



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Freepik

Prayers at Home — Church Meeting — Charity presentation

All is safely gathered in — are you prepared?

Volume 90 Issue 10 — October 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

Christ - The Light That Overcomes the Darkness

I wonder if you have a favourite season of the year? I think mine is probably autumn. Sometimes in the summer I feel pressure to make the most of any nice weather we have, and when the weather isn't glorious there's a disappointment that we're not having the summer we feel we should be having. The autumn however, can surprise with gloriously sunny days and if it's not great then I can 'hunker down' indoors and enjoy just the release from all the frantic activity of the summer.

Now, as autumn settles in, the days grow shorter, and the nights grow longer. The vibrant colours of the trees are just beginning to reveal their splendour, and the early sunsets leave us in darkness for much of the evening. It's a time that can feel quiet and introspective, even a bit gloomy. Yet, this season offers a powerful reminder of a profound truth: Jesus has overcome the darkness.

In John 1:5, we read, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." This passage speaks not only to the physical darkness we encounter during autumn's long nights but also to the spiritual darkness that can often weigh on our hearts. In a world filled with uncertainty, fear, and sorrow, it is easy to feel



Image by Freepik

overwhelmed. But the good news is that Jesus is greater than any darkness we face.

Though the darkness of the world may seem strong, it can never extinguish the light of Christ. Jesus' victory on the cross and His resurrection are reminders that darkness, whether physical or spiritual, does not have the final say. He overcame sin, death, and every form of brokenness, to offer us hope and salvation. As we move through these darker months, let us remember that Jesus is the light that pierces through every shadow. No matter how long or cold the nights become, His light shines brightly, offering us comfort, peace, and the assurance that we are never alone.

Just as we know that autumn will soon give way to winter, and winter will give way to the light and warmth of spring, we trust that Jesus' light will always overcome the darkness. In Him, we find hope, renewal, and the promise of eternal light. So let's enjoy the wonderful beauty of autumn, ever thankful for the light of Christ.

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Art Exhibition and Sale Saturday 5th October, 10 am – 2.00 pm

We look forward this month to the popular Annual Art Exhibition and Sale organised by St Andrew's Art Club. The Activities Team will be serving coffee and light lunches during the day. Do come along if you can to browse and/or buy and enjoy St Andrew's renowned refreshments.

Film Club Friday 11th October, 2.00 pm.

This month we are showing the awarding winning film *Topsy-Turvy* (12) starring *Jim Broadbent* and *Timothy Spall*. It casts the spotlight upon the creative partnership of *W.S. Gilbert* and *Arthur Sullivan*, responsible for such classic comic operas as *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Afternoon Tea Saturday 12th October, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Monkseaton Quakers are very kindly providing afternoon tea for us by way of a 'thank you' for enabling them to use the Minor Hall for their services while their premises are closed. There will be a signing up sheet in the reception area so that they will have an idea of numbers.

Newcastle Concert Band Evening Saturday 19th October, 7.30 pm

The Concert Band proved popular when they entertained us last July and there were requests to see them again. Tickets at £10 are now available.

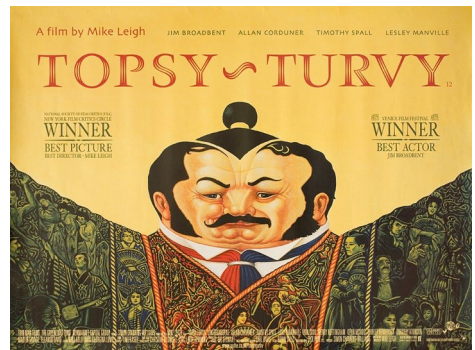
Play Reading Evening Saturday 26th October, 7 pm

These evenings provide opportunities either to take part or just listen to a play, usually a comedy, being read. They are entertaining and sociable occasions. Tickets at £5 include wine, soft drinks and nibbles.

Date for the diary:

Church Fair Saturday 16th November

Ann Hammond



Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*



Aaron Burden / Unsplash

Opening Words

Lord, we come into Your presence to find a sense of peace knowing You are here for us and trusting You in each step we take.

You bring us hope in our times of concern; comfort in our times of difficulty; guidance in our journey of faith, You are always with us.

We thank You Lord, for all You give us each day.

By Your grace we are blessed.

Amen

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess temptation is our daily experience, we fail to stand firm.

So often our intentions drift away with the constant busyness and worries of each day.

Forgive our hasty words, our thoughtless actions that hurt You, other people and ourselves.

Forgive us for the things we neglect to do, the promises we fail to keep and the care we fail to give others.

Forgive us, Lord, renew us and strengthen us and enable us to stand firm in Your love. **Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord, when we come before You and confess our sins, You forgive us.

We come now, humbly in Your presence.

Forgiven.

Acknowledging Your grace and love.

Amen

In the Prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ 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

A Prayer of Thanksgiving at Harvest Time

As we come to harvest time we thank You God for all the colours and fruits harvest brings from the crops in this country and crops sent from overseas.

How rich we are in the harvest You bless us with.

We thank You God, for all who sow, cultivate and gather; for those that transport and sell the harvest crops.

Thank You God for the giving of the harvest.

Amen

Prayers of Concern and Intercession

Lord, at this harvest time in this country we are conscious that we are rich in the harvest; we pray for the hungry of the world, for those who, for lack of water or good soil, cannot grow enough to live on.

We pray for those whose crops have been devastated through floods and wars and depend on aid agencies to bring them food and clean drinking water.

We pray for those in this country who depend on food banks, people that struggle to make ends meet to feed their families and themselves.

We pray for those who use their power to help others in need, for aid agencies at home and around the world, and each individual who gives

to help another, a friend or neighbour in need.

Lord, at this harvest time in this country we pray for the leaders of the world that they use their power with integrity and that they be just in making decisions for the good of all people.

Lord teach us to reject selfishness and live as Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ did in generous giving to all.

Amen

Closing Words

May our living reflect Your dwelling within us, enabling us to be people of love, joy, hope and peace.

Amen

Ann Sinclair

*Inspired by David Clowe:
500 Prayers for the Christian Year;
Donald Hilton:
Seasons & Celebrations*

Thank You to everyone who has shown me kindness and help because of my broken leg. I would also like to thank the Flower Team for the lovely flowers in memory of my Sheila.

Harry Lowrie



Church Meeting

*Précis of meeting held
15 September 2024*



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.

- Attendance: 50 members, 3 others. Apologies for absence: 9.

Church Secretary reported:

- There had been a Special Church Meeting in June regarding the re-pointing of the church building plus Meetings of the Elders, Executive Team, Pastoral Team and Worship Group.
- Routine servicing and maintenance undertaken including annual testing of portable appliances and fire equipment. Proposed to re-examine fire stewarding arrangements and training.
- Activities Team pleased with support, from church and community, for social events organised. Looking forward to forthcoming Art Exhibition and Church Fair and other events such as Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care organised by Una.
- The Quakers are inviting St Andrew's folk to Afternoon Tea as a 'Thank You' on Saturday 12th October.
- Premises continue to be well used and facilities offered appreciated by users.
- Regular services continue to be well attended – work put in by minister and others much appreciated.
- Future services include joint service with St Columba's on Sunday 6th October.
- Development Fund used to: 1) cover the general deficit, 2) the proposed building repair work, 3) cover running costs of newly appointed Pioneer Youth Worker and 4) a proposed Baby & Toddler Group.
- Sale of Beech Grove Manse completed.
- Grateful thanks to all who contribute, in whatever way, to enabling St Andrew's to continue to be a presence in this area.

Treasurer reported:

- A general explanation of the funding arrangements.
- Continuing to overspend each month as expected and shown in the budget.
- Income has been above budget and expenditure round about what was expected.
- Development Fund continues to be used to fill the gap, £18,000 so far this year.
- Development Fund increased by rise in value of investments with Northern Synod.
- Continuing Manse expenses now in respect of our contribution to St George's Manse.
- No 'black holes' – reassuring to know that we can continue with day-to-day church life.

