



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Louise Sanders

Musings — Advent Discussion Group — Prayers
Italian Memories — Church Fair — Churches Together

Volume 91 Issue 11 — November 2025

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

Church Contacts

Minister	Revd Louise Sanders louise.sanders208@gmail.com	01670 225539 /
	6 St. Leonard's Walk, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, NE61 3SZ	07537 848492
Secretary	Mr Raymond Hammond, annray@talktalk.net	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
Assistant Secretaries	Mrs Ann Hammond	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
	54 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE25 8NJ	
Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Kevin Ames	251 3016
	17 Kelso Drive, North Shields, NE29 9NS	
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs Jenny Hooper	—
	15 Brislee Ave, Tynemouth, NE30 2SQ	
Hall Lettings	Ray & Ann Hammond, annray@talktalk.net	252 3319
	3 Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP	
Newstand Business Manager	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
	54 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE25 8NJ	
Newstand Editor/ Web/Social Media	Tim Cooke, standrewsnewstand@gmail.com	07446
	4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR	124233
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Ames	251 3016
	17 Kelso Drive, North Shields, NE29 9NS	

Musing from the Manse

Letting Go and Trusting the Seasons

I love autumn - the colours of the leaves on the trees, crisp bright sunny mornings and closing the curtains in the early evening and turning on the lights to make the room warm and cosy!

As autumn unfolds around us, the world outside becomes a tapestry of glorious colours. Trees that once stood in full summer green now blaze with gold, amber, and red - a vivid reminder that change, though often bittersweet, can be beautiful. The falling leaves speak quietly of life's rhythm: there is a time for holding on, and a time for letting go, nature doesn't resist the seasons. The trees do not cling to what was; they release the old leaves with quiet confidence, trusting that this is not the end. Beneath the surface, unseen, they are already preparing for new life - roots drawing strength, branches resting, creation waiting patiently for spring.

We too face seasons of change. Sometimes it's a new beginning that feels uncertain; sometimes it's the letting go of something familiar or dear. Change can stir anxiety in us, but faith invites us to see it differently. In Isaiah we read,

*"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.*

*¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?*



Image by Louise Sanders

*I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
(Isaiah 43:18-19)*

The seasons remind us that God's care is constant, even when life feels uncertain. Autumn tells us that letting go is not loss, but part of growth. What feels like an ending may simply be the start of something new that God is quietly preparing.

Change is never easy, often it is simply fear of the unknown, of not knowing what things will look like when they change, that drives our fear. As I enter a season of change in my ministry with you, I trust that God is preparing you and me for the new season that will soon be upon us.

So as you walk among the falling leaves this month, may their beauty whisper to your heart to trust the One who holds the seasons. For in every change, God is faithful — and new life will come again.

*Blessings
Louise*

FAMILY FILM AFTERNOON



**SATURDAY 6TH
DECEMBER AT 4PM**

ST ANDREW'S URC MONKSEATON

**FREE ENTRY • POPCORN • SWEETS
DRINKS • HOT DOGS**

CONTACT REVD LOUISE SANDERS:

louise.sanders208@gmail.com

07537 848492

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning – Saturday 1st November, 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.

Newcastle Concert Band Evening – Saturday 1st November, 7.00 pm

We look forward to an evening of popular music from the Concert Band who entertained us so well last October. Tickets at £10 are now available from Joan Blanchfield.

Church Fair – Saturday 15th 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 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 14th November or collection can be arranged (tel. 252 3319 or 07866 690604). Contributions to the Grand Tombola can be left in the box which is now available in the reception area.

Film Club – Friday 21st November, 2.00 pm

This month's film is *About Time* (12) written and directed by Richard Curtis and starring Bill Nighy. At the age of 21, Tim discovers he can travel in time and change what happens and has happened in his own life. He finds that the course of true love can be hilariously difficult – even with the ability to try, try and try again.

Play Reading – Saturday 22nd November, 7 pm

These evenings provide the opportunity to either take part or just listen to a play, usually a comedy, being read. If you haven't been before why not give it a try? Tickets at £5 include wine/soft drinks and nibbles.

