



It's a human frailty that we remember some things more clearly than others. In WWII I'd guess that the campaigns which stick out in the memory are Dunkirk, The Battle of Britain, the Dambusters Raid and D-Day. It may be because they were short, well defined, clear actions rather than the protracted slog of war in other theatres.

This month it's the 80th Anniversary of D-Day which captures the attention with commemorations across Britain and France.

But as we remember with pride and gratitude all those service men of Britain, the Commonwealth, the United States and the many other nations who took part in the D-Day Landings in Normandy, 6th June 1944, spare a thought and prayer for those who were elsewhere, where fighting was just as fierce but less well remembered:

The Battle of the Atlantic was still raging and was as dangerous as ever

The Bombing Campaign over Germany still continued to exact a tremendous price on bomber crews,

The Artic Convoys were paused for the summer but would resume.

The "forgotten army" were still fighting in the Burma Campaign, and

The "D-Day Dodgers" who had fought up the length of Italy, captured Rome on 4th June, and were even then fighting on into Northern Italy.

So, remember and give thanks for all the service men and women who fought for justice, freedom and peace.

And, in all these commemorations, let's not forget the fallen, those who never knew whether their sacrifice was in vain:

Went the day well?
We died and never knew.
But, well or ill,
Freedom, we died for you.

John Maxwell Edmonds, 1918

Edmonds is credited with authorship of the famous epitaph in the War Cemetery in Kohima which commemorates the fallen of the Battle of Kohima in April 1944:

When you go home,
tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow,
we gave our today.

*John H Worsfold, from Saints Peter & Paul
Church in Hathern, Leicestershire,
via The Association for Church Editors*



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

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Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers and lectionary
readings from the URC*



2	World Environment Day (5 th June). Climate Change and our response to it.	1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139.1-6,13-18; 2 Corinthians 4.5-12; Mark 2.23 - 3.6
9	Churches: Horsley; Bellingham LEP; Wark; Minister: Revd Roberta Ritson.	1 Samuel 8:4-11,(12-15),16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1; Mark 3.20-35
16	Disability Awareness Week (17 th – 23 rd), a more inclusive church.	1 Samuel 15:34–16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10(11-13)14-17; Mark 4.26-34
23	Mission Forum Convenor: Revd Kate Hackett. Revd David Haslam: RAF Chaplain.	1 Samuel 15:34–16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10(11-13)14-17; Mark 4.26-34
30	Churches: St Andrew's, Kenton; St James's, Newcastle; Jesmond; West End; Minister Revd Ryan Simons.	2 Samuel 1:1,17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8.7-15; Mark 5.21-43

Church Register

Death

DICKINSON

Margaret (Meg), aged 87 years, on 3rd April 2024. Committal at Whitley Bay on 26th April followed by service at St Andrew's, conducted by Revd Louise Sanders.

June is bustin' out all over

*But the life of Riley is not for
those with work to do*



ELDERS	Vestry Reception Communion	Joan Blanchfield Margaret Varley Jennifer Fleetham
	Finance Steward	Carole Moore
Sunday 2nd	Vestibule Steward Organ Readers Prayers	Valerie Thompson Helen Storey Iain Ord; Joan Blanchfield Ann Hammond
Tuesday 4th	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Sunday 9th	Vestibule Steward Organ Readers Prayers	Alison Mood Helen Storey Val Taylor; Chris Hales Val Taylor
Tuesday 11th	Prayers	Carole Mallett
Sunday 16th	Vestibule Steward Organ Readers Prayers	Sandra Pine Paul Hartley Susan Clark; Paul Hartley Una Ketteridge
Tuesday 18th	Prayers	Catriona Fenwick
Sunday 23rd	Vestibule Steward Organ Readers Prayers	Robin or Mary Christopher Alex Jenny Hooper/ Kevin Ames Chris Hales
Tuesday 25th	Prayers	Una Ketteridge
Sunday 30th	Vestibule Steward Organ Readers Prayers	Ann Stembridge Paul Hartley Ann Stembridge; Andrew Cooke Andrew Cooke

Church Calendar for June / July

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.

Saturday	1	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	2	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Friday	7	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	9	Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Wednesday	12	Worship Group Meeting (at St Andrew's)	7.00 pm
Friday	14	Film Club - Little Women	2.00 pm
Saturday	15	Synod Day at Bishop Auckland Departure time of bus 9.00 – 9.15 am	
Sunday	16	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Trevor Jamison CHURCH MEETING DURING COFFEE	11.00 am
Saturday	22	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	23	Communion Service: Mrs Valerie Taylor	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Sunday	30	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders & Worship Group	11.00 am
JULY 2024			
Friday	5	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm

July Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 30th June.

Please have contributions to Tim **by 24th June**.

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

New Day

I thank you Lord for this new day,
Which is a gift from you,
Help me not to waste it Lord
But live it just for you.

May I spread your love dear Lord,
To the people that I meet,
To those who visit me at home,
Or meet me in the street.

Keep my ears from listening,
To gossip or idle chat,
Stop my tongue from
saying words, I know
I should keep back.

Give me a loving heart
So people see I care,
And help me to remember Lord,
That you are always there.

Amen

