



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Eckehard Jögdemann / Pixabay

As the robin welcomes winter,
so we welcome Christmas

Volume 90 Issue 12 — December 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 Gift of Waiting:

Embracing Advent's Quiet Grace

I have been trying to hide from the rather fast approaching Advent Season, not because I don't enjoy it, but because I know that my diary is the busiest it is all year! The season of waiting just feels a bit like the season of doing unfortunately!

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, waiting might seem like the last thing anyone wants to do. Our calendars fill with events, our to-do lists grow longer, and we rush from one task to the next. Yet Advent, the season of preparation before Christmas, calls us to pause and embrace the gift of waiting.

Advent is a time of anticipation, echoing the centuries of longing for the Messiah. It invites us to step away from the noise and rest in quiet expectation. While the world demands immediacy, Advent reminds us that some of the best gifts are revealed in their own time. Waiting shapes us; it builds patience, deepens our hope, and helps us reflect on what truly matters.

Waiting can be difficult, but it offers an opportunity to encounter God in stillness. Think of Mary, who awaited the birth of her child with both wonder and uncertainty. Her quiet faith teaches us that waiting is not passive but active trust in God's promises. Similarly, we can use this time to prepare our hearts—through prayer, reflection, and acts of

Kindness — so we can fully receive the joy of Christmas.

In a culture that often equates value with productivity, Advent reminds us that we are not defined by what we do but by who we are in God's eyes. The waiting itself is a gift, offering space to slow down, savour the moment, and recognize God's presence in our everyday lives.

This Advent, let's resist the urge to rush through the season. Instead, let's lean into the waiting, finding peace in the quiet and hope in the promise of what's to come. After all, Christmas is not just about gifts under the tree but the gift of Christ's presence in our hearts. In waiting well, we prepare to receive the greatest gift of all.

As we journey through Advent, may we discover that the waiting is not a burden but a blessing — a sacred pause that deepens the joy of Christmas morning.

*Blessings,
Louise*



Image by Freepik

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Church Fair

Many thanks to all who gave so willingly of their time and effort in preparing for the Fair and for all the help in setting up and clearing away. As always, St Andrew's teamwork comes up trumps!

Also a big thank you to all who came to the Fair, supported the various stalls and enjoyed St. Andrew's renowned refreshments. It was a very happy and sociable occasion. Thanks to all the hard work and support over £3,700 was raised for church funds and charity. We are also very grateful once again to Gary Staker (our local Funeral Director at William Purves) for his contribution by way of an excellent raffle.

Film Club

Friday 13th December, 2.00 pm.

The film this month is *Thelma* (12). When 93 year old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her. Based on a real life experience *Thelma* is an 'action comedy' unlike any other – exploring family, friendship and ageing.

Coffee Morning

**Saturday 7th December,
10 am to 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.

Dates for the diary:

Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th January 2025

Film Club

Friday 10th January 2025

Ann Hammond



Prayers at Home

*Bringing ourselves together
in a moment of peace*

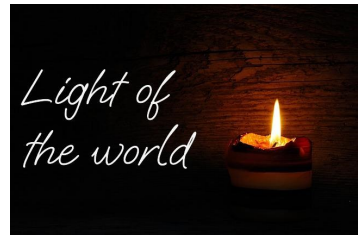
*Advent...telling us to be still,
listen and let go and wonder.
Ruth Burgess*

Opening Words

Loving and gracious God,
before us, beside us, within us,
there is no place without You;
help us to recognise Your presence
in the dark places,
the quiet places
and the difficult places of our lives.
Loving and gracious God
open our hearts to Your presence
where You meet us and hold us.
You listen to our prayers God,
our longings, our concerns,
our questions.
Be in us God, in our work, our journeys
and our wonderings.
You are the source of all hope,
You make all things new,
let Your light shine on us
in the darkness
and Your love be born again in us
with new life. **AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, You are the One who
sees all we do and fail to do;
the One who hears what we say,
and what we don't say.
Loving God forgive us;
help us to be patient
and observant;



Petra / Pixabay (altered)

help us in the quiet moments
or challenged by the glaring needs of
human life to feel Your love;
that You come closer to us,
to guide and inspire,
challenge and comfort us,
guide us into Your light. **AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Loving God,
thank You for lifting us up when we fall
and fail.
May we see Your glory which shines
through all darkness.
Help us to have the courage to testify
to Your love, in what we say and in
how we live, in our own lives and in
Your troubled world.
Loving God,
Your Light breaks into our lives,
Renew us and make us whole
to see the path, You have prepared
for us, that we may we speak Your
word of truth
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

*Rev'd. Dr. Elizabeth Welch Retired Minister St
Andrew's Ealing from Dail Devotions 17.11.2024
and amended.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven ... The
power and the glory for ever and
ever. **AMEN***

Prayers of Intercession

Come, Lord Jesus, into the darkness of our world right now; A world where there is injustice, racial tension and wars, in a world where so many people lack the basics of food and clean water.

Come, Lord Jesus, into the uncertain future of migrants who risk everything to escape atrocities yet know that they could still end up paying with their lives.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our communities, where many are struggling with redundancy and debt and food banks have become a lifeline for those in need.

Come, Lord Jesus, into the darkness of our cities, where greed and discrimination make misery in people's lives.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our lives and into the lives of those for whom we are concerned. Bring comfort to the bereaved and to those struggling to cope with life on their own.

Come, Lord Jesus, we ask for reassurance where there is fear, and confidence where there is doubt; wherever people are hurting, come and let Your light shine. **AMEN**

Blessing

Lord the light of Your love is shining. You are our Alpha and Omega.

Let Your face shine on us.

Let Your love be born in us.

Bless us with new life. **AMEN**

Ann Sinclair

*Inspiration: Ruth Burgess,
Thomas Shuman & Donald Hilton
and amended.*

Which is correct, Xmas or Christmas?

Well, the answer is both really. Surprisingly, the shortened version of 'Christmas', i.e., the word 'Xmas' began as an abbreviation for church records and charts. X is the Greek symbol 'chi', which is the first letter of the word 'Christ'. Therefore, X stands for Christ. For the early Christians, most of whom spoke and wrote Greek, the word 'Xmas' signified 'Christ's Mass'. The shortening of 'Christmas' to 'Xmas' has been a common practice

since at least the 16th Century. The correct pronunciation for the word 'Xmas' is 'Christmas', the same as if the word was written out in full. Xmas is not ex-mas!

Some people are unhappy with the abbreviation, thinking that the letter X is a secular replacement and is crossing Christ out. However, this is not the case if it is used in the original context. Although there is increasing secularization of Christmas, knowing the above, the X in Xmas can still remind us of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

Newness

Thoughts from Tom Gordon of Swallowsnestnet



Couleur / Underhill / Pixabay

*“He who is seated on the throne said:
‘I am making everything new.’
Then he said: ‘Write this down,
for these words are trustworthy
and true.’”*

Revelation of St John the Divine, 21:5

A friend shared this interesting story with me a little while ago.

One Communion Sunday in my church [in typical Presbyterian fashion, on one of the few Sundays in a year at which the Eucharist is celebrated] we made the bread in the kitchen before worship. I was handed a loaf, straight from the Bread Machine, to bless and break for the Sacrament. As I did so, a cloud of steam escaped from the broken loaf. That was a moment when I truly realised it was Jesus' warm, living body which died on the cross. As the bread was passed round members of the congregation, each cradled their piece in their hands, obviously equally moved by the experience, as if they were holding the warmth of Jesus close to themselves.

Surprising? Yes, indeed! A revelation? That too. Fanciful? Perhaps. Worth thinking about? All of that. But this story took me in a different direction. For my friend's wonderful metaphor reminded me of St John's words in the Book of Revelation, quoted above: “I

am making everything new”, or as they are in the King James Version of the bible, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

In the warm bread, there was newness, with steam rising from it, pervading the Sanctuary of that church, and touching the lives of everyone present. Here was bread, so newly baked, you could see the steam rise. Here was bread, so fresh it was still warm to the touch. Here was bread, as you'd never seen it, or held it, or tasted it before.

In all the changes we face, particularly in Church life, isn't there a lesson here? The living Love of God is a blessedness that is never stale, but is always fresh. The living presence of our Lord is as close to us as to be warm to the touch. The living holiness of the Spirit rises to fill our churches and bless God's receptive people. “Behold, I am making all things new,” we are told. Are we open to that newness? Do we value that freshness? Can we see the steam rise over us, even now?

A prayer for today

“Trustworthy and true”? That's the living presence of God, that's for sure!

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

Also available at

<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>

An alternative walk around Newcastle

African lives in the North East

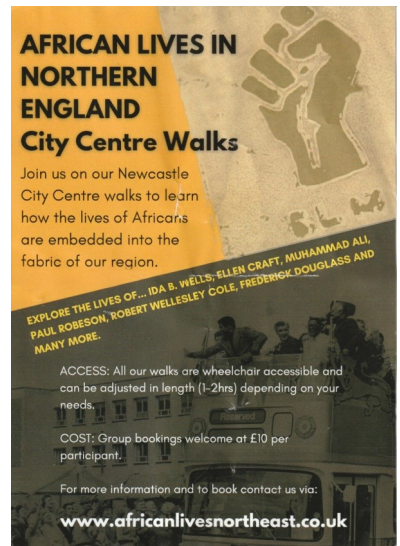
At the beginning of November, I joined with a group of 10 people from a number of United Reformed Churches around Northern Synod for a walk around Newcastle—a walk to learn how people from Africa, Trinidad and the Caribbean embedded their lives into the fabric of this region. The walk was led by Northern Synod Racial Justice Advocate and Chair of North East England African & Caribbean Association, Mrs Pat Poinen.

Starting from the City Baths the walk took around two hours at a gentle pace stopping at particular points of interest that brought to life the history of those from Africa, Trinidad and the Caribbean who came to the North East. Some came to train as doctors, midwives and nurses, while others studied at Newcastle University and later taught and inspired others here in the North East and in their homelands in subject areas such as medicine and agriculture. Other people passed through the city and surrounding areas that included merchant seamen, spending short periods of time on leave from their ship, entertainers, a world class singer and similarly a world class boxer. During the walk we visited a sculpture tucked and locked away in the

university grounds and a memorial... hidden in full sight—you have to know where to look. It was an interesting walk listening to our guides of a hidden history of Newcastle, we walked around parts of the city that we probably knew well but had not recognised the history we walked through. Details of the walks are given below.

Ann Sinclair

African Lives Northern England offer two City Centre walks, one in the city centre and the other in the north of the city, led by our own team of guides. The walks are ideal for groups, wheelchair accessible and can be adjusted in length (1-2hrs) depending on your needs. To book please contact the organisation via their website,
<https://www.africanlivesnortheast.co.uk>



Stuck for present ideas?

Perhaps it's time to give a more useful alternative to that gift



monika-stawowy / Junsplash

Before you buy a bunch of "stuff" for family and friends this Christmas, try asking them what they really NEED.

Maybe they need help with a utility bill, or a car payment, or the rent.

Maybe they need a kid-free night and could use a free babysitter.

Maybe they need a night off of cooking and could use a homemade meal.

Maybe they need help with fuel for their car.

Maybe they need a night out with friends.

Maybe they need a cup of coffee, and someone to just listen.

Maybe they need help making the holidays bright for their children.

Maybe they need help in some other way, but they either don't know how to ask for help or are embarrassed to ask.

Maybe YOU could be the one to give them what they really need this season, rather than just more "stuff".

Tim (found on Facebook)

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The October draw took place on 27th October when Beryl Thompson drew the following numbers:

1)	No 58	Barbara Withycombe	£123.00
2)	No 52	Celia Purves	£61.50
3)	No 37	Gillian Heads	£20.50

With £205 going to Church Funds.

Kathleen Hopper



Abbie Fyre / Pixabay

Church Calendar for December

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.

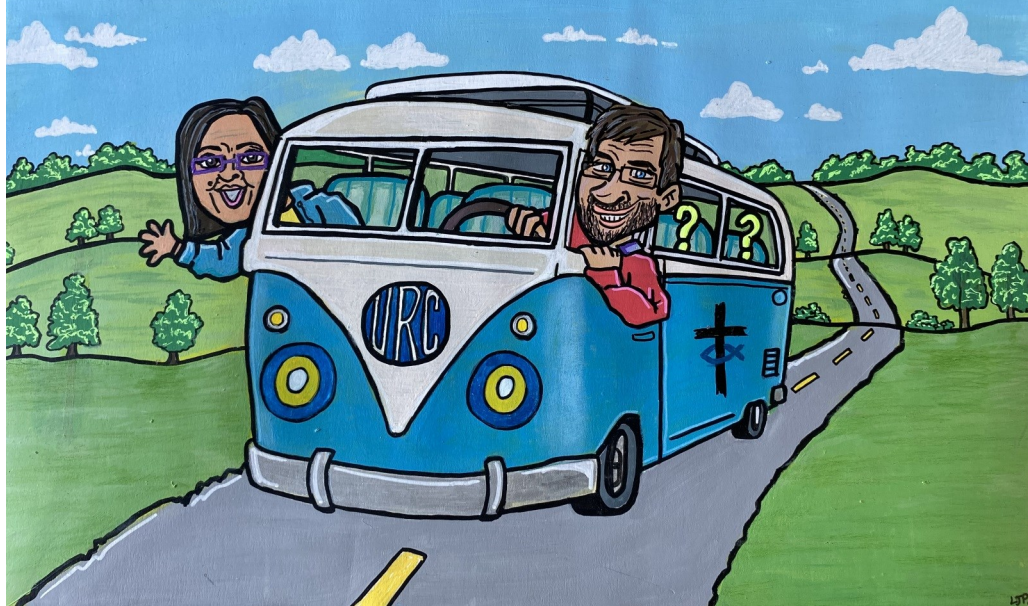
Sunday	1	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	2	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
		Fifty Eight Society – 'Awake, sleep and dreams'	7.30 pm
Thursday	5	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Friday	6	Songs & Stories (for babies and children up to 4 years)	9.30 am
		Lunchtime Advent Service, followed by soup and roll; Mrs Valerie Taylor	12.30 pm
Saturday	7	Coffee Morning	10.00 am
Sunday	8	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Monday	9	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
		Fifty Eight Society Christmas meal <u>7.00 for</u>	7.30 pm
Wednesday	11	Christingle Service; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Thursday	12	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Friday	13	Songs & Stories (for babies and children up to 4 years)	9.30 am
		Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
		Lunchtime Advent Service, followed by soup and roll; Mrs Valerie Taylor	12.30 pm
		Film Club – 'Thelma'	2.00 pm
		Elders meet at the Manse	7.00 pm
Sunday	15	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Nativity Service with Uniformed Organisations; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am



Monday	16	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Community Carol Service; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
Thursday	19	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Friday	20	Songs & Stories (for babies and children up to 4 years)	9.30 am
		Lunchtime Advent Service, followed by soup and roll; Mrs Valerie Taylor	12.30 pm
Saturday	21	Ecumenical service outside Ship Inn, Monkseaton	4.00 pm
		Longest Night Service; The Cooke Family	7.00 pm
Sunday	22	Communion Service; Mrs Valerie Taylor	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Tuesday	24	Carols by Candlelight; Revd Louise Sanders (Refreshments from 11.00 pm)	11.30 pm
Wednesday	25	Christmas Day Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	10.30 am
Sunday	29	Morning Worship; Worship Group	11.00 am
JANUARY 2025			
Saturday	4	Coffee Morning	10.00am
Sunday	5	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	6	Fifty Eight Society – 'Films are my hobby'	7.30 pm

The calendar should be back in its usual place next month — there's just too much to fit in on one page!

SYNOD ON TOUR



Coming soon to a church near you...

Save the date!

2025

10th May - St James's, Newcastle

31st May - St George's, Hartlepool

21st June - St Aidan's, Hexham

2026

Sunderland, Morpeth

Alnwick, Darlington

First impressions

Our new rep reports on their first Synod meeting



I just wanted to say a few words about the Northern Synod. This was my first time attending this meeting. I was wondering about the meaning of the word Synod. Its origin came from the Greek word *Synodus* — “Syn” meaning meeting and “Hodus” meaning road or way.

So in the Christian church Synod is a meeting of Ministers, Lay Preachers and church members; the first reported meeting goes way back to the 2nd century.

On entering the URC church in Darlington we were warmly welcomed and it was good to see so many people there from all over the North East ranging from the borders of Scotland right down to Guisborough and beyond. Some who had attended the Synod meetings for years, and those of us just new: “*Pro Christo et Ecclesia*” (For Christ and the Church). It was good to hear from other churches about various initiatives they are doing to reach out to their communities, i.e., warm welcome spaces, reaching out in pubs, school work, Labyrinth garden schemes and walking groups, open door coffee mornings and breakfast clubs, and coffee vans for the homeless people.

It was wonderful to hear from the Youth Opportunities team about the job opportunities for young people aged 16-25 within the URC. There was a group of young people who opened our meeting with songs and playing of piano, drums and guitar. The young people also took part in our discussion groups full of ideas so good to see the enthusiasm.