Minister reported:

- On her pleasure at the support for the Evening Service.
- Songs & Stories – explained in detail the proposed new Baby and Toddler project.
- Proposal to hold a Christingle Service on Wednesday 11th December.
- On the Community Carol Service being held on Monday 16th December.

New Members:

- Agreed that Mike and Linda Short, and Hazel Howlison be welcomed into membership.

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

Ray Hammond
Church Secretary

Fancy a night away?

Thanks to a very generous donation from Margaret Varley's family, we are offering a special raffle prize to be drawn at the Annual Church Fair in November:

**An overnight stay at Slaley Hall for two people,
including dinner, bed and breakfast**

Tickets will be £1.00 each and will be available from October 5th at the 58 Society's meeting, and then all other occasions and events until the Fair.
For terms and conditions of the stay, contact Joan Blanchfield or Margaret.

Charity Presentation

*Your generous giving received
with grateful thanks*



Truthseeker08 / Pixabay

Each year 10% of all money raised by fund-raising activities at St Andrew's is donated to local charities chosen by church members. In September representatives from My Harbour and Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team came to the church to receive their cheques for £1,000 each. They each spoke about their respective charities and the valuable work which is carried out.



Chris Hales

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The August draw took place on Sunday 25th of August when Ingrid Connacher drew the following numbers:



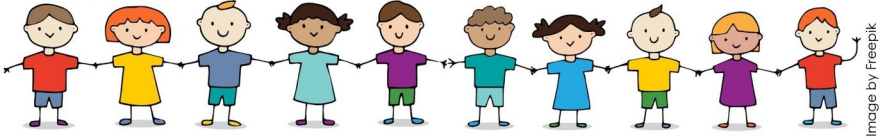
Abbie Fyre / Pixabay

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|---------|
| 1) No 82 | Louise Sanders | £127.50 |
| 2) No24 | Rachel Ward | £63.75 |
| 3) No6 | Ann Sinclair | £21.25 |

With £212.50 going to Church funds

Kathleen Hopper

St Andrew's United Reformed Church*



Songs & Stories

Fridays in term time, starting

Friday 8th November

9:30am-11:30am

Crafts

A baby and toddler
group with a
Christian focus

Bible
Stories

Tea, Coffee, and
Cake, plus drinks
and snacks for
children

Singing



£2 per child

Per session

Free Play

This group welcomes all parents and carers, and is suitable for children from birth to 4 years.

For more information please contact Louise Sanders:

Tel: 07537 848492 / 01670 225539 Email: louise.sanders208@gmail.com

*St Andrew's URC, Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay NE25 8LU



Up and down a mountain or 3 for a bit of a ding-dong

Another "postcard from the edge"



When Andrew and his fellow Cambridge University Bell Ringers, Jadd and Andrew, came up with the crazy idea of climbing the three Yorkshire Peaks of Pen-y-Gent, Ingleborough and Whernside in one day that was strange enough. When they also decided to ring a peal on hand bells at the top of each one too it got even more unusual (a peal being at least 5000 changes in the order the bells are rung taking around 90 minutes). The whole idea nearly got shelved when they couldn't sort out accommodation, but we came to the rescue by deciding to have our summer holiday in the Yorkshire Dales, and just booking a slightly larger cottage so Jadd and other Andrew would have somewhere to sleep for a couple of nights.

Their expedition started early, leaving the cottage at 5.30am to drive to Horton in Ribblesdale. A relatively short walk and climb to the top of Penn-y-gent for the first peal saw them attacked by a swarm of midges that were particularly attracted to our Andrew. That led to them curtailing the full peals to just quarters (1250 or more changes), which turned out to be the right decision.

They succeeded in making it to the top of Ingleborough and Whernside

and completing quarter peals there too, with less midges this time, although the wind was rather strong at the top of Whernside causing them to shelter behind a convenient wall to ring. As dusk fell they made their way back to the car, arriving just before 10pm, and then the hour long drive back to the cottage.

