



# NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Musings — Advent Events — Prayers  
Church Meeting — Christmas Tales

Volume 91 Issue 12 — December 2025 / January 2026

# 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

## Advent Hope and New Year Change



How can it possibly be December already? I feel like October was completely missing from the calendar this year! And now as December dawns, we enter a season filled with anticipation. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas, although I think most children, especially Noah, would argue that is what chocolate Advent Calendars are all about!! It is a journey of hope as we look again to the promises of God, spoken through prophets and fulfilled in a manger in Bethlehem. In the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that God does not stand distant from a weary world, instead, he comes close, he steps into our chaos, our doubts, our griefs and our joys, bringing light where darkness has tried to settle. Hope is not wishful thinking - hope is Christ Himself, Emmanuel - 'God with us'.

Christmas invites us to marvel at this gift as we remember the shepherds, startled by angels, who hurried to see the child. We remember Mary and Joseph, trusting God through uncertainty and change as we ourselves face change soon too. Our church families evolve, life circumstances shift, and our community's needs change. Yet the Christ who came as a child continues to come to us in every season,

offering peace, guidance and strength.

Then January arrives, and with it the turning of the year. Many of you will make resolutions or look back with a mixture of gratitude and regret, and the New Year reminds us that God is always doing something new. Not only in calendars and diaries, but within hearts and communities. We do not know all that 2026 will bring, but we do know Who walks into it with us, guiding our steps and challenging us not just to settle for the same old same old, but encouraging us into new ventures too. Maybe it's time to let go of some things so we have room for something new, or considering if things could be done differently, recognising that there is a season for everything.

So, as we celebrate Christ's coming and step forward into the months ahead, may we carry the hope of Advent into the New Year. Let us be people of prayer, kindness, and courage. May Christ's light guide our steps, and may we recognise His presence in every change we face. God is faithful - yesterday, today, and always.

*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](mailto:louise.sanders208@gmail.com)**

**07537 848492**

# Activities Team update

*More things to look forward to!*



**Church Fair** – Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Fair such a success both socially and financially. We had a lot of lovely people of all ages from just a few months to Lilah Ketchen at 100 years old. There was a lot of hard work involved in preparing for the Fair, on the day itself and clearing up afterwards but, as always, St Andrew's teamwork came up trumps! The result was an amazing amount of £3,500 for church funds and charity. We are very grateful once again to Gary Staker (our local Funeral Director at William Purves) for his contribution by way of an excellent raffle.

**Pens** - St Andrew's pens are here again! They are available in the reception area at church at £2 each and would make ideal stocking fillers.

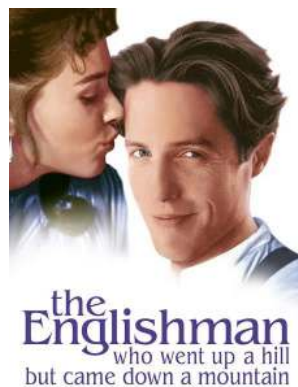
## **Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th December, 10 am – 12 noon**

Do come along if you can and meet with friends old and new for a chat over a cup of coffee/tea or soft drink in warm surroundings.

## **Film Club – Friday 19th December, 2.00 pm**

The month's film is a feel-good comedy entitled *The Englishman who went up a hill but came down a*

*mountain* (PG) starring Hugh Grant. During the days of World War 1, a small Welsh town relies on its local mountain as a source of pride. When two English cartographers arrive to measure the mountain, they discover the landmark is 16 feet short of achieving the official mountain classification. Disheartened that their mountain has been deemed a hill, the townsfolk devise a plan to make up those 16 feet.