It was good to hear about the youth group pioneer leaders just recently appointed, one in Newcastle and one in North Tyneside. We wish them every success in whatever their visions are.

Of course I must mention the wonderful buffet lunch and all the refreshments provided.

Any member of the church is invited to the Northern Synod so please think about it for next year.

Sandra Pine

Longest Night Service

Remembering those we have loved and lost at Christmas



Christmas time can be difficult when we have sadness in our life. We can feel disconnected from the joy and happiness of the festivities, or can have a sense of loss or emptiness. In a season of great joy, there seems to be little space for sadness and grief.

The Longest Night Service (also known as a “Blue Christmas” service) is an opportunity to come together in a simple, reflective service to remember those known to us who have died, and to recognise our sadness and our loss. Whether that be a recent bereavement – or one long past – we remember those dear to us and take time to be in God’s presence in our vulnerability.

Our Longest Night Service, led by the Cooke family, takes place on Saturday, 21st December at 7pm, lasting about 30 minutes. The Church will be open from 6.30pm.

A list of the names submitted in previous years that will be included in this year’s service too will be available in the vestibule till Sunday 15th December. If you would like to add any other names, or have any removed, please update the sheet.

The service is open to all, so please do ask friends and neighbours who might be interested in being involved – either by having a name included and/or by being present.

Tim and Lucy Cooke

And there’s more

A few other services for Christmas

In addition to services on Sunday Mornings, and Friday lunchtimes in Advent (see November Newstand) and the usual Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, you may be interested in these two as well:

Christingle Service — Wednesday

11th December, 6.30pm. An intergenerational café style service where we’ll learn about and make Christingles.

Community Carol Service — Monday 16th December. A service of carols, readings and prayers, supported by “Innocent Bystanders” choir who will be performing some seasonal song.

Pick up a flyer in the church for further details on all our Christmas services.

“The Carols”

Not quite the Oscars or Brits, but worthy winners all the same



No-longer-here / Pixabay

As Advent is almost upon us and thoughts turn towards Christmas, I thought I would mark the occasion by producing my own (hopefully humorous) awards ceremony dedicated to our most beloved Christmas Carols (and for the purists among us, I use the term loosely to include Advent and Epiphany):

The Marmite one – love it or hate it (no middle ground here). Some find it haunting and atmospheric, others find it dreary and tedious. Sung at traditional speed as we slog our way through all seven verses, admittedly it is a bit of a tome. The award goes to ‘O Come O Come Emmanuel’ (personally I am in the love it camp).

The stamina one – take a breath (a very deep breath) and curse that winter cold. Just pipping Ding, Dong, Merrily on High to the post, the award goes to ‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’. If squeaking through the high notes of the verse is not enough, the chorus of ‘Glorias’ will surely leave you gasping.

The one time forgot – there are a few I could name (and I am sure you have yours) but my award goes to “I Saw Three Ships”, a Carol well out of fashion.

The ‘Slade’ one – guaranteed to be on the play list at any festive occasion, the award goes, of course, to ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’. Got to hand it to the composer, anyone who includes a

verse starting with “Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning” is guaranteed a prime slot come Christmas Day.

The one best left to the choir – sweet and soul-stirring but after slip, sliding and slurring over the higher notes, with the exception perhaps of Lucy, this Carol is definitely best left to the professionals. The award goes to ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’ (Henry Walford Davies Wenger “Christmas Carol” version).

The one for anyone under the age of 18 – beloved by school children (who will be sagely nodding their heads) and their parents, a feature of many school Christmas plays, yet strangely absent elsewhere ‘It was on a Starry Night’.

The spine tingling one – not because of the beauty of it but because it seems to plummet the body temperature by at least 10 degrees just thinking about it – the award goes to ‘In the Bleak Mid Winter’.

And finally signing off with an award for my very own favourite Carol “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” (and Gentlewomen) and wishing you tidings of comfort and joy over the Christmas period.

Amanda Anderson

58 Society schedule

Interesting talks on interesting subjects

During November we enjoyed an informative talk on Quakerism and learnt about Victorian Tynemouth.

December 2nd brings our last talk of the year from Robert Pullen with "Awake, Sleep and Dreams" and on December 9th we will enjoy our Christmas meal.



The first meeting in 2025 is on January 6th from John Burton, titled "Films are my Hobby".

All are welcome to join any or all talks and activities.

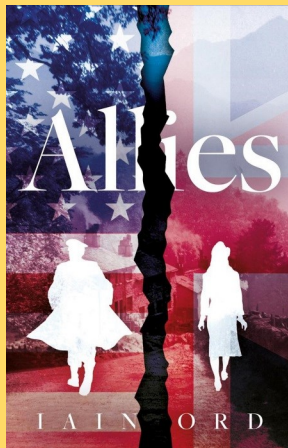
Catriona Fenwick
Assistant Secretary

An Author in our midst

Their first work promises to be gripping stuff

It is said that everyone has a book in them, a story to tell of their memories and experiences, of their interests and research... well at St Andrew's we have an author in our midst! — Iain Ord and his book *Allies* — and it is about to be published!

Iain has chosen to write about the Home Front during WW2. The story, set in Devon,



explores the relationships between the US troops and the UK hosts during this period, while also raising issues of racism between white US troops and black US troops, the tensions and the tragedies.

Iain's book, *Allies*, will be published by Troubador on 28th November and will be available from Iain from 1st December.

Ann Sinclair

Church Register

Baptism

GOGGIN

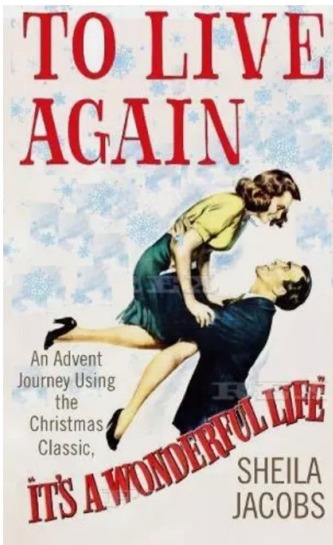
In church, by the Minister,
on 17th November 2024.
Emmy, infant daughter of
William and Jessica Goggin.

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

George Charlton
Cynthia Workman
Robert Smith Niven
Alistair Fraser
Mrs. Dorothy Paterson Packer

Elsie Scrafton
Peter Dixon
Joyce Dixon
Jim Turnbull
Elizabeth Morley



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

December Rota

It's a busy time of year for all, so don't forget to swap if you are away



ELDERS:	Vestry	Jennifer Fleetham
	Reception	Carole Mallett
	Communion	Joan Blanchfield
STEWARDS:	Vestibule	Jean Jackson; Jenny Hooper
Sunday 1st	Organ	Helen Storey
	Readers	Val Taylor; Chris Hales
	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Tuesday 3rd	Prayers	Geoff Mills
Sunday 8th	Organ	Helen
	Readers	Susan Clark; Paul Hartley
	Prayers	Val Taylor
Tuesday 10th	Prayers	Sue Ames
Sunday 15th	Organ	Paul Hartley
	Readers	Jenny Hooper; Kevin Ames
	Prayers	Una Ketteridge
Tuesday 17th	Prayers	Carole Mallett
Sunday 22nd	Organ	Alex
	Readers	Celia Purves; Andrew Cooke
	Prayers	Andrew Cooke
Tuesday 24th	Prayers	Sandra Pine
Sunday 29th	Organ	Paul Hartley
	Readers	Sandra Pine; Mike Short
	Prayers	Hazel Hall
Tuesday 31st	Prayers	Una Ketteridge

January Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 5th January.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 30th December**.

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

Weekly prayers and lectionary readings from the URC



1	Churches: Northgate, Darlington; Zion, Northallerton; Low Row with Keld.	Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36
8	Human Rights Day (10 th)	Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6
15	Churches: Guisborough; St Andrew's, Nunthorpe and Marton; Redcar; St Columba's, Billingham; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; Stockton-on-Tees; St George's, Hartlepool.	Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 (Canticle); Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18
22	Northumbrian Industrial Mission: Fiona Usher. Salvation Army North East Division: Divisional Commanders: Majors David & Gillian Burns. Baptist Northern Association: Regional Ministers: Revd Linda Donaldson and Revd Johnny Pozzo.	Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45(46-55) 25th: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)
29	Looking to 2025 with a renewed sense of hope.	1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

A poem on forgiveness

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour.

Anon

Father of All

God is not far away;
he is not out of reach.
He, who existed before the universe,
who created
and has power over all things,
is here,
in our worship.
He is not brown or black or white;
He is the Father of all
and through him we live.

He is with us in all the confusion
of modern life.
He comes to us in Jesus Christ,
to live among us;
to make himself known to us,
yesterday,
today,
and tomorrow.

Anon