After 24 miles on a hot sunny day they were all exhausted and a bit sunburnt, but pleased with what was a unique achievement amongst bell ringers.





St. Andrew's United Reformed Church
Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay. NE25 8LU

Art Exhibition and sale

*with raffle and
refreshments*

Saturday, 5th October
10:00am - 2:00pm

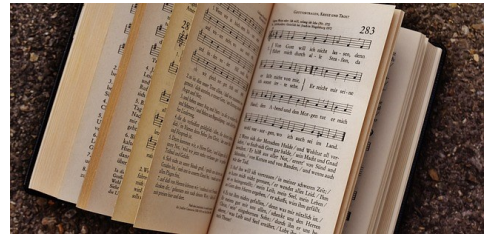
Entry by donation

Tell out my soul

A lifetime's dedication to hymns of God's glory

A well-known name in our hymn books, Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith died earlier this year on 12th August 2024, at the age of 97. He wrote more than 400 much loved hymns enjoyed in Christian worship, including, "Tell Out, My Soul" and "Lord for the Years".

It was over 60 years ago that he began writing poems, but did not believe they would become hymns because, as he said, "I lacked all musical ability". (A lesson in itself!). However, he went on to author metrical settings of psalms and scriptures, Christmas carols and many texts on Christian discipleship. He said that a good hymn must adhere to divine truth and to Christian



Alexa / Pixabay

experience, adding, "It is the hymn writer's privilege to offer worshippers the words in which to clothe and express the aspirations and emotions of the heart".

Rev'd Timothy was born in Manchester. After graduating in maths and then theology at Cambridge, he prepared for ministry in the C of E's Ridley Hall. Ordained in 1950, he ministered in Kent, Bermondsey and Norwich, becoming Bishop of Thetford in 1981. At a birthday celebration he commented, "Hymn writing has been for me a most enriching and entirely unexpected gift".

Sandy Harris
via Association for Church Editors

A Sheepish Recovery

A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb.

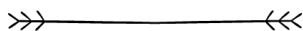
Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

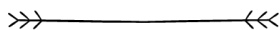
As an expression of thanks to our friends at St. Andrew's for enabling us to meet so comfortably on Sunday mornings, Monkseaton Quakers would like to invite you to



AFTERNOON TEA WITH MUSIC, PAINTING AND POETRY



SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER
2.30 - 4.30



To help with catering it would be helpful to have an indication of who hopes to attend. A sign-up sheet will be available in the reception area for this, or contact Ann or Ray.

58 Society resumes

Some excellent speakers start the new season



St Andrew's 58 Society meet again after the summer break on Monday October 7th at 7.30pm.

This season there will be a variety of excellent speakers and social events.

Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Main Hall.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served.

ALL ARE WELCOME

In October the talks are -

October 7th — Professor Neville Harris, "Peter Sellers – family films and fortune."

October 21st — Peter Webb, "A Funny thing Happened to Me."

We hope you will join us.

Catriona Fenwick
Assistant Secretary

Read the Bible – it's user friendly plus we offer tech support in Church on Sundays at 11am

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Charles Gordon Mallett
Edward Rye
Eleanor Jackson
Isabella Fisher
Henry Brandon
Mary Brandon
Anne Robson
Jack Pearson
Peggy Pearson
Hughina Simpson

Winifred Charlton
Winifred Emily Rye
Edith Robson
Joan Mary Forster
Joy Adamson
William Malcolm Dickinson
Alec William Skee
Sheila Hartley
Fiona Wright
Olive Fisher



Autumn

The patchwork quilt of sunlight on the lawn is paler now.
The shadows of the trees are softer too.
The golden leaves drift down, carpeting the grass,
The evenings are shorter, the mornings darker.
The days cooler, clothes warmer.

Tony Hyett

A play on words

I'm sure I wasn't taught this in school!