## **Dates for the Diary**

- **Coffee Morning – Saturday 3rd January 2026**
- **Film Club – Friday 9th January 2026**
- **Poetry Evening – Saturday 17th January 2026**

**Ann Hammond**

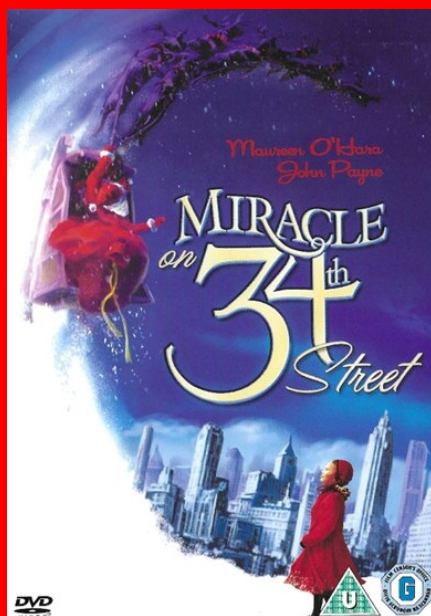
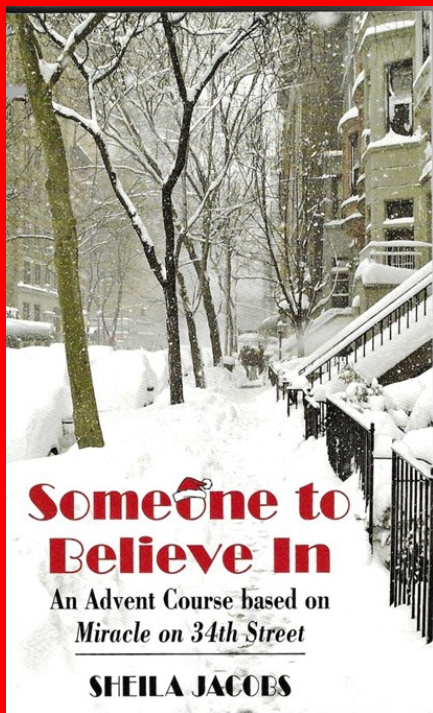
# Join us for a 4 week Advent Discussion Group

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.

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

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

Revd Louise Sanders:  
**[louise.sanders208@gmail.com](mailto:louise.sanders208@gmail.com)**  
07537 848492



# Prayers at Home

*To take us through  
this Advent season*



Jeff Weese / Flickr

## **Opening Words**

Lord, in this time of Advent, fill our hearts with longing for following your will and for adding our stories of faith. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Advent God,  
in all our preparations, the busy to-do lists and the frenzied activity, wait with us for the moment of pausing in anticipation of Your presence.

Waiting God, we prepare for Your coming.

Advent God,  
when we are lethargic and indifferent passively waiting for You to act, wake us out of our sleepiness, and alert us to your call for justice.

Wakeful God, we watch for your coming.

Advent God,  
when we are overwhelmed by darkness, and the light seems fragile and vulnerable, kindle compassion within us, and shine through our lives and our prayers.  
Tender God, we long for Your coming.

Advent God,  
When we are confused by uncertainty and frustrated by wanting to know all the answers, help us to recognise Your coming, made known

through signs of judgement and hope.

Unknown God, we search for Your coming. **Amen**

## **In a Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us Lord,  
when we doubt the wisdom of your Word; when we go off on our own tangents, convinced we know the way. Reorient us, draw us in, quieten our fears. Bring us to awareness of working in tandem with your purposes. **Amen**

## **In a Prayer of Assurance**

Lord, reassure us, remind us that our prayers are heard.

Thank you for your generous mercy **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name  
thy kingdom come  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive those who trespass against us.