Date for the Diary

- **Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th December**

Ann Hammond

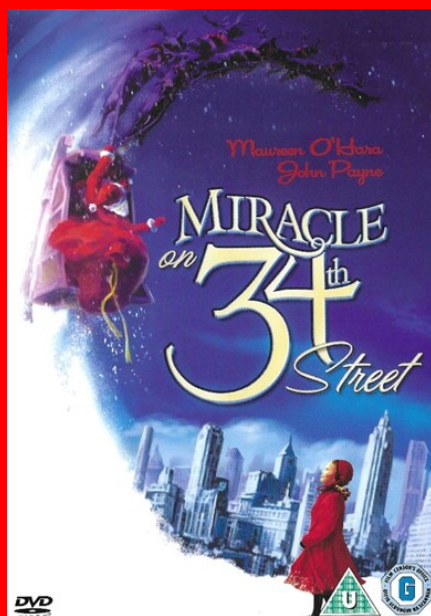
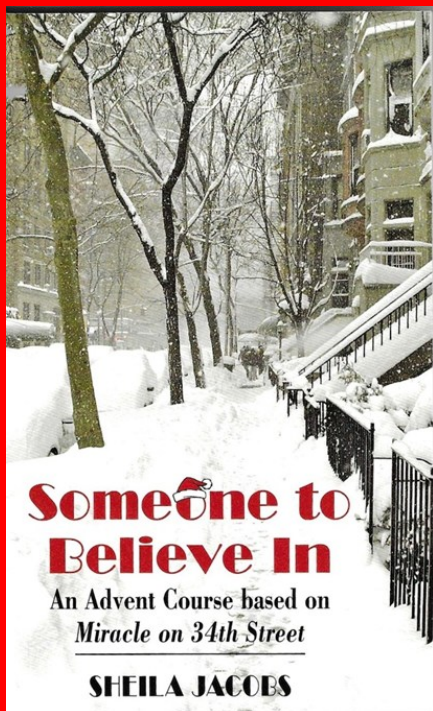
Join us for a 4 week Advent Discussion Group

Based on the iconic Christmas film 'Miracle on 34th Street', this course helps us to think more deeply during the Advent season about the coming of Jesus, and what the Christmas story can teach us about our faith today.

- We will be showing the film on **Sunday 30th November at 2pm**
- The course begins on **Monday 1st December at 2pm** at St Andrew's URC and runs each following Monday – 8th, 15th, 22nd (Dec)
- Sessions will also be available on **Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm** - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd December

For more information or to request a Zoom link, please contact

Revd Louise Sanders:
louise.sanders208@gmail.com
07537 848492



Prayers at Home

*In this month of November...
We Remember*



Opening Words

We are here God, where You have brought us, in our laughter and our struggling.

We are here God, where You called us, in our questioning and listening, You have travelled with us.

We are here God, where You have led us, in our doubting and our longing.

You know us God, You made us and love us, we ask You to meet us here God, to bring us close to You. **Amen**

In a Prayer of Confession

Living God,
again and again we are reminded of the terrible cost of war, the suffering and the sacrifice of so many, the depths of inhumanity and the heights others have climbed in the service of others.

Teach us to remember.

Living God,
we perhaps forget how fortunate we are to live in freedom, to live in peace, perhaps we forget how some still suffer the wounds of battle, and others mourn their loved ones.

Teach us to remember.

Living God,
teach us to remember not just for a short while but always.

In a Prayer of Assurance

Bless us with the assurance that You are in all things,
the tragic and the beautiful,
the nightmare and the dream,
the light and the darkness.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the peace of the world, today, tomorrow and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Prayers of Intercession

Living God, of today, yesterday and forever, You were there at the beginning.

Your Spirit, waiting, Your Word, waiting to be spoken.

We seek You now, in this time not just for ourselves, but for those around us that we know and love, for those around us we are unsure of and do not yet know, for those we find it difficult to relate to, and for those who we do not trust or whom we fear.

Give us the humility and strength, to be Your hands of grace.

We pray now for the community we live in, for families, friends and neighbours and we bring before You now all those whom we feel concern for, those with anxieties, physical or mental health issues.

We pray for those facing difficult decisions and those who are bereaved we hold each in our thoughts.

Living God, we pray for all of creation, where there is famine and drought, where crops have failed or sources of food destroyed or cut off, we ask for provision and for abundance where there is scarcity. In the midst of concern of the consequences of climate change and irreparable damage help us to live more responsibly, that we might work with others to tend to the earth and live well together.

Living God, we remember the battlefields of devastation across the years the senseless attacks and killing of those perceived to be different or a threat, we cry out for mercy, for grace, for love to prevail and to win out over death and destruction. May all that fuels hatred be healed, and may they find Your way of peace and love, may hopes and dreams flourish once more that all might live in fullness and without fear.

Living God, we pray for countries in conflict at this time. We pray for the victims of current conflicts, remembering before You, living God, children trained to hate and fight,

families turned into homeless refugees, and lands laid waste and made barren. We remember those blinded or crippled and those driven insane by nightmare experiences. We pray for an end to the destructive hatred of war.

We pray for the peace of the world remembering before You, loving God, areas where there is armed conflict and all those who are working for peace.

We remember that You have called us to strive together for the coming of Your kingdom of love and peace. We pray that You will equip us for the task with the faith that knows that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Living God, we pray for our leaders and our governments. May they make decisions with honesty and make policies, decisions and actions that make a fairer place for us all to live.

We pray for an end to poverty and strategies that create a better way to live; where the hallmarks are grace, compassion, mercy and equity for all, and that dignity would be recognised and celebrated, rather than despised and denigrated.

We pray now for ourselves, God of compassion meet us here in our need.

Lord in Your great mercy, hear the prayers that have been said, whispered, imagined and felt. We trust them to Your grace and mercy.

Amen

Wonderful

Another reflection

by Tom Gordon

*"And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world."*

George Douglas and George David Weiss, *What a Wonderful World*. One of astronomy's most-often quoted affirmations, popularized by the astronomer Carl Sagan, is that there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. Figuring that out requires imagination – and a fair bit of complicated maths! It is really hard to grasp – which is the point. When you stand on a beach, you see a lot of sand. Extrapolating from that to the entire planet multiplies that sum immensely. Yet according to the adage, the number of stars in the cosmos is even larger – truly an unfathomable amount. The answer to Sagan's theory is, annoyingly, "probably not". It depends on a whole lot of assumptions, some of which are hard to pin down – including a "margin for error", fundamental to calculating huge numbers anyway. Our Milky Way is a large galaxy containing hundreds of billions of stars. We could just multiply that by the number of galaxies in the observable universe. A team of astronomers working on this published its results in 2016 and stated that there are approximately two trillion galaxies in the universe. So, we can multiply 200 billion by 2 trillion and Bob's your



Un-perfect / Pixabay

veritable uncle, right? Well, maybe ...But then I'm told that estimating the number of grains of sand on earth's beaches is even more complicated. More complicated? Oh, goodness! My head hurts! But despite my headache, I'm left with three conclusions:

- There are some things we simply don't know. We can attempt to figure them out, but, in the end, my guess will be no better than yours – or at least the scientists of 2016.
- We live in an amazing, complex and mysterious universe. Hard to figure it all? Of course. But still remarkable? You bet!
- I'll look up at the wonder of a clear, Autumn sky – and be amazed. I'll go down to the beach and run the sand through my fingers – and be amazed. In fact, I'll just be amazed sitting here at my desk "as I think to myself, what a wonderful world! – and say "thank you" to my God.

A prayer for today

Too much in the world for me to figure?
Yes, indeed. Too big a God? Not at all!

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

*Also available at
<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>*

A place to leave your heart

Ann's field trip to Torre Pellice is definitely one to remember

Beginning my studies for Ministry at the Scottish College started with a field trip to Northern Italy, to Piedmont and the small town of Torre Pellice. Having not being abroad for over 15 years I had to renew my passport, apply for a health card and cope with all the changes of airport security that were never in place before. I flew from Edinburgh Airport to be with the rest of the students and staff at the college and was shocked as to how many people were at the airport nothing like the slow and stately way of travelling many years ago. From Milan Airport we had a three-hour journey up into the mountain regions that border France. I had never been to this part of Italy or even thought of this area thoughts of Italy brought images of ancient monuments and sites, world famous works of art and sculptures here we were transported to an area amid towering mountains, steep inclines, dotted with hamlets, the sound of cow and goats' bells ringing around steep verdant pastures...this was Waldensian country. And that was why Scottish College were there -to visit a group of Christians linked with a long history of breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church. Around 1174 a rich citizen of Lyon in France -

Peter Waldo had a radical conversation experience sold up all he owned and lived as a beggar to demonstrate his faith in God alone. He fed and tended the poor and preached the Gospel in language the people could understand. Although at first accepted by the Roman Catholic Church that didn't last long particularly over the issue of lay preaching. The group were condemned as heretics and periods of hiding, persecution and exile to northern Europe. As dissenters, the Waldensians survived as a group and joined the Protestant Reformation sweeping across northern Europe.

Eventually returning to the Piedmont valleys, the Waldensians established safe places to live among the mountains and continued to preach God's Word. Nevertheless, they endured persecution and suffered a brutal massacre by ducal armies devastating the population of the Pellice Valley. With support from Switzerland, Germany and England the intention to exterminate the Waldensians was stopped. However, although allowed to remain in the area, the people were restricted to where they could live and how far they could travel for commercial trade.

The Waldensian story is one of patience and perseverance through their faith. The Waldensian Church is a small church yet with members scattered across the world: Italy, Europe, the U.S.A. and South America. The Church collaborates with the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Baptist Union...they are each separate churches that retain their individuality yet work together.

In the modern era the Waldensians' actions continue to stretch out to all those suffering-welcoming and supporting all refugees; bringing the reality of the destruction and suffering inflicted at this moment in time on the world, they bring the powerless front and centre into their worship. The Waldensians have a commitment to social care and welfare through children's centres and for those with disabilities; homes for the elderly and simple fellowship across language barriers with those they meet. It has been said that for a small church the Waldensians pack a punch beyond their weight and they do through their experiences of immense suffering. All churches can draw lesson from the Waldensian actions of working together and stretching out to those in most need in God's world, a world that continues to cry out today.



"The Word of God."

The blue field or night blue sky represents darkness. The seven stars represent the Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation.

Through faith the Waldensians have put themselves out there in the service of God and the hope of a different world of justice and peace.

I have left a piece of my heart in Torre Pellice.

Ann Sinclair

Church Fair is nearly here!

So much to look forward to

Jigsaws are always popular with Bric - a - Brac customers so Kathleen Hopper was delighted to inherit several to add to the collection. However we were fascinated to discover two particularly interesting examples from very long ago.

Pat Wardle bravely bought them and thoroughly enjoyed completing both pictures (one is double-sided!).

They are now back on our shelves and could be yours if you browse our shelves at the Church Fair on Saturday November 15th.

Maybe you will discover more treasures to share as you look around the many stalls or relax with some of the delicious refreshments.

Joan Blanchfield



The Catering Team would be grateful for your help with the following:

Offers of help with home baking.

Ingredients for sandwiches or financial donations towards the catering.

We also have a plan for volunteering help on the day, which is in the foyer. Please sign up if you can help to make this a successful day.

Barbara Watson



St Andrew's Church, Eastfield Ave, Monkseaton

Church Fair

Saturday, 15th November

10.00 - 2.00

jewellery

sweets

cakes

tombolas

preserves

bric-a-brac

scarves

Refreshments

books

nearly new clothes

christmas gifts

games

toys



All proceeds in aid of church funds and charitable works

Whitley Bay Churches Together

A “short” report from Val

Hi folks!