- Someone posted they had just baked some synonym buns. I replied, "You mean just like the ones grammar used to make?"
- English is the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital.
- When you transport something by car it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo.
- You can't run through a campsite. You can only ran since it's past tents.
- There was once a king who was only 12 inches tall. Terrible king, but made a great ruler.

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

Weekly prayers and lectionary readings from the URC



6	World Homeless Day (10th).	Job 1.1; 2.1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12 Mark 10.2-16
13	Giving thanks for Local and Lay Preachers. Lay Preaching Advocate: Dr Ann Sinclair. Learning and Development Officer: Lucy Cooke. Mission & Discipleship Committee, Convenor: Revd Sally Bateman. The blessing of retired ministers and lay leaders.	Job 23.1-9,16-17 Psalm 22.1-15 Hebrews 4.12-16 Mark 10.17-31
20	Chuches: St Margaret's, South Shields; Roker and Stockton Road; Minister: Revd Jane Rowell.	Job 38.1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104.1-9,24,35c Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45
27	Mission Projects: Keld Resource Centre, Mrs Helen Guy and the Management Group. Holy Island and the Management Group, Convenor: Sheila Duncan.	Job 38.1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104.1-9,24,35c Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45

October Rota

*It's a new academic year
for some and a new rota
for others*



ELDERS	Vestry Reception Communion	Hazel Hall Ann Hammond Carole Mallett
STEWARDS	Vestibule Finance	Celia Purves Pat Wardle
Tuesday 1st	Prayers	Geoff Mills
Sunday 6th	Organ Readers Prayers	Helen Storey Ray Hammond; Ann Hammond Carole Moore
Tuesday 8th	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Sunday 13th	Organ Readers Prayers	Helen Storey Kathleen Hopper; Catriona Fenwick Ann Hammond
Tuesday 15th	Prayers	Sue Ames
Sunday 20th	Organ Readers Prayers	Paul Hartley Hazel Hall; Alison Mood Sandra Pine
Tuesday 22nd	Prayers	Ann Sinclair
Sunday 27th	Organ Readers Prayers	Alex Geoff Mills; Carole Mallett Val Taylor
Tuesday 29th	Prayers	Carole Mallett

October Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 27th October.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 21st October.**

Church Calendar for October

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.

Tuesday	1	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Friday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	5	Art Exhibition	10.00 am
Sunday	6	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders.	11.00 am
		Evening Worship – joint service with St Columba’s at St Andrew’s	6.30 pm
Monday	7	Fifty Eight Society restarts – ‘Peter Sellers: fortune, films and family’	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
		Worship Group Meeting (in person AND via Zoom)	7.00 pm
Friday	11	Film Club – ‘Topsy-Turvy’	2.00 pm
Saturday	12	Afternoon Tea hosted by the Quakers	2.30 pm
Sunday	13	Morning Worship; Mrs Helen Cooper	11.00 am
Tuesday	15	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Saturday	19	Concert by Newcastle Concert Band	7.30 pm
Sunday	20	‘Let’s Sing’ – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Mrs Hannah Middleton	11.00 am
Monday	21	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	22	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Saturday	26	Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	27	Communion Service: Mrs Valerie Taylor	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Trevor Jamison	11.00 am
Tuesday	29	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
NOVEMBER 2024			
Friday	1	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	2	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	3	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

An alternative prayer for Harvest

Praise and thanksgiving as we celebrate our plenty and give thanks for our food. Father we praise you for all you have done and for all you have given.

For shelves that are laden and cupboards that are full.

For food available, varied, and affordable for taste and for flavour, for a healthy appetite and the means to satisfy it.

We thank and praise you for provider and producer, God and farmer working together in harmony. For all in the food chain from field to factory, retailer to consumer, each one depending on the others. Creator and sustainer of all, we thank and praise you.

For our countryside, fertile, diverse and beautiful, supplying so much of what we need; our food, our water, crops for industry, energy and medicine.

Source of our leisure, relaxation, and renewal. Creator and sustainer of all, we thank and praise you.

Amen.

