



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Tim Cooke

Musings — Endings and Beginnings — 58 Society
Annual Meeting — Prayers — Holy Week & Easter

Volume 92 Issue 4 — April 2026

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonkseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

Church Contacts

Minister	Revd Louise Sanders louise.sanders208@gmail.com	01670 225539 / 07537 848492
Secretary	Ms. Jennifer Fleetham jennifer.j.fleetham@gmail.com	07825 062421
Assistant Secretaries	Mr. Ray Hammond	252 3319
	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Kevin Ames	251 3016
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs Jenny Hooper	—
Hall Lettings	Ray & Ann Hammond, annray@talktalk.net	252 3319
Newstand Business Manager	Miss Carole Mallett	252 1723
Newstand Editor/ Digital Comms	Tim Cooke, standrewsnewstand@gmail.com 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR	07446 124233
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Ames	251 3016

Small print: Details of events, contacts and other material were correct at time of publication based on information received by the Newstand Editor.

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Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors

Musing from the Manse

Easter Hope in Every Season — A Season of Change



At this time of year, the story at the heart of our faith speaks with particular tenderness and power. Easter is not simply a date in the calendar; it is the declaration that God's love is stronger than death, deeper than sorrow, and brighter than any darkness we face.

As a church family, we have recently walked the painful path of saying goodbye to beloved members of our congregation. We have gathered to give thanks for their lives, to honour all they meant to us, and to commend them into the everlasting arms of God.

In those moments, we cling to the conviction that has sustained Christians for centuries: death is not the end. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and his rising to new life on Easter morning, we hold fast to the promise that those who die in Christ do not enter into emptiness, but into the radiance of God's glory. For all those that we have loved and lost, life has changed, not ended. They now dwell in the presence of the One who calls each of us by name.

This hope also shapes the way we live now. Easter invites us to look at

the world not through the lens of fear or loss, but through the assurance that God is continually bringing life out of death, light out of darkness, and hope out of despair. It encourages us to be people who carry that light into our homes, our community, and every place where sorrow still lingers.

This same hope belongs not only to the bereaved, but to all who are struggling today. Many in our congregation are facing illness, uncertainty, or the weariness that comes with long journeys of treatment. Easter speaks to them too. The risen Christ meets us in our weakness, offering comfort, courage, and the assurance that we never walk alone. His resurrection is the pledge that new life can break through even when circumstances feel heavy.

As we celebrate Easter, may we be renewed in this hope. May it steady us, uplift us, and remind us that God's love holds us, now and always.

*Blessings,
Louise*



FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON



**SATURDAY
18TH APRIL
AT 3PM**

ST ANDREW'S URC MONKSEATON

**CRAFTS • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS
SUITABLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

CONTACT REVD LOUISE SANDERS:

louise.sanders208@gmail.com

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning – There will be no Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th April as it was brought forward a week in order to hold the Craft Coffee Morning prior to Easter. Our next Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 2nd May and will be in support of our annual Christian Aid appeal.

Film Club – Friday 10th April, 2.00 pm

This month's film is *Jojo Rabbit* (12). Jojo, a lonely German boy in the Hitler Youth, whose hero and imaginary friend is the country's dictator, is shocked to discover that his mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided by his wildly idiotic imaginary friend, Jojo must confront his blind nationalism. In the process he discovers that love can overcome hate in this original film which is described as 'extraordinary'.

Play Reading – Saturday 18th April, 7 pm

These are very sociable and entertaining evenings where there

are opportunities either to take part or just listen to a play, usually a comedy, being read. If you haven't been before why not come along and give it a try? Tickets are £5 (to include wine/soft drinks and nibbles).

Jazz Evening with Rendezvous Jazz, Saturday 25th April, 7.30 pm

We look forward to welcoming back Maureen Hall and Rendezvous Jazz for an evening of 'toe tapping, finger snapping' music. The evening will include the popular Brolly Parade. Tickets at £10 are now available.

Dates for the Diary

- **Christian Aid Coffee Morning – Saturday 2nd May**
- **Film Club – Friday 8th May**
- **Poetry Evening – Saturday 16th May**

Ann Hammond

Annual Church Meeting

*Report of meeting held Sunday
15th March 2026*



The meeting was held during coffee following the 11 am service and copies of the Minutes are displayed on the notice board in the vestibule of the Church beside the Flower Room.

Below is a précis of the meeting.

- The meeting was opened with worship.
- The reports of the Minister, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Worship Group and church organisations, which had been circulated, were received and approved as appropriate.
- The church accounts for 2025, which had been circulated, were received and approved.
- The Budget for 2026, which had been circulated, was approved.

Church Officers and Representatives:

There were changes to the secretariat with Ray Hammond standing down as Church Secretary and Jennifer Fleetham being elected. Ann Hammond stood down as an Assistant Secretary and Ray was elected to that position. Carole Mallett continued in her role as an Assistant Secretary. There being no

resignations and no new nominations for the other posts the present officers and representatives were re-elected en bloc (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

A presentation was made to Ray and Ann which they much appreciated.

Church Teams

Nominations to Teams for 2026/27 were received and agreed (list displayed in church vestibule beside Flower Room door).

It was agreed that the separate Management Team overseeing the Development Fund be abolished with the Finance Team assuming that responsibility.

Sue Ames presented the Safeguarding Policy Review for 2026, which had been endorsed by Elders' Meeting and Northern Synod for adoption by Church Meeting.

Date of next Church Meeting:

Sunday 28th June 2026 during coffee following the 11.00 am service.

NOTE: Change of date.

Ray Hammond
Assistant Church Secretary

Midweek Prayers

Coming together
in a time of quiet

Opening verses

Gracious God,
wherever we go, You are there.
Whatever we face we know
You will be beside us
and Your peace, power and love
deep within us.
You are our light in the darkness of this
world and our hope now and forever
more.

AMEN

In a Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord, we come before You
confessing our many faults,
acknowledging our weakness,
and our lack of faith.
You lovingly assure us of Your mercy
and forgiveness and fill us with
renewed faith, new commitment,
new purpose and new life
through the power of the risen Christ.

AMEN

Following Easter....

Sovereign God,
teach us to live each day in the light
of Easter; to live as Your Easter people
to the glory of Your name. **AMEN**



Wallpapers.com

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done... And lead us
not into temptation but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory for ever and
ever.

AMEN

Prayers of Intercession

Loving Lord,
we pray for those whose lives
are filled with darkness
and for those whose days
are shadowed with despair;
for those whose eyes are closed
to the hope of Your presence.

Loving Lord,
we pray for those whose homes
are a daily battleground,
whose lives are filled
with doubt and fear,
and see no way to peace;
fill them with Your presence.

Loving Lord,
we pray for those who struggle
with their health, and for those who
share in their care;
for those who have no care,
for those who face and have faced

loss of someone dear;
bless them with Your comfort and
presence.

Loving God,
we pray for leaders who make
decisions of care, safety and peace,
in local communities,
and nations around the world;
may they feel the presence
of Your peace and love.

We bring all our prayers in the name
of Jesus Christ who promised to be
with us in all our journeys.

AMEN

Blessing

May God who guides our journey,
Christ who bears the suffering of the
world and the Spirit who empowers us
with the gifts of life, fill us with
courage, wisdom and joy.

AMEN

Ann Sinclair

*Inspiration: Berry, J. Naming God;
Clowes, D. 500 Prayers for the
Christian Year; Fawcett, N. Prayers for
all Seasons.*

Saturday 9th May 2026

10am-4:30pm

St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton



This fun and memorable day will inspire and equip you to keep digging into the Bible and will help you learn to retell the whole storyline to a friend in under 3 minutes!!

Cost £16 to include a workbook

Lunch will be provided

Please contact Louise Sanders to book your place 07537 848492

St. Andrew's Handwoven Palm Crosses

Not from Jerusalem, but Africa



Poppy Thorne / Pixabay

This year our palm crosses have been bought from African Palms and the following describes the history behind their making.

"The African Palms project was started in 1965 by Fr Alan Talbot, an Anglican Priest who served for six years as a missionary in the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania.

The main aim of Fr Talbot's project was to give local villagers a chance to earn some extra money to supplement their meagre income, whilst retaining dignity and the ability to carry on their farming work.

The palm crosses are made from dried branches of the dwarf palm *Hyphae Coriacia*. These grow wild in the Masasi area, so are not cultivated or chemically treated, furthermore no trees are cut down in the work of collecting the palm leaves for plaiting the palm crosses.

Over the years the number of palm crosses sold increased and in 1986 the company African Palms Ltd was formed. African Palms Ltd is owned by the charity The African Palms Association. All profits made by African Palms Ltd are covenanted to the trust for use in educational and healthcare projects.

For the last eight years the trust has worked closely with the diocese of Masasi on many projects, including clean water supplies for the palm cross villages, the building of hostels, safe houses, dispensaries and a maternity unit as well as help with Covid and Covid training.

The important thing to us is that the ideas for these projects come from Tanzania.

More details of the projects funded can be found on our website: www.africanpalms.co.uk"

Ann and Ray

Many thanks to everyone for all the support and kindness shown to us over the last month. Dad is healing well and looking forward to returning to normality!

Jen Fleetham & Marilyn Walton

WB & District Churches Together

March meeting report



Meeting held at St John's Methodist Church on 4th March 2026

Attended – 19 people from nine different churches.

Opening Devotions – led by the Revd Eva Walker (minister at St John's).

Appointment of Vice-Chairman – Revd Claire Lewis (St Mary's).

Reflection on past events:

2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held in February (several denominations took part). Not well attended (about 20%).

Forthcoming Events

World Day of Prayer held at St Andrew's on 6th March at 2 pm (service produced by women of Nigeria).

Good Friday Events:

3rd April: Central Whitley Bay churches process to St Paul's from their churches.

Churches in Monkseaton meeting opposite Spar for 12 noon service.

Easter Day Sunrise Services:

Coast Congregational on Cullercoats beach.

Ecumenical service organised by St Andrew's on the promenade outside Premier Inn.

St Mary's and Whitley Lodge Baptist Church outside Rendezvous Café (on beach).

Summer Events:

Fun Day for Families at Churchill Playing Fields organised by Whitley Lodge Baptist Church (Saturday 1st August, 2 pm)

Church on the Beach for four weekends beginning 6th August (organised by Whitley Lodge Baptist Church).

Outreach and Link Up:

Alternate Tuesdays at Churchill Playing Fields, 4.00 pm-5.30 pm for school children, organised by Youth Worker attached to St Andrew's, Irene Frith. 'Hot chocolate in the Park'!

Living with Ageing:

(See poster in church) Cullercoats Methodist Church on 17th October – showing what is available for the older generation.

New Business:

Discussion for future - the geographical groupings of Whitley Bay Churches Together.

Faith and Light group attached to St Mary's and St John's. How do we address the right wing hijacking of Christian values? Survey to come up

with 10 words reflecting ecumenical Christian values – survey in progress but meeting organised for 17th March.

Common Sense Policy group (Government funded). What can churches do to alleviate poverty? (Early stages.)

Update on Initiatives:

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) closed down – under-utilised.

Whitley Bay Street Pastors (general overlook of Tynemouth Street Pastors by a report sent from Chris Lincoln (co-ordinator)

SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) – operating from November to March – used for registered homeless with overnight stay. -Please note: detailed reports on both SPs and SWEP available on request.

The Bay Foodbank – now operates out of two bases: a warehouse at Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate and Meadowell Community Centre (901 parcels produced in January. Recipients must still be referrals.

'Safe Families' and 'Home for Good' was spoken about by a guest speaker. The aim of both these charities is to work with churches via Social Services. Accommodation acutely short for youngsters, especially older teenagers. Shortage of foster carers.

Green Issues: No report available.

Administration:

Update from Treasurer pointing out the balance in the bank and how it can be utilised.

Any other Business:

Cafés and accessibility to deal with bereavement. What is available and how could churches be involved? The item was left in abeyance. However, Whitley Bay Baptist Church hopes to run a bereavement counselling course in the autumn.

The meeting closed with collectively saying the Grace.

***Valerie Taylor
(Representative for St Andrew's)***

Newstand Subscriptions

A brief reminder to those people who pay annually for their copy of Newstand that the subscription of £12 is now due, and should be given to your distributor (or to myself if you normally pay me direct) by the end of March, or as soon thereafter as possible, please.

Please disregard this reminder if you are one of the several people who have already paid.

Thank you.

***Carole Mallett
Newstand Business Manager***

Endings and Beginnings

Farewell to duty for some and a welcome to it for others

On Sunday 15th March at St Andrew's AGM, Ray and Ann Hammond stepped down from their roles as Church Secretary and Assistant Church Secretary respectively. In Ray's case, he has been Secretary for the last 16 years, following 26 years as Assistant Secretary to Dorothy Postle, and throughout this time he has been closely supported by Ann. As Secretary, Ray has guided our congregation with the utmost diplomacy and efficiency through the tenure of a succession of ministers, 3 vacancies and the Covid pandemic, to become the church that it is today. Therefore, in recognition and appreciation of all they have done for St Andrew's over a period of very many years, the members of the congregation were invited to contribute, if they so wished, to a retirement gift for 'Team Ray and Ann'. The response was overwhelming, and enabled us to present the couple with a short break at a luxury hotel in the Lake District, together with a floral arrangement



Chris Hales

and a bottle of wine. We felt that this was an appropriate gift in view of Ray and Ann's commitment to St Andrew's, which has often meant that they weren't able to have a proper holiday.

A massive THANK YOU, Ray and Ann, for all the dedication, diligence, kindness and good nature with which you have fulfilled your responsibilities, and THANK YOU to everyone (including people from outside St Andrew's) who contributed so generously to the retirement gift!

Ray has now handed over the reins of the Secretary's job to Jennifer Fleetham, to whom we extend every blessing and sincere thanks for taking on this vitally important role. Ray, meanwhile, will still retain an involvement, but in a more limited way, as one of the Assistant Secretaries.

Carole Mallett

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

The presentation made to us at the AGM in March was totally unexpected; we had no idea whatsoever as to what had been

going on behind our backs! We are totally overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our wonderful church family.

continued on next page...



Chris Hales



Chris Hales

At our March communion service, our Minister Louise had the great pleasure of presenting Bill Hopper with a certificate marking an extraordinary milestone — fifty years of faithful and dedicated Eldership. This remarkable half-century of service represents a depth of commitment that has shaped the life of St Andrew's in countless ways. Although Bill has now stepped down from his role, we remain profoundly grateful for his wisdom, leadership, and steadfast care over so many years. We wish him a very well-earned rest and every blessing in the years ahead.

Jennifer Fleetham

...continued from previous page

We couldn't quite believe that we had been given a voucher for four nights at the splendid Lakeside Hotel, Windermere and are certainly looking forward to our break in the Lakes. We also much appreciated the beautiful flower arrangement and the wine will go down well!

Many thanks to all concerned,
with love from **Ann and Ray**

At the same service we also had the delight of welcoming three new Elders — Carole Moore, Sandra Pine and Celia Purves — who were ordained and inducted by the Revd Louise Sanders. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and confident that each of them will bring gifts, insight and dedication to the life and leadership of our church. We hold them in our prayers and wish them every blessing as they begin this important ministry.

Jennifer Fleetham

And further thanks from Bill too

To the good folks of St. Andrew's, many thanks for marking my retirement as a serving Elder after 50 years with the gift of a voucher to be used in an art shop. I have often wondered whether using professional brushes would elevate my artistic skills to the level of Turner or Constable; I think not. However I know I will enjoy using them.

Once again, thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Bill Hopper

Thoughts

Another reflection from Tom Gordon

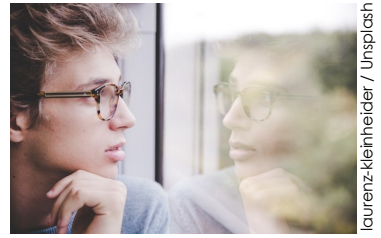
*"Take this Holy Sacrament
to your comfort."*

*Book of Common Prayer,
Holy Communion, The Invitation*

In the Christian tradition, a sacrament is a visible symbol of the reality of God, as well as a channel for God's grace. The 1st century's Augustine of Hippo defined a sacrament as: *An outward sign of an inward grace ... that has been instituted by Jesus Christ.*

A sacrament, therefore, signifies God's Grace in a way that is observable to the participant. The Roman Catholic Church, for example, recognises seven sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick. The Reformed tradition holds that there are two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. Now, don't worry, I'm not going to debate here whether seven or two is the way to go. But I am going to suggest that both numbers are wrong, and should, in fact, be eight and three. For I believe that there is an essential place for another sacrament: the Sacrament of Pastoral Care.

What were moments of wonder, transcendence, mystery, holiness in countless moments of pastoral



laurenz-kleinheider / Unsplash

interactions, in parish ministry, in hospice chaplaincy, in bereavement support, but signs of healing that have been "instituted by Jesus Christ", for the receiver of care and also for me?

There is no liturgy for such sacramental moments. There is no set form for healing love. There is no definition that can codify the pastoral sacrament. There are no words to set our compassion and understanding rigidly in place. Yet it is real, and purposeful, and healing, and wonderful.

Such a sacrament is in our hands to offer. Such a sacrament is for our love to create. Such a sacrament requires a belief in the amazing, unbounded grace of God.

A prayer for today

*Living God, help me find your signs of
Grace in the ordinary as well as the
special. Amen*

*Submitted by Ann Sinclair
and amended.*

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

*Also available at:
swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com*

58 Society

Annual General Meeting and activity report



M. Accelerator / Unsplash

Thirty people attended the AGM on 16th February. The usual reports were given and accepted as true records. The election of officers caused a problem. Three officers were willing to stand for a further year but Joan, our Treasurer and Celia, our Chairperson, wished to stand down. There were no volunteers to take over these roles and it is hoped someone will offer to help before the 2026/7 session. Celia then thanked everyone for their support over the year, but she stressed that without volunteers for the Committee the society faces closure.

Our first March speaker, David Selby, chose "The Power of Evil" as the topic for his talk. He touched on levels and degrees of evil many of the audience had never considered, and gave us much to ponder on.

Carole Moore gave our second talk "A Visit to Tuscany". In an hour we had learnt about Italy's history from earliest times; to the amalgamation of the various states — after the Papal state

eventually agreed — and that Italy became a republic in 1946. We then arrived in Tuscany and Carole, through maps, pictures and short films, described historical and interesting buildings in each of Tuscany's ten provinces.

Our Coffee Morning took place on Saturday 7th March. The Committee would like to thank Gill and Dawn for running the cake stall, Sue for organising the raffle, and everyone who attended and gave financial contributions, cakes and raffle prizes. We raised £375!

The final meeting of the session on 30th March is a meal with the usual quizzes, 7 for 7.30pm. There will be a mini-affle, and the proceeds will be donated to Children's Cancer North to support the research undertaken at the RVI.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable Spring/Summer break, and we'd love to see you again for our 2026/7 session which starts on Monday 5th October.

Anne Smith

Fund raising time

A packed Coffee Morning for the Alan Shearer Centre

A date for your diaries- Saturday 6th June 2026 10am-12noon at St Andrews URC Monkseaton

The Wood Family are planning a fundraising coffee morning with stalls to raise funds for the running of the Alan Shearer Centre in West Denton. This is a centre for children and adults with disabilities.

At the coffee morning you can expect a big raffle (prizes including afternoon tea at the Spanish City dome, meals at Omni cafe and The Glasshouse, Hotpotz painting voucher, a ladies cut and blow dry,



M Accelerator / Unsplash

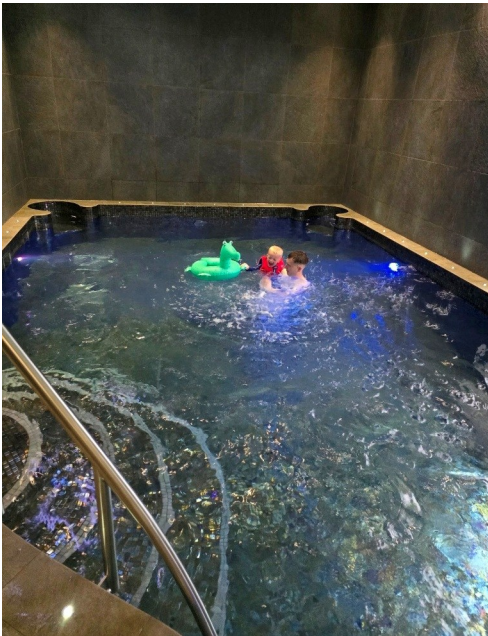
amongst many more prizes!), plus there will be a tombola, cake stall, soft toy tombola, children's toy stall and a craft stall.

All money raised will go directly to the running of the centre, including their well loved hydrotherapy pool, outdoor play park and sensory rooms.

We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Love from Laura, Rory and Luca Wood

(photos: Laura Wood)



“

When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence.
Tamlin Tomita, American actress.

Junior Church Update

New Mums!

Congratulations to two past members of Junior Church...how time flies they are now new Mums!

Jo (nee Lynch) and Evgenij Popov have a son, Sasha Christoph. Sasha was born on the 5th December 2025. We look forward to Jo and Evgenij bringing their son over to Whitley Bay

in the summer (Sasha's baptism will be on 16th August at St. Andrew's).

Katy (nee Ames) and Josh Guy have a daughter Ruby Grace. Ruby was born on 3rd February 2026. We look forward to meeting Ruby.

Ann Sinclair



Irene Goeleven / Pixabay

A Dream Come True

On Sunday 22nd March 2026 I had a dream come true.

After leading worship, I am always hungry even having had breakfast. The offer of a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards is always welcome. However, I am so hungry a bacon roll would be better! There is something about a bacon roll. I describe my food tastes as being a demi-veg but the smell and the taste of a bacon roll is wonderful. Through the thoughtfulness of Cheryl my dream came true! Cheryl came to the 9.30 Communion and presented me with a beautifully wrapped bacon roll... and it was lovely! Thank you Cheryl!!

Ann Sinclair



There are more Rubik's Cube combinations than grains of sand on Earth.

A standard cube has about 43 quintillion possible configurations, while scientists estimate there are roughly 7.5 quintillion grains of sand on Earth.

Yet every one of those combinations can be solved in 20 moves or fewer.

The folded clothes

Why Jesus folded his facial cloth



Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him! Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.

The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side (John 20: 1-7). Is that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the Master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table until the master was finished. Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth with that napkin and toss it on to the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.' But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant 'I'm not finished yet.'

The folded napkin meant 'I'm coming back!'

Source unknown
via ACE

Questions of the Day

A few more from Charles
Nove on Magic Classical



1. People buy me to eat but they never eat me. What am I?
2. What's next in this sequence and why? 1 4 5 6 7 9 11
3. Some Magic Town residents assemble. They establish that: Susan is 10, Jim and Dan are both 5, and Arabella is 20, yet they are all the same age. What number do we give Jessica?
4. There are 3 children, all under 20 and no twins. Last year product of their ages was 324. This year it is 360. What are their ages now?
5. Which is the odd one out from these and why? Land, Sweet, Break, Burn, Rate, Valve.
6. In the dark of the morning with clean washing in a pile there are 30 black socks, 22 red socks and 13 blue socks. How many socks do you need to get a matching pair?
7. 500 is at my end and at my start, but five is at my heart. My first and ninth letters complete me. I have a male name. What am I called?
8. Spell me forwards I'm something you do every day but spelt backwards I'm something you hate. What am I?
9. In strict order we find: A smooth dance, a popular outdoor sport with a ball, a place to stay, a huge country and a girl's name. What is the girl's name?
10. If $1+9+8=1$ what is $2+8+9$?

1. Cutlery or crockery
2. 100 — Next number without a 1 in it.
3. 15 — five for each syllable.
4. 5, 8 and 9
5. Sweet — all the others can be preceded by Heart
6. Four
7. David
8. Live and Evil
9. Juliette (Phonetic alphabet from Foxtrot onwards)
10. Ten — initial letters of the numbers spelt out



Wisdom

If your lips would keep from slips five things observe with care: of whom you speak, to whom you speak and how and when and where.

Unknown

From the Book of Remembrance — April

Remembering those who have gone before us

Karen Watkin

David Smith Fisher

Helen McNeill Dall

Janette A. Charlton

Gladys Wilson

Nell and Eric Hammond

William Noel Jackson

John Arthur (Jack) Melding

David King

Jim Sinclair

Minnie Skee

Lynne Chisholm

Dorothy Postle

May Stewart

Church Register

DEATHS

BURGESS Barbara Ellen, aged 81 years,
on 5th February 2026.
Committal at Whitley Bay on
20th March, followed by
service at St Andrew's,
conducted by Revd Louise Sanders.

“

God's love is like an ocean; you can see its beginning
but not its end.
Rick Warren.

May Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 26th April.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 20th April.**

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers from the URC
and lectionary readings*



5	Easter Sunday rejoicing in the risen Christ, a time of hope and possibility.	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
12	St Andrew's, Monkseaton and St Columba's, North Shields. Minister: Revd Louise Sanders.	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
19	Giving thanks for creation and those who care for it (World Earth Day 22 April). Celebrating our Synod Environmental Group, alongside our Green Apostle Charles Jolly.	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
26	Churches: Guisborough; St Andrew's, Nunthorpe and Marton; St Columba's, Billingham; St George's, Hartlepool; St Andrew's Mission, Thornaby; St Andrew & St George, Stockton. CRCW Ann Honey. In Redcar holding the new LEP Redcar House of Worship and its Minister: Revd Mark Hubbard.	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

April Rotas

*Please remember to swap
if you are not able to cover
your duty*



- ELDERS:** Vestry: Iain Ord
Reception: Carole Mallett (5, 12, 26); Chris Hales (19);
Communion: Hazel Hall.
- STEWARD:** Alison Mood
- SUNDAY 5th** Organ: Helen Storey Prayers: Carole Moore
Readers: Hazel Hall; Alison Mood
- Tuesday 7th** Prayers: Sue Ames
- SUNDAY 12th** Organ: Helen Prayers: Val Taylor
Readers: Geoff Mills; Carole Mallett
- Tuesday 14th** Prayers: Andrew Cooke
- SUNDAY 19th** Organ: Helen Prayers: Louise
Readers: Jen Fleetham; Marilyn Walton
- Tuesday 21st** Prayers: Geoff Mills
- SUNDAY 26th** Organ: Alex Prayers: Chris Hales
Readers: Susan Anderson; Iain Ord
- Tuesday 28th** Prayers: Carole Moore

Church Calendar for April / May

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)

Thursday	2	Service of Tenebrae; Dr Ann Sinclair	7.30 pm
Friday	3	Ecumenical Outdoor Service opposite the Spar in Monkseaton	12.00 pm
		Good Friday Reflective Service	2.30 pm
Saturday	4	THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE MORNING ON EASTER SATURDAY	—
Sunday	5	Sunrise Service at Spanish City Plaza; Mrs Valerie Taylor	6.30 am
		Easter Sunday Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		THERE WILL BE NO EVENING SERVICE ON EASTER SUNDAY	—
Friday	10	Film Club – 'JoJo Rabbit'	2.00 pm
Sunday	12	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Monday	13	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
Friday	17	Executive Team Meeting	2.30 pm
Saturday	18	Family Fun Afternoon	3.00 pm
		Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	19	Let's Sing; Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group; Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Friday	24	Finance Team Meeting	2.30 pm
Saturday	25	Jazz Evening	7.30 pm
Sunday	26	Communion Service; Mrs Valerie Taylor	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
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Saturday	2	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	10.30 am
Sunday	3	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

Sonnet written in Holy Week at Genoa, *by Oscar Wilde*

I wandered in Scoglietto's green retreat,
The oranges on each o'er hanging spray
Burned as bright lamps of gold to shame
the day;
Some startled bird with fluttering wings
and fleet
Made snow of all the blossoms, at my feet
Like silver moons the pale narcissi lay:
And the curved waves that streaked the
sapphire bay
Laughed i' the sun, and life seemed very
sweet.
Outside the young boy-priest passed
singing clear,
"Jesus the Son of Mary has been slain,
O come and fill his sepulchre with
flowers."
Ah, God! Ah, God! those dear Hellenic
hours
Had drowned all memory of Thy bitter
pain,
The Cross, the Crown, the Soldiers, and the
Spear.