And lead us not into temptation;  
and deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory  
For ever and ever. **Amen**

### ***Prayer of Intercession***

Gracious God, we ask your tender  
mercies:  
for those who have lost their way;  
for loved ones who feel in need of rest  
and see no end in sight;  
for countries ravaged by war;  
your creatures, along with all of  
creation suffering;  
for your church across the world in a  
birthing time, groaning with pains.  
There are souls that seek your rest,  
Lord. **Amen**

### ***Closing Prayers***

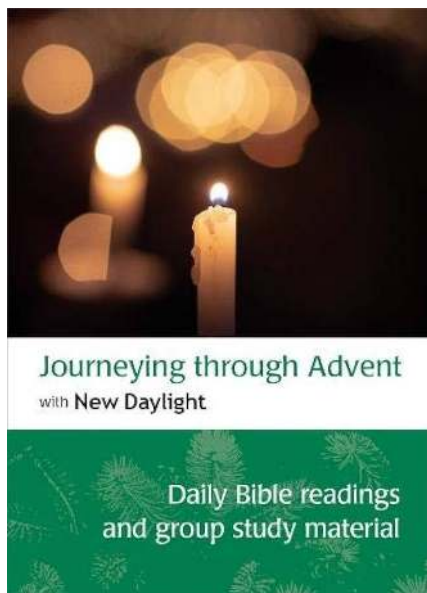
At this time of Advent,  
awaken us to new possibilities,  
and remind us of old promises:  
to love the Lord our God,  
to walk in all God's ways,  
to keep the commandments,  
and to hold fast,  
serving God with all our heart  
and with all our soul. **Amen**

### ***Blessing***

Hope is stirring, his time is almost here.  
Our Advent journey will be over.  
May you live in this hope-filled time  
knowing the love of God, Father,  
Emmanuel and Comforter in each  
moment of each day. **Amen**

***Ann Sinclair***

***Inspiration: Naming God Jan Berry;  
Spill the Beans***



## **A time to pause and reflect**

We are invited to join  
St. Columba's own Advent Bible  
Study on Mondays 1st, 8th and  
15th December in the Lishman  
Hall at St. Columba's URC, North  
Shields, 7 for 7.15pm.

Refreshments will be available.

Please contact John Drew or Liz  
Morrell for more information:  
[lizmorrell3@googlemail.com](mailto:lizmorrell3@googlemail.com)



# Stewarding at St. Andrew's

*Do you know your  
Rejoice and Sing from your  
Pounds and Pence?*

In the early part of 2026 we shall be seeking additional people to join the Stewarding rota.

Many of our current Stewards have served faithfully and diligently for a number of years, and the contribution they have made to the life of St Andrew's has been invaluable.

However, for reasons such as ill-health, advancing age and election to the Eldership, we now need to recruit some replacements, and I would ask that you give the matter careful consideration to see if you can help.

Stewards are the people who give out the hymnbooks on a Sunday morning, greeting you with a smile and a cheerful "Good morning". They are also responsible for bringing forward the offering at the appropriate time, and after the service is finished they

help the Church Treasurer to count and record the Gift Aid offerings. None of this work is onerous, but it is important.

The Stewards work in pairs, and they are normally on duty each Sunday for one month in the year, although they can be asked to help out on other occasions if, for example, a Steward is unable through illness or for some other reason to fulfil his/her own duty.

For people who have started coming to St Andrew's more recently, being a Steward is a good way to get to know other people. Alternatively, people who have been a Steward or a Serving Elder in the past, might feel they could take up a Stewarding role once more. If so, please do get in touch with me.

Thank you.

**Carole Mallett,**  
**Assistant Church Secretary.**



## Did you know?

On 2nd December, 1697, Sir Christopher Wren's St Paul's Cathedral opened in London.

The original cathedral had been severely damaged during the Great Fire of London in 1666. While some repairs had taken place and services continued in the ruins, it became clear in 1668, when the nave collapsed, that a permanent solution was necessary. Construction of the new cathedral took 33 years and spanned the reigns of five different monarchs.

**You are invited to join us at**  
**St Andrew's United Reformed Church,**  
 **Monkseaton**   
**for**  
**Friday Lunchtime Advent Services**  
**at 12.30pm**



**followed by soup and a roll**



# **At Home in Advent**

*A book by Gordon Giles*



**Dates**



**November 28th**

**December 5th, 12th, 19th**

# Too many Tims!

The article on Ann's field trip to Torre Pellice was missing a few things



Alongside the article Ann penned for November's Newstand about her trip to Torre Pellice she intended for a few pictures to be included, only she sent them to the wrong Tim!! They've now been safely received so we're including them this month instead.



A steep drop awaits behind the (fortunately) locked gate



Rush hour, with bells on



# Christmas

with



# the Priory Singers

*Music Director: Jonathan Scott*

13<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm  
St Andrew's URC,  
Monkseaton, NE25 8LU

*Tickets £10 from members or on the door*

**making  
music**

For more information: [priorysingers1979@gmail.com](mailto:priorysingers1979@gmail.com)  
or Find us on Facebook

Registered charity number: 1104554



# Church Meeting report

Précis of meeting held  
22 November 2025



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: 46 members.  
Apologies for absence: 14.

## **Church Secretary** reported:

- Few meetings held since the last church meeting in September and this meeting was early in the month due to other Sunday commitments.
- Routine servicing and maintenance continued.
- Renewal of defibrillator required. New unit to be re-sited outside between ramp and old church doors as a community unit. 7th Brownies had suggested the change and would support the unit. Development Fund will underwrite the cost, around £2,500.
- Fire precautions signage required updating as well as control panel to be re-sited near main entrance. Revision of Evacuation Policy to be undertaken.
- Elders and Pastoral Visitors continue with their pastoral

oversight.

- Awaiting outcome of Special General Assembly Meeting.
- Regular plan of worship continuing.
- Continuing to work towards Louise taking up ministry at St Columba's on 1st January 2026. Induction Service on 28th February 2026
- Grateful thanks to all who contribute, in whatever way, to enabling St Andrew's to continue to be a presence in this area.
- 6th Monkseaton Guide Unit have announced the formation of a new Ranger Unit. Expressed appreciation of support given to them by St Andrew's.
- Amber Greenhalgh thanked the church for the support given to her to undertake her guiding trip to Canada. Amber helps at two Brownie Units, the Rainbow Unit and is a founder member of the new Ranger Unit.

## **Treasurer** reported:

- Income and expenditure continues to be fairly close to budget.
- After 10 months, deficit of around

£7,000. Proceeds of Church Fair will reduce this but year will still end with a deficit.

- Development Fund dropped with the major spend on re-pointing and re-roofing – but that is what it is for. Plenty still available for other projects.

**Minister** reported:

- Her appreciation at the manner in which the discussion meeting and vote on St Andrew's holding Same Sex Marriages was undertaken.
- Songs and Stories Toddler group continuing to be very popular
- Success of the Light Party on Halloween when over 100 people

visited the table outside the church for food, drinks and literature which was displayed. Appreciated by the local community.

**ELECTION OF ELDERS**

Carole Moore, Sandra Pine and Celia Purves were elected to serve as Elders for five years. They will be ordained and inducted at a service early in 2026.

**Date of Annual Church Meeting**

Sunday 15th March 2026 in the Main Hall following morning worship and during coffee.

**Ray Hammond**  
**Church Secretary**

**Dear Friends at St. Andrew's Church,**

On behalf of everyone at The People's Kitchen, please pass on a big 'thank you' to members of your congregation for the very generous harvest donation.

This year is a special one for us - it marks 40 years since The People's Kitchen first began helping our Friends in Newcastle. Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to be visited by 'Ailie' Goodard, daughter of our founder, Alison Kay. It was a lovely reminder of how much good can come from one person's kindness and care.

The support we receive at this time of year makes a big difference. Your donations help us keep going through the colder months, making sure we can provide hot meals, friendship, and support every single day of the year.

None of this would be possible without the kindness of our wonderful supporters; thank you once again.

With best wishes,  
People's Kitchen Admin Team

# 58 Society update

## Summary of meetings past and events to come in December



M Accelerator / Unsplash

The two November talks by Martin Kenny and Keith Spedding were interesting and very informative.

The first highlighted the six hundred year feud between Newcastle and North Shields for fishing rights, North Shield's Ralph Gardner/Gardiner being a prominent figure.

The second told the history of the Port of Tyne from 1285 ( the first known written record) to 2025. Ships seen in the area today were identified, along with details of many various current imports and exports. The port is still expanding.

Elizabeth Finch is giving our next talk "The Families of Wallington Hall" on Monday 1st December.

Christmas dinner, along with quizzes and carols, is on Monday 8th December, 7 for 7.30pm. Two courses cost £26, three courses £28.50, including tea/coffee and mince pie. Payment can be made by cash or card at the next meeting on 1st December.

The Air Ambulance clothes/shoes (not bric-a-brac) collection is to be arranged in December. Please speak to Celia Purves for details.

Early Christmas Wishes to everyone.

**Anne Smith**

## Words of thanks

Dear Friends

A huge Thankyou to all my friends at St Andrews for the beautiful cards, gifts and messages for my 90th birthday. Thank you too for the very special flower arrangement as well. Your love and kindness is evident all around me. I am so blessed.

**Pat Wardle**

# **St Andrew's United Reformed Church**

## **Family Fun Afternoon**



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 3-5pm**

**Too late for Christmas activities? The Wise Men were late too! So, come and join in the fun with stars and crowns, parachutes and much more.....**

**For more information please contact:**

**Revd Louise Sanders – 07537 848492**

**[louise.sanders208@gmail.com](mailto:louise.sanders208@gmail.com)**



# Christmas Islands

## *A tale of two places with 10,000km between them*



There are two Christmas Islands in the world. The first is a dot in the Indian Ocean and even though it is in Australian territory, its closest neighbour is Java, 360km away. It comprises the summit of an oceanic mountain, rising to 36m above sea level and predominantly covered by tropical rainforest.

British and Dutch navigators first included the island on their charts in the early seventeenth century and Captain William Mynors named the island when he arrived on Christmas Day in 1643, although he was unable to land. In 1688, when Captain William Dampier landed at the Dales (on the West Coast), two of his crew became the first recorded people to set foot on Christmas Island. Christmas Island was not settled until 1888, when the Clunies-Ross brothers from the neighbouring Cocos-Keeling Islands (some 900km to the south-west) established a settlement at Flying Fish Cove to collect timber supplies. The British Admiralty annexed the island on 6 June 1888, and phosphate extraction became the impetus behind the island's development.

Today the recoverable reserves of phosphate are nearly exhausted, and during the 1990's a shift in economy began to take place whereby other

industries such as tourism edged their way in. A more recent population survey showed fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, only one third of whom are female. Almost three quarters of the population are from Chinese origins, but all are Australian citizens and the Australian schooling system prevails. An interesting place indeed.

The other Christmas Island is one of the many islands in the Republic of Kiribati. Part of the Line Island Group, it is the largest coral atoll in the world with an area of 248 square miles. Its population is mainly Micronesian from the I-Kiribati archipelago, with a small group of Polynesians from Tuvalu and some expatriates. From the time of the Cold War, Christmas Island will be remembered for the nuclear bomb tests that took place off its coast. Britain's first nuclear test explosion at Christmas Island took place on 15 May 1957, and in November 1957 there were two further H-bomb explosions. © J John, 2005

*Christmas Island is at the forefront of the news today as those who served there are still fighting for compensation for the terrible consequences of the experiments for their health and the health of their offspring.*

## From the Book of Remembrance — December

*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

## From the Book of Remembrance — January

*Remembering those who have gone before us*

John Saunders

Frances (Fran) Birt

Michael James

Blackah

Elizabeth Tait

Isabella Paxton

Barbour

Elizabeth Ettridge

Ruby McPhee

Denise Muriel Swinton

Tancock

James Raymond Lisle

Amy Adam

Geoffrey Smith

Joseph Lee

Florence Burnett-White

Joan Margaret

Hindmarch

Gordon James Yarrow

## February Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 25th January.

Please have contributions to Tim **by 19th January**

A shorter *Newstand Lite* will be issued at the end of December with essential information for January

# The saga of a smoking uplighter

*Whilst we're thinking about fire...*

It was a beautiful start to the Remembrance service, uniforms and flags parading in, all looking very smart, red faces and runny noses from the fresh cold air outside. Wardens and sidespeople alert to their duties. Everyone sat down and ready to remember with respect and reverence.

Suddenly the two Wardens looked at each other! That noise, what on earth was it? Could it be snoring this early in the service, surely not. Not today and before the sermon as well. No, not snoring, more like a buzzing.

A hearing aid malfunction? No, it seemed to be moving. Yes that's it, it's moving, flying, and there it was - a big bumble bee. What to do, the Wardens' team thought (together by thought transference). "Glad it's not me," the retired Church Wardens thought.

Adopting a well tried and often employed technique, the Wardens' team decided individually and collectively to wait and do nothing. Lo and behold the buzzing stopped. Prevarication triumphs again.

Much, much later a worried worshipper caught the attention of a Warden downstairs. "Smoke from that

light" was the terse message. On the way to switch it off there was an impromptu Wardens' meeting at the foot of the gallery stairs and a similar message was exchanged from upstairs. Both up-lighters were duly switched off. No ceremony, no announcement and more importantly no fire and no panic.

Much later, on the following Wednesday, the offending up-lighter was carefully examined by the Wardens in the presence of the Lay Reader and Honorary Assistant Priest (Retired). A dead scorched body was removed, and what do you think it was? That's right, the bumble bee. So no big bill for electrical repairs or even burial fees on this occasion.

The moral of the story, and there is at least one, is if you see something out of the ordinary during a service, tell a Warden. Shouting out "FIRE!!!" is to be reserved for only the most extreme and immediate danger.

*Team of Wardens  
A Church Somewhere  
in the North of England!*



nielson-coelano-salmeron / unsplash

# Prayer Diary and Lectionary

Weekly prayers from the URC  
and lectionary readings



Nov 30 - Dec 6		Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44
Dec 7	Lucy Cooke, Synod Clerk (Strategy and Development).	Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12
14	Churches; Northgate Darlington, Zion Northallerton, Low Row with Keld; Minister Revd Nadine Snyman.	Isaiah 35.1-10; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11
21	For grateful thanks to all those who work hard offering the additional services over the Christmas period.	Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25
25	Christmas Day.	
28	Looking to 2026 with a renewed sense of hope and peace.	Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23
4 Jan	January Prayer Diary not yet issued by Synod	Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Psalm 72; Matthew 2.1-12
11		Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17
18		Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42
25		Isaiah 9.1-4; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23



# Seasons' Rotas

*Make sure you are present during this season of good will (and beyond!)*



ELDERS	Vestry: Carole Mallett Reception: Iain Ord Communion: Jennifer Fleetham	
STEWARDS	Vestibule :Jean Jackson	Finance: Jenny Hooper
Tuesday 2nd	Prayers: Sandra Pine	
Sunday 7th	Organ: Helen Storey	Prayers: Carole Moore
	Readers: Sandra Pine / Jenny Hooper	
Tuesday 9th	Prayers: Andrew Cooke	
Sunday 14th	Ogan: Helen	Prayers: Sandra Pine
	Readers: Celia Purves / Mike Short	
Tuesday 16th	Prayers: Sue Ames	
Sunday 21st	Organ: Helen	Prayers: Ann Hammond
	Readers: Jean Jackson / Andrew Cooke	
Tuesday 23rd	Prayers: Ann Sinclair	
Thursday 25th	Organ: TBC	
Sunday 28th	Organ: Alex	Prayers: Andrew Cooke
	Readers: Kathleen Hopper / Tim Cooke	
Tuesday 30th	Prayers: Carole Moore	

## January 2026

**Full rota will be issued via Newstand Life at end of December**

ELDERS	Vestry: Jennifer Fleetham Reception: Catriona Fenwick Communion: Hazel Hall	
STEWARDS	Vestibule: Sandra Pine	Finance: Andrew Cooke
Tuesday 6th	Prayers: Ray Hammond	
Tuesday 13th	Prayers: Carole Mallett	
Tuesday 20th	Prayers: Sandra Pine	
Tuesday 27th	Prayers: Geoff Mills	

# Church Calendar for December / January

**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)

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	7.00 pm
Friday	5	Lunchtime Advent Service followed by soup and roll	12.30 pm
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
		Family Film Afternoon	4.00 pm
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	8	Advent Discussion Group at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Fifty Eight Society Christmas meal <u>7.00 FOR</u>	7.30 pm
Tuesday	9	Advent Discussion Group via Zoom	7.00 pm
Wednesday	10	Christingle Service	6.30 pm
Friday	12	Lunchtime Advent Service followed by soup and roll	12.30 pm
Saturday	13	Priory Singers Christmas Concert	7.30 pm
Sunday	14	Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Monday	15	Advent Discussion Group at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Community Carol Service	6.30 pm
Tuesday	16	Executive Team Meeting	10.30 am
		Advent Discussion Group via Zoom	7.00 pm
Friday	19	Lunchtime Advent Service followed by soup and roll	12.30 pm
		Film Club – 'The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain'	2.00 pm
		Elders' Social Meeting	7.00 pm
Saturday	20	Ecumenical Outdoor Christmas Service opposite Spar in Monkseaton	4.00 pm

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>NO 'LET'S SING' OR PRAYER GROUP MEETING TODAY</b>	
		<b>Parade and Nativity Service; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Longest Night Service; the Cooke Family</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Advent Discussion Group at St Andrew's</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Advent Discussion Group via Zoom</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>11.30 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b><u>10.30 am</u></b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Morning Worship; Worship Group</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>			
Saturday	3	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
		Family Fun Afternoon	3.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
		<b>Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>
Monday	5	Fifty Eight Society; A Visit to Tuscany	7.30 pm
Tuesday	6	Executive Team Meeting	10.30 am
Thursday	8	Pastoral Team Meeting followed by Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	9	Film Club – title of film to be confirmed	2.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Activities Team Meeting</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
Tuesday	13	Finance Team Meeting	10.30 am
Saturday	17	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	18	Let's Sing; Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group; Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	19	Fifty Eight Society; Scam and Fraud Awareness	7.30 pm
Wednesday	21	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	25	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Kim Money (Northern Synod Moderator)	11.00 am

# Pause in this moment

A place for  
prayers,  
thoughts  
and poems



## **Magnificat**

My spirit sings in joy  
and I delight in God my Wisdom,  
for although I count for little  
she values and delights me.

From this moment she calls me beloved  
and my name is holy.

Her compassion and tenderness  
reach through the ages  
stretching out to topple pride and  
arrogance.

The powerful are brought low  
and those on the edges raise their voices.

She showers the poor and generates gifts,  
and the greedy learn what it is to have  
nothing.

She hears the cries of her people,  
remembering their pain and their struggle  
honouring the bearers of life,  
and filling the future with promise.

*Contributed by Ann Sinclair  
From: Naming God & Spill the Beans  
by Jan Berry*

## **Because of Jesus.....**

We have hope for tomorrow,  
confidence in the future,  
light in our darkness,  
victory in each trial,  
rest when we are weary  
and love for a lifetime.

*Anon*