Just a ‘short’ report on the Whitley Bay and District Churches Together Meeting held at St Paul’s Church on 29th September at 7.30 pm. It was attended by 18 people with only a few apologies, one of whom was Chris Lincoln, the Street Pastor and SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) co-ordinator, who was suffering with Covid – we wished him a speedy recovery.

It opened with a prayer from Father John, the vicar of St Paul’s, and was chaired by Mairi, the curate at St Paul’s.

Now I’ve always loved hearing the pealing of bells sounding out in Whitley Bay. However, on Monday 29th September it was a bit distracting during the meeting as we were sitting directly underneath this loud but joyful sound!

But back to business - the Minutes from 12th June were approved, while making note of the following:

- Broadway Methodist Church stepping down.
- Also still vacant is the post of Vice-Chairman.
- Revd Louise is still putting together a list of care homes in the area where a church is present.

- Lastly the film ‘2040’, shown at St Paul’s, met with favourable response. Anyone interested in borrowing a copy to show in their church, please contact Janet at St Paul’s.

Reflection of Past Events:

- Family Fun Picnic instigated by Whitley Lodge Baptist Church – very informal and a bit chaotic but hugely enjoyable.
- Church on the Beach (August Bank Holiday) – response from schools, people on holiday and locals created friendship and fellowship despite the inclement weather. (Again organised by David from Whitley Lodge Baptist Church.)
- ‘Walking through the Bible’ presented the Old Testament at St Andrew’s URC in the middle of September. Attended by about 40-50 people. Very favourable feedback – inspirational, informative but ‘brain draining’!!

Future Events

- Carols in the Park – 20th December, 3 pm at St Paul’s – hesitancy about whether it will go ahead.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be hosted by Whitley Bay

Whitley Bay & District CHURCHES+TOGETHER

Baptist Church – January 2026.

- World Day of Prayer – Friday 6th March 2026, 2 pm, hosted by St Andrew's URC.

Update of Initiatives

- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) – Mick Hargreaves of Whitley Bay Baptist Church absent therefore no update.
- Whitley Bay Street Pastors – Chris Lincoln forwarded a report. Teams out in Tynemouth on Saturdays but the recurring theme of acute shortage of volunteers.
- SWEP - Operational from November to March. However, extended into June! 61 nights – 149 people benefited from the excellent facilities at St Oswin's Church. (These are all homeless people registered with North Tyneside Council.)
- The Bay Foodbank – There has been a 14% increase in demand for this service. The trustees are hoping to find bigger warehouse facilities. Because of our healthy bank balance at Whitley Bay Churches Together we voted to donate £500 to the Foodbank.

Green Issues

Apparently Whitley Bay is one of four

test areas to install solar panels. It was pointed out by Colin, our secretary, if any church was interested please get in touch for more details.

Treasurer's Report

Brief but pointed out the bank balance was healthy.

Sharing Good News around our Churches

- Fishermen's Mission at Cullercoats started a craft class on Wednesday afternoons.
- Acorn Church instigated monthly café with 'messy' activities.
- Churchill Playing Fields outreach programme – organised by our youth worker Irene Frith. Alternate Tuesdays between 4-6 pm. As days shorten and darken she's hoping to use the Pavilion.
- 'Songs and Stories' every Friday morning at St Andrew's URC.

The meeting then closed with the saying of the Grace.

Valerie Taylor
Representative from St Andrew's URC

Church Meeting

Notification of next meeting



Tim Cooke

The next church meeting is scheduled to take place during coffee following the service on **Sunday 2nd November 2025**.
The agenda for the meeting will be posted up the previous week. The meeting will include an election of Elders.

Ray Hammond

Words of thanks

Thank you all so much for the good wishes, cards and beautiful flowers I received to celebrate my 90th birthday.

Sheila Smith

Thank you Susan, Ann, Ray and Barbara for everything you did and arranged for me while I was in hospital, and thank you Louise for visiting me. A special thanks from Millie too!

Love, Harry and Millie

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Alexander McPhee	Kenneth Hooper	Dorothy June Paul
Elsie Marston Mallett	Thomas Pallister	Joan Clarkin
George Albert Winton	William Johnstone	Dorothy Lowdon
Ernest Frank Merrick	Garven	Mavis Doreen Brown
Albert Bright	Angela Greenwood	Derek Stembridge
Captain Jack Young	Lopez	Barbara Joan Coulson
Jessie Winton	Jennifer Buckle	Audrey Manderville
William Caldwell	Dorothy Joan Jackson	

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers from the URC
and lectionary readings*



2	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.	Isaiah 1.10-18; Psalm 32.1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4,11-12; Luke 19.1-10
9	Remembrance Sunday.	Job 19.23-27a; Psalm 17.1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38
16	Churches; St Margaret's South Shields, Roker and Stockton Road; Minister Revd Jane Rowell.	Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19
23	Giving thanks for Local and Lay Preachers. Lay Preaching Advocate Dr Ann Sinclair.	Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43
30	Presbyterian Church of Mozambique.	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

Junior Church Catchup

Lucy Anderson continues her studies at Newcastle University in Civil and Structural Engineering. We wish her well in her final year.

Ann Sinclair

November Rota

*A time to remember...
when you are on duty*



ELDERS:	Vestry: Bill Hopper Reception: Val Taylor (16th: Carole Mallett) Communion: Jen Fleetham	
STEWARDS:	Vestibule: Mike Short	Finance: Linda Short
Sunday 2nd	Organ: Helen Storey	Prayers: Sandra Pine
	Readers: Marilyn Walton / Susan Anderson	
Tuesday 4th	Prayers: Marilyn Walton	
Sunday 9th	Organ: Helen	Prayers: Ann Hammond
	Readers: Iain Ord / Joan Blanchfield	
Tuesday 11th	Prayers: Sandra Pine	
Sunday 16th	Organ: Helen	Prayers: Andrew Cooke
	Readers: Val Taylor / Chris Hales	
Tuesday 18th	Prayers: Ray Hammond	
Sunday 23rd	Organ: Alex	Prayers: Hazel Hall
	Readers: Susan Clark / Ray Hammond	
Tuesday 25th	Prayers: Carole Mallett	
Sunday 30th	Organ: Helen	Prayers: Chris Hales
	Readers: Jenny Hooper / Kevin Ames	

December Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 30th November.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 24th November**

Church Calendar for November / December

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10 am followed by Open Door Coffee Morning.

Open Door Coffee Morning: Thursday 10.30 am - Noon.

Songs & Stories (for those age 0 - 4 years): Friday 9.30 am (during term-time)

Saturday	1	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
		Concert by Newcastle Concert Band	7.00 pm
Sunday	2	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair. CHURCH MEETING FOLLOWS SERVICE	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	3	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	4	Executive Team Meeting	10.30 am
Saturday	8	Ecumenical Remembrance Service opposite the Spar in Monkseaton	10.45 am
Sunday	9	Remembrance & Parade Service; NOTE TIME Revd Louise Sanders	10.45 am
Tuesday	11	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	13	Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Saturday	15	Church Fair	10.00 am
Sunday	16	Let's Sing; Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group; Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Worship Group	11.00 am
Monday	17	Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Wednesday	19	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	21	Film Club 'About Time'	2.00 pm
Saturday	22	Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	23	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Friday	28	Lunchtime Advent Service followed by soup and roll	12.30 pm
Sunday	30	Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Advent Discussion Group: showing of 'Miracle on 34 th Street' (see page 6)	2.00 pm
DECEMBER 2025			
Monday	1	Advent Discussion Group at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Fifty Eight Society	7.30 pm
Tuesday	2	Advent Discussion Group via Zoom	7.15 pm
Friday	5	Lunchtime Advent Service followed by soup and roll	12.30 pm
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
		Family Film Afternoon (see page 4)	4.00 pm

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
will be called children of God."*

Matthew 5:9

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*

