NEWSTAND THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Remember the fallen, and also the peacemakers

Volume 90 Issue 11 — November 2024

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk









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Musing from the Manse

"Blessed are the peacemakers..."

September 1 Agriculture 1 Agri

This photo of poppies growing from a crack in the pavement was taken by me a few weeks ago in the street where I live. They greeted me every time I drove into the street, often listening to news on the car radio of terrible atrocities occurring in wars and conflict around the world.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, we take time to pause and reflect on the great sacrifices made by men and women throughout history in defence of our freedom. It is a time when we, as a church and community, come together to honour those who have served in conflicts past and present, and be thankful that 'for our tomorrow's, they gave their todays'.

Remembrance is more than just a historical observance; it is an act of gratitude. When we wear our poppies, stand in silence, or attend a service, we do so acknowledging the price of peace and the courage of those who fought to secure it and as Christians, we are called to remember with compassion and hope, and to pray for a world where such sacrifices are no longer necessary.

This year, as we stand in silence, let us also remember the families who carry the weight of loss and the veterans who still bear the scars of war. Our prayers go out also to them, that they may find comfort, healing, and peace.

But let us also reflect on how we can contribute to peace in our own lives. In a world still very much at war, and marked by conflict and division, we are reminded of Jesus' call to be peacemakers, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

I pray that our remembrance inspires us to work for justice, reconciliation, love and peace in both our community and the wider world. That there will be an end to hatred, violence and destruction, where we will learn to walk in step with one another, and with God.

As we gather this Remembrance Sunday, let us hold onto hope. The sacrifices of the past call us to build a future of peace, grounded in faith and unity. We honour the fallen not only with our words, but with our commitment to live out the love and peace they fought to preserve.

Louise

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning – Saturday 2nd November, 10 am – 12 noon

Now that the weather is somewhat cooler these monthly Coffee Mornings provide an opportunity to meet with friends over a cup of coffee in a warm atmosphere. All are welcome.

coffee and light lunches will be served. More details elsewhere in Newstand. Contributions to the stalls can be left at the church during the day on Friday 15th November or collection can be arranged (tel. 252 3319 or 07866 690604).

Film Club - Friday 8th November, 2.00 pm.

This month we will be showing the award winning film *The Holdovers (15)*. It's a bittersweet American comedy drama set in the 1970s and follows a curmudgeonly classics teacher who is forced to remain on campus during the Christmas break to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go.



Poetry Evening – Saturday 23rd November, 7 pm

We have another opportunity either to take part or just listen to a wide variety of poems while enjoying a glass of wine or soft drink. If you haven't been before and perhaps think poetry is not for you, why not come along and give it a try? Tickets are available at £5 (including wine/soft drinks and nibbles).

Church Fair – Saturday 16th November, 10 am – 2 pm

This is the main community activity for St Andrew's and we look forward to seeing lots of folk at the Fair. Do come along, if you can, to browse and hopefully buy from the various stalls. During the day refreshments of

Dates for the diary:

- Coffee Morning Saturday 7th December
- Film Club Friday 13th December

Ann Hammond

Prayers at Home

Bringing ourselves together in a moment of peace

'Be still and know that I am God! '
Psalm 46:10

Opening Words

Lord, in this time and this space we come before You in a season of remembering.

This is the time and the space in which we come to focus on You.

This is the time and the space in which we seek Your presence and remember. Let us be aware of Your love.

Help us to be still as we come before You. **AMEN**

In a prayer of Confession

Lord, in the stillness we ask Your forgiveness for promises we have broken and promises we have failed to make.

Lord, in the stillness, cleanse and renew us in the forgiveness, freedom and joy of your grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

AMEN

In an Assurance of Forgiveness

God of love and mercy, in the stillness may the God who knows us and loves us, and who gave his Son to save us, forgive us for our failure and keep our feet in the way that leads to life and our hearts and minds open to God's limitless love.

AMEN



A prayer for Remembrance

Lord, with thankfulness we show respect for the past,

we give thanks for those who made sacrifices, and the freedom for which they fought.

We give thanks for heroism, for lives given to save others, and remember devastating loss as we stand together in hope for the future.

As we reflect today on the horrors of the past that continue to haunt humanity and darken our world we pray for those today who live in violent surroundings, devastation and fear.

We give thanks for those who serve in seeking peace.

Bring us to one another, in the name of the love You hold for all people, all nations and all creation.

AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

In the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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

AMEN

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious and loving God, we pray for all who need God's stillness in their lives.
For those who live in violent surroundings; for children growing up with no sense of peace in their lives; for refugees fleeing their homelands and risking their lives to find a welcome in a foreign land.

Gracious and loving God, we ask Your blessing on the peace-makers and all involved in practical loving care to all those who are in great danger and need.

Gracious and loving God, we pray for all who need God's stillness in their lives.

We pray for those who are crying out in pain; for those who are anxious for their loved ones and for those who carry the weight of care.

Gracious God, we ask Your blessing on all who give their support and care in times of need.

Gracious and loving God, in the stillness of this time, though our prayers may be small and weak, may those for whom we pray hear Your eternal Word and feel Your love and strength.

May the peace that passes understanding reach out from within us to embrace all those in need. We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Blessing

In the stillness, let us allow God, to nourish us, to strengthen us, and to renew us through Jesus Christ who gave his life for us.

AMEN

Ann Sinclair

Inspiration: David Clowes 500 Prayers for The Christian Year; Seasons & Celebrations Donald Hilton

Church Meeting

Sunday 17th November 2024

The next church meeting is scheduled to take place during coffee following the service on Sunday 17th November 2024..

The agenda for the meeting will be posted up the previous week. It will include an election of Elders

Ray Hammond

Sanctuary

Thoughts from Tom Gordon of Swallowsnestnet

"Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence."

Max Ehrmann, Desiderata (1927)

In a recent all-age worship service, our worship leader was focussing on the story of the stilling of the storm in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus brought the wind and waves under control with his "Peace! Be still!" command. But, she suggested, that was also aimed at the disciples. They needed to find peace and calmness too in the midst of the raging storm of their fears. "So," she asked, "where is your go-to place to find calmness in your life?" "Where, indeed?" I thought ...

Later in the day, I was watching Songs of Praise on TV and a segment from Cornwall caught my attention. With so many small, rural churches threatened with complete closure, a retired C of E priest, Canon Pat Robinson, has found a way to put them to good use. She has been instrumental in creating a network of over a hundred churches called "Celtic Quiet Places" (see https://celticquietplaces.com) each of which is open for a few hours at a time, staffed by willing and caring volunteers.

These are places of peace, calm, and sanctuary.



"I was prompted to set up the network," she told a reporter, "After an encounter with a young man in the Church of St Just in Gorran Haven on Cornwall's south coast. He had left his young family on the beach and was anxious, in debt and hadn't told his wife. I asked if there was anythina I could do, and he said no, 'Just let the church hug me'. It was a response that said it all. These are churches founded by ancient saints, searching out quiet places to be alone with God. Over hundreds of years, they've become steeped in love and prayer. They can offer sanctuary to anyone who needs it. So many people are stressed and need a place where they can walk in and spend time. Some people are frightened of going into churches, so it's about trying to make them as

So, as I seek to answer my worshipleader's question about my go-to place for peace, calm and sanctuary, will I be heading to a Celtic Quiet

accessible as possible."

Place in Cornwall? No, I don't think so. But will I be seeking out a place of calmness in my life, sanctuary closer to home? You bet I will.

Today, this is my promise – I will seek sanctuary, and I will find rest in my Lord.

© Tom Gordon https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com

St Andrew's Church, Eastfield Ave, Monkseaton

Saturday, 16th November 10.00 - 2.00

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sweets Dreserves

Cakes oric-a-brac

scarves Refreshments books



christmas gifts









Lunchtime Services in Advent

Spiritual and physical nourishment for the season

Advent Friday Lunchtime Services at 12.30 pm followed by soup and a roll – all welcome! There are four of them: 29th November, 6th December, 13th December, 20th December.

"My prayer for us this Advent is that we use the time we have been given in this season to look forward with hope to the kingdom which God is preparing for us – a kingdom of righteousness, justice and peace,



where our tears have no place because the King of Love has wiped them all away, where the transformation first began by a baby born in a stable, is finally and completely realised and the world unites to sing." – A quote from a book "Journeying thro' Advent"..

I look forward to seeing you!

Valerie Taylor

The Harvest Coffee Morning raised £216, which, together with all the gifts generously given at our Harvest Festival service, was donated to The People's Kitchen

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The September draw took place on 6th October when the Rev. Louise Sanders drew the following numbers:

1)	No 87	Beryl Thompson	£123.00
2)	No 6	Ann Sinclair	£61.50
3)	No 36	Pat Robson	£20.50

With £205 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

Bible

Crafts

Crafts

Stories

Tea, Coffee, and
Cake, plus drinks

Christian focus

Children

Fee Play

Per session

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



Catherine Wheels

How Saint Catherine of Alexandria inspired a firework

If you've ever had a small firework display in your garden you have probably nailed a Catherine wheel to a post in the hope that once lit it will rotate and emit starry sparks from a wonderful spiral of light. But they can be a bit temperamental!

The firework is named after St. Catherine of Alexandria, from the 4th century whose feast day is celebrated by some denominations on 25th November and who was condemned to death on a wheel.

She was of noble birth and was well educated. Around the age of 14 she converted to Christianity after a vision of the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, describing her decision as "becoming the bride of Christ". (This term is still used by Christian nuns to denote their status and by the wearing of a wedding ring; as well as the Biblical term for the whole church in the book of Revelation).

Persecutions of Christians began under the emperor Maxentius and Catherine went to him and rebuked him for his cruelty. He summoned 50 of his cleverest philosophers to argue with her but in the end it was the philosophers who converted. (They were immediately executed). He ordered her to be thrown into prison



Saint Catherine of Alexandria (Caravaggio) from Wikipedia 'Catherine of Alexandria'

and tortured. However, many people came to visit her and were converted to Christianity. Maxentius then tried to win her over by proposing marriage, which she refused, declaring her spouse was Jesus Christ. He was furious and condemned her to an agonising death on a spiked breaking wheel, but before the torture could begin the wheel shattered when she touched it. This was generally interpreted as God's intervention. Maxentius finally ordered for her to be beheaded.

Her relics were supposedly found at the foot of Mount Sinai in the year 800 and it became the site of St Catherine's monastery, a popular medieval pilgrimage site. She was deemed the most important of the virgin martyrs. Much of the story is legendary as the earliest surviving account of Catherine's life comes 600 years after her martyrdom, her symbol being the spiked wheel.

Catherine is considered to be the patron saint of students, unmarried girls and apologists amongst others. Many places have been named after her, including Colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, (the latter was founded on St Catherine's Day for a small community of scholars who would

exclusively study theology and philosophy). In England 62 churches have been dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. She features in many works of art as well as being remembered during November by the firework named after her.

Sally Churchus via Association for Church Editors

Food glorious food

Donations welcomed for Church Fair

The catering committee is planning the food for the Church Fair and would be very grateful for offers of help with home baking.



We would also appreciate items or donations towards the sandwich fillings, and help on the day, for which there is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.

Barbara Watson

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.

The right state of mind

Some thoughts on gratitude and remembrance

Melody Beattie, author of self-help books, says this: 'Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.'

And from John F Kenney: 'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.'

'We sleep peaceably in our beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf,' – **George Orwell**

'The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.' – **Benjamin Disraeli**

'The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.'

– G K Chesterton

'You may hate the war, but never hate the ones that fight. For they do not choose when or where to fight. All they chose was to protect who they love and even the people they don't know.' – **Millie**



Piglet, Winnie-the-Pooh's best friend, observed 'that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.'

Gratitude is a state of mind that comes from our spirit and is a combination of wonder, appreciation, and the readiness to respond by saying thank you, which itself is an act of returning kindness to someone else.

When someone says thank you to you, you are usually left with a nice warm feeling that whatever you did to deserve it was appreciated. Rabbi Harold Kusner says this about that warm feeling: 'If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.'

How much better would our world be today if more people took the time to nurture the souls of others by simply saying thank you!

Via Association for Church Editors

Time to stir things up

The origin of this tradition's name isn't what you think

Stir-up Sunday is the informal term in Catholic and Anglican churches for the last Sunday before the season of Advent, and falls on 24th November this year. The day does not actually get its name from 'stirring the pudding', it gets its name from the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The Collect for the day which begins with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen". It was supposed to reinforce the significance of this day as forming part of the preparation for the season of Advent. However, since Victorian times it has become associated with the lovely custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding. Most recipes for Christmas pudding require it to be cooked well in advance of Christmas and then re-heated on Christmas Day, so the Collect of the day served as a useful reminder.



The Christmas pudding is said to have been introduced to Britain by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. However, it is thought that a version of the pudding was actually introduced from Germany by George I in 1714.

Traditionally, families gather together in the kitchen to mix and steam Christmas pudding on Stir-up Sunday. Everyone takes a turn to stir the pudding mix- which is hard work, however, nowadays most British children have never experienced stirring the Christmas pudding mix, reflecting consumers' preference for ready-made puddings widely available in the shops.

In recent years, most provinces of the Anglican Communion now observe this Sunday as Christ the King.

Sally Churchus via Association for Church Editors

As you grow older, make sure you don't regret the chances you didn't take, the relationships you were afraid to have, and the decisions you waited too long to take.

58 Society schedule

Interesting talks on interesting subjects

The new session has started well with several new members joining. We have had interesting talks and enjoyed fellowship.

The talks in November are-

4th Quakerism: Light to live by

Ian Thompson



18th Victorian Tynemouth Keiran - Ann Keilty

Meetings start at 7.30pm. Do come you will be very welcome.

> Catriona Fenwick **Assistant Secretary**

News of a former Junior Church member

Adding to his degree in Criminology, Daniel Sinclair has gained a Masters Degree in Criminology. Well done Dan!

> **Ann Sinclair** (Grandmother & listener)

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Alexander McPhee

Elsie Marston Mallett

George Albert Winton

Frnest Frank Merrick

Albert Briaht

Captain Jack Young

Jessie Winton

William Caldwell

Kenneth Hooper

Thomas Pallister

William Johnstone Garven

Angela Greenwood Lopez

Jennifer Buckle

Dorothy Joan Jackson

Dorothy June Paul

Joan Clarkin

Dorothy Lowdon

Mavis Doreen Brown

Derek Stembridae

Barbara Joan Coulson

Audrey Manderville

Film Night!

Monday 18th November At St Columba's URC 7:15pm

You are invited to come along and watch the film "It's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart and Donna Reid.

This is an opportunity to watch the film ahead of the planned Advent Discussion Groups and whether or not you plan to attend the discussion groups, you are welcome to come and watch the film and enjoy an evening of fellowship.

Tea and coffee will be served and you are invited to bring snacks and refreshments to share.



If you like that ↑ You might like this ↓



Join us for a 4 week Advent Discussion Group 'To Live Again' Led by Trevor Jamison & Louise Sanders

Choose a day or venue that suits you and come along when or where you can. Feel free to mix and match the venue or time that suits your schedule.

St Andrew's URC Monkseaton: Mondays at 2pm

Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th, and 16th

Online Zoom: Mondays from 7.15pm

Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th, and 16th

St Columba's URC North Shields: Thursdays at 7.15pm

Nov 28th, Dec 5th, 12th, and 19th

For more information please contact either:
Rev Trevor Jamison: minister.northshieldsURC@gmail.com
Rev Louise Sanders: louise.sanders208@gmail.com 07537 848492
Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 822 0502 4613 Passcode: 560211

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

Weekly prayers and lectionary readings from the URC



3	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.	Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Proper 26 Year B Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9.11 -14; Mark 12.28-34
10	Remembrance Sunday.	Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Proper 27 Year B Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 12.38-44
17	Churches: Waddington Street, Durham; Bethel, Chester-le-Street; Christ Church, Stanley; Cromer Avenue; Denewell Avenue; Minister: Revd Marcus Hargis.	Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Proper 28 Year B 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10.11-14(15-18)19-25; Mark 13.1-8
24	Those retiring from ministry and those considering ministry. Candidating Secretary: Revd Dr David Whiting. EM2 Revd Stuart Brock. Leading your church into growth LYCIG.	Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Christ the King Year B Daniel 7.9-10,13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

November Rota

Remember, remember... your duties in November and don't be the one that forgot!



ELDERS	Vestry	Bill Hopper
	D 12	Lastin Ossal

Reception Iain Ord

Communion Carole Mallett

STEWARDS Vestibule 3rd Valerie Thompson, Alison Mood

10th Marilyn Walton, Geoff Mills17th Carole Mallett, Celia Purves24th Carole Mallett, Kathleen Hopper

Finance Jenny Hooper

Sunday 3rd Organ Helen Storey

Readers Jennifer Fleetham, Mary Christopher

Prayers Hazel Hall

Tuesday 5th Prayers Ann Sinclair

Sunday 10th Organ Helen

Readers Ann Stembridge, Susan Anderson

Prayers Chris Hales

Tuesday 12th Prayers Carole Mallett

Sunday 17th Organ Paul Hartley

Readers Jean Jackson, Tim Cooke

Prayers Carole Moore

Tuesday 19th Prayers Sandra Pine

Sunday 24th Organ Alex

Readers Iain Ord, Joan Blanchfield

Prayers Ann Hammond

Tuesday 26th Prayers Una Ketteridge

December Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 24th November.

Please have contributions to Tim **by 18th November**.

Church Calendar for November

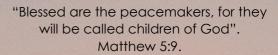
Sunday services are streamed via YouTube for those not able to attend in person or just to watch again in your own time (search for "monkseatonurc"). Following Sunday morning worship, refreshments are served in the Main Hall.

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10 am followed by Open Door Coffee Morning. **Open Door Coffee Morning:** Thursday 10.30 am - Noon.

Saturday	2	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	3	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	4	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
		Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	5	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Friday 8		Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Film Club – 'The Holdovers'	2.00 pm
Sunday	10	Remembrance & Parade Service; Revd Kim Plumpton (Moderator of Northern Synod) NOTE TIME	10.45 am
Tuesday	12	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
		Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Thursday	14	Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Saturday	16	Church Fair	10.00 am
Sunday	Sunday 17 'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson		10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders CHURCH MEETING AFTER SERVICE	11.00 am
Monday	18	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	22	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Sunday	24	Communion Service: Revd Pat Wardle	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Tuesday	26	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
		DECEMBER 2024	
Sunday	1	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	2	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	3	Gentle Exercise Class	11.00 am
Friday	6	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Saturday	7	Coffee Morning	10.00 am

Pause in this moment

A place for prayers, thoughts and poems



Peace-loving God, on this Remembrance Sunday your church remembers all who have fallen in war; those who re-live war daily through injury or broken spirit, those left behind, grieving for a loved one.

And as we remember,
we pray for those who seek peace:
for those who are good negotiators
working with dedication and persistence;
going the extra mile for peace.
We pray for peace.
But also...
help us to find new ways
of addressing aggression;
constructive ways
of challenging harsh regimes,
seeking justice
as well as peace.

Martin Hazell (from Opening Doors, URC 2014 Prayer Handbook)