



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Tim Cooke

Musings — Prayers — Imperfections
Celtic connections — (Holy)days — Sunlit from heaven

Volume 92 Issue 5 — May 2026

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LU

<http://standrewsmonseatonurc.org.uk>



monkseatonurc

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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

Finding Hope in our Troubled World



It is hard to ignore the heaviness of our world just now. Every week brings fresh reports from the wars in the Middle East, from Ukraine and Russia, from places where ordinary people long for safety and yet find themselves surrounded by conflict. Many of us carry a quiet, persistent worry about what kind of future is unfolding, and what it means to live faithfully in a world where peace feels so very fragile.

Closer to home, our own church family has been walking through a season of sadness as we have said goodbye to much loved members whose absence is felt deeply. Others among us are facing illness, uncertainty, and the slow, exhausting work of recovery. Grief and worry do not stay politely at the edges of life - they sit with us, they follow us into worship and they shape our prayers.

So how do we find hope in times like these? Well, not by pretending everything is fine, and not by shutting our eyes to the suffering around us. Our Christian hope has never been about denial, it is about presence - God's presence with us, and our presence with one another.

The story of Scripture is clear: God does not stand far off when the world trembles, He draws near. As the psalmist reminds us, *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted"* (Psalm 34:18). In Jesus we see a God who walks dusty roads with anxious disciples, who weeps at gravesides, who steps into the world's pain and refuses to let darkness have the final word. Hope is not the absence of struggle; it is the assurance that we do not face it alone.

And perhaps this feels even more poignant at Easter — the season when we remember that life and love rise again from the depths of sorrow. The cross and the empty tomb remind us that God's compassion reaches into every shadow and brings light that cannot be extinguished.

As a congregation, we hold one another, we pray for our world, and we trust that God is already at work - quietly, steadily, lovingly - in ways we cannot yet see. May we continue to be a community where hope is nurtured, shared, and lived.

Blessings, Louise

 Jesmond Choral Group

Registered charity number 1113853

PRESENTS



THE MIKADO

With soloists from
Tynemouth Gilbert & Sullivan
Society

Conducted by Jonathan Scott
Accompanied by Julia
Kennard



Saturday 6th June 2026 7.30pm
St Andrew's United Reformed Church
Eastfield Ave, Monkseaton, NE25 8LU

Tickets £10, available on the door, cash or card.



Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Christian Aid Coffee Morning – Saturday 2nd May, 10.30 am – 12 noon

The Coffee Morning this month will be held in aid of Christian Aid Week which runs from 10th to 16th May. Do come along if you can to meet with friends and support this worthy cause. There will be the usual raffle and a cake stall for which donations would be welcome.

Film Club – Friday 8th May, 2.00 pm

This month we are showing the award winning film *I Swear (15)*. The film is a powerful true-life story of Tourette Syndrome campaigner John Davidson. In a moving account of his experiences, the story follows John throughout his adolescence and early adulthood and explores what was a little known and entirely misunderstood condition in 1980s Britain. Due to the nature of the film there is very strong language and episodes of brief violence.

Poetry Evening – Saturday 16th May, 7 pm

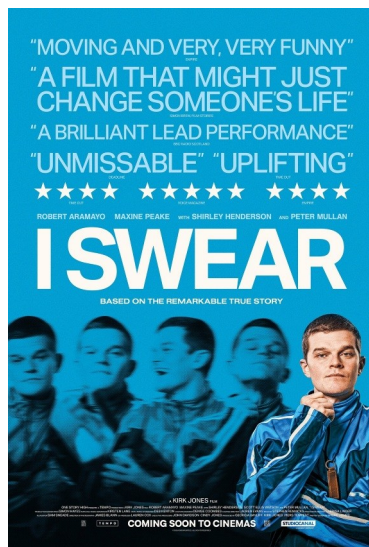
Come along and share your words with us. Read your own poems, poems you like or just come for an enjoyable evening of poetry and

chat. Tickets at £5 include wine/soft drinks and nibbles.

Dates for the Diary

- **Laura Wood's Coffee Morning in aid of the Alan Shearer Centre – Saturday 6th June, 10 am – 12 noon**
- **Quiz Evening with Fish & Chips – Saturday 18th July, 6pm**
- **Grainger Singers Concert – Saturday 12th September**
- **Art Exhibition – Saturday 3rd October**

Ann Hammond



Word of thanks

From them to you



June Laves / Pixabay

The Christopher family would like to thank everyone at St Andrew's for the cards and kindness we received after the death of Robin, they were greatly appreciated.

From the collection made after the service at the crematorium £300 was raised which has been sent to Prostate Cancer UK.

I would like to thank all my church family for the flowers, cards, emails, texts, phone calls, thoughts and prayers during my recent diagnosis, operation and treatment. I feel the love of God is surrounding me and giving me strength, through the wonderful church family I am part of. With heartfelt love and blessings.
Sandra Pine

Many thanks for all the kind prayers, cards, messages, flowers during my recent illness.

All much appreciated,
John MacLennan.

Thank you for your concern and good wishes following a fall recently resulting in a fractured shoulder.

It is amazing what I have been able to do with one hand but I have noticed as days passed that some tasks that were impossible yesterday can now be achieved although slowly and carefully.

Thank you also for the lovely flowers and posy of daffodils, delivered on Mother's Day, whilst we were visiting our family.

This reminds me of a similar occasion a few years ago when I received a posy of daffodils "posted through the letter box", still intact and unbroken despite their unusual delivery !!!

Thank you once again.
Anne Cockburn.

“

I have no time to worry about anyone who doesn't care about me; I'm too busy loving the people who love me.

Midweek Prayers

Coming together
in a time of quiet

Think of some of the most beautiful places you have visited or seen in pictures or TV programmes. Think of them as works of art and let your joy in God's world lead you to worship the artist... the living God.

Opening Words

Out of the darkness and void,
God is creating.
Out of chaos,
God is bringing order.
Out of the fragments we offer,
God is creating wholeness.
God breathes life. **AMEN**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Living God,
there is so much that speaks to us
of Your love and purpose,
so much in our lives
and in our daily experiences;
in the fellowship we share with one
another, and in the relationship, we
share with You.

Forgive us that sometimes we do not
listen; that often we are closed to
anything but our own words.
Open our hearts to all the ways you
are at work.



Cherry blossom at Alnwick Garden / Ann Sinclair.

Open our eyes so that we glimpse
Your purpose more fully.
Open our ears so that we may hear
Your voice more clearly.
Open our minds to receive Your truth
more completely. **AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Living God,
You open Your loving arms to us,
reaching out to cleanse and renew
us, assuring us of Your loving mercy,
forgiveness and love.
Living God, hear our prayer. **AMEN**

... continues

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven... For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever. **AMEN**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, make us good stewards of all Your gifts.
For the regions of rich growth and for the parched deserts.
For the life you have given us with our particular responsibilities and opportunities;
for our families friends and neighbours and all who provide for our needs,
Lord of creation we offer You our lives that we may be instruments of praise in the words we speak,
in the things we do and in the way that we live. **AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Living God,
we pray for those people who have lost hope — in their dreams, their circumstances or in life itself.
Lord of all hopefulness, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who despair of seeing freedom, justice, peace or

reconciliation; of having adequate food and clothing.

For those who despair of receiving help and healing.

Lord of all hopefulness hear our prayer.

Living God,
there is so much despair in the world and for many there seems little reason to hope.

Reach out we pray, to all whose belief in the future has been destroyed, rekindle purpose where confidence has been undermined, and hope that Your kingdom will come, Your will be done.

Lord of all hopefulness, hear our prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . **AMEN**

Blessing

God bless each sign of spring, each new shoot, each lighter day, each warmer wind.

God bless us with renewed love, faith and hope . **AMEN**

Ann Sinclair

Inspiration: Ruth Burgess *A Book of Blessings*; Nick Fawcett *Prayers for All Seasons*.

“

Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgoes revenge and dares to forgive.

Imperfections

Another reflection from Tom Gordon

*"We are all perfectly imperfect.
That's what makes us human."*

*Ruby Yayra Goka,
Perfectly Imperfect (2013)*

Viewforth Church in Edinburgh, where I ministered in the 1980s and 90s, was built in 1847. On a corner site, it has four levels – a sub-basement with rooms and a small hall, a basement with a kitchen and large hall, a wide sanctuary on the ground floor, just above street level, and an extensive, three-sided gallery. The front of the gallery has an attractive balustrade, a series of about twenty identical carved panels, with a five-petalled flower at the centre of each, the petals of every flower bending backwards.

They are all beautiful, and symmetrical – apart from one. For half-way along the left side of the gallery there's a panel with a carved flower at the centre with only four petals, all bending forwards. An apprentice who got it wrong? Bad quality control in the workshop? Perhaps. But I was told that the error was included on purpose, the architect at the time affirming, "It's to illustrate that there is nothing perfect in human hands. Only God is perfect." So, it could be a laudable sentiment, a purposeful inclusion, a mistake which was discovered too late for changes to be made, or a clever story made up for the new minister. We shall never know.

But, in truth, I came to appreciate that

out-of-kilter carving. For a start, it was at eye level when I was in the pulpit, a reminder that, whatever I thought of my preaching, it would never be perfect. And, from time to time, it suggested the pomposity and self-righteousness of some of the people I worked with, who thought they were perfect, but clearly weren't. And, of course, it was a metaphor for the purpose of worship, recognising the imperfections in all of us, knowing the forgiving love of our God, and seeking ways to improve our service to Christ and the Kingdom.

Ruby Yayra Goka is right. "We are all perfectly imperfect". It's what makes us human. Mostly, we blend in (for didn't the imperfect panel in Viewforth Church's gallery look pretty much the same as all the others, unless you examined them closely?) And sometimes our imperfections stick out like a sore thumb. But, either way, it's good to know that the imperfect has as much right to a place in the house of God as all the other carved flowers on the balustrade that appear perfect in every way.

A prayer for today

Loving God, as I recognise my imperfections, help me understand your perfect love. Amen

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

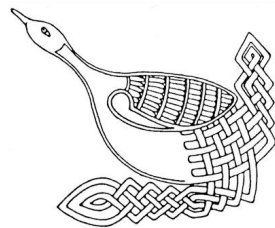
Also available at

<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>



This is no wild goose chase

How the source of this Celtic symbol can guide our faith



In Celtic Christianity, the symbol for the Holy Spirit is the wild goose. By flying in a V-formation, as each bird flaps its wings the whole flock adds 70% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they want to go more quickly and easily because they are all travelling on the thrust generated by all.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation it quickly gets back so that it can continue to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it moves back into the formation and

another goose flies at the point position.

It pays to take turns at doing the hard tasks- sharing leadership and maintaining interdependence.

The geese in formation 'honk' from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We need to be sure that our 'honking from behind' is an encouragement to those who lead us.

When a goose gets sick, or wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow the one to help and protect it. They stay until it is able to fly again or dies.

In our fellowship as Christian people, we stand by each other in all circumstances.

**Margaret Bevis
via Association for Church Editors**

"Daddy, I want to ask you a question", said little Bobby after his first day at Sunday school.

"Yes, Bobby, what is it?"

"The teacher was reading the Bible to us – all about the children of Israel building the Temple, the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel making sacrifices. Didn't the grown-ups do anything?"

Christian Aid Week

But who are they and what do they do with the money?



Aims:

- We seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.
- We stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term.
- We support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

How is each £1 of Christian Aid's income used?

In the financial year ending 31 March 2024, for every £1 we received, we spent:

- 84p in our life-changing work including: working for long-term change, responding to humanitarian emergencies and using our voice to call for global change.
- 16p in our fundraising and awareness raising to attract new supporters . For every £1 we invest, we secure more than £6 in return.

Is Christian Aid political?

Poverty is political – there's no way round that. When people go hungry, yet there is food enough to feed them, then something is wrong. When people are poor at a time when there has never been more wealth, we must ask why and who is responsible, and campaign for leaders to change their policies.

We are never party political. We are interested only in pressing for policies that can best help the poor – not in who makes them. All we care about is eradicating poverty and injustice and the causes of these.

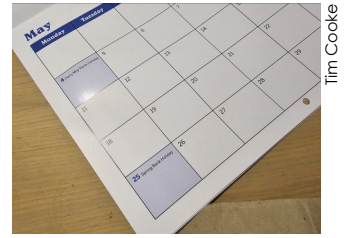
To make this happen, we will talk to, and challenge, whoever we need to.

We also ensure that all funds go direct to local partners and not governments, ensuring any misuse of funds is investigated for potential corruption.

With that in mind, please come along to support the Coffee Morning for Christian Aid at St. Andrew's on Saturday 2nd May 10.30 — 12 noon.

Thank you Sir John!

May the Fourth be with you!



After two Bank Holidays in April and another two coming in May, just who was it that invented bank holidays in the UK?

Bank holidays were first introduced by a man named Sir John Lubbock who was a scientific writer, banker and politician, and the first Baron of Avebury. In 1870 Lubbock entered parliament in order to champion his political passions. The following year he introduced the Bank Holidays Act which enshrined annual public holidays in law.

So what were the first bank holidays?

The Act added the first four official bank holidays for England, Wales and Ireland: Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the first Monday in August, and Boxing Day to existing common law holidays, (Christmas and Good Friday), creating popular, mandatory paid

time off for workers- often called "St Lubbock's Days". Scotland had a different pattern, recognising five holidays including New Year's Day.

But why do we call them "bank holidays"?

Prior to 1871, banks were open nearly every day (!). The Act allowed banks to legally close, as they once did on certain saints' days permitting payments to be deferred to the next business day.

And as for the word 'holiday'... that itself derives from Old English *haligdæg* — "holy day, Christian festival, day consecrated to religious observance, religious anniversary; Sabbath", from *halig* "holy" + *dæg* "day".

Sally Churchus
via Association for Church Editors

One day a little girl was walking with her grandparents along the prom. They said to each other , "There is little or no sand and it may never return". The young child said "Don't worry, God has only taken the sand out to sea to wash it. He will return it nice and clean for the summer."

Happy days!

Bob Corrigan

Dates from years past

A few historical anniversaries we can remember in May

2-4 May 1946 – 80 years ago

The Battle of Alcatraz. Alcatraz federal prison in San Francisco Bay, California, USA was taken over by prisoners after a failed escape attempt. A violent battle ensued.

3 May 1966 – 60 years ago

The game Twister was featured on *The Tonight Show* in the USA. Host Johnny Carson played it with actress and socialite Eva Gabor. It became an immediate success with people queuing up to buy it the next day. The manufacturer, Milton Bradley, had been considering withdrawing it as they thought it was too risqué.

6 May 1966 – 60 years ago

The Moors Murders, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, were sentenced to life imprisonment in the UK. Brady was convicted of three murders and Hindley of two, though they later confessed to a total of five. Their victims were aged between 10 and 17.

7 May 1946 – 80 years ago

Sony, the Japanese consumer electronics company, was founded (as the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation).



BBC.co.uk

9 May 1951 – 75 years ago

The Lake District National Park was established in England. It was Britain's second national park.

14 May 1926 – 100 years ago

Birth of Eric Morecambe, British comedian (Morecambe and Wise). (Died 1984.)

24 May 1956 – 70 years ago

The first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

28 May 1951 – 75 years ago

The first episode of the radio comedy series *The Goon Show* was broadcast in the UK. It ran until 1960. (The first series was called *Crazy People*).

29 May 1826 – 200 years ago

Birth of Ebenezer Butterick an American tailor, who with his wife, Ellen, invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes. Their invention revolutionised home dressmaking.

Sunlit from heaven!

The privilege of seeing in each new day.

'Morning has Broken', despite being used all too often for our morning school assemblies, and sung with a kind of laddish-out-of-tune-gusto that is best described as 'Highly Spirited,' remains a favourite hymn to this day. It is one of the simplest, we all know the tune, even if the words get jumbled. Perhaps its greatest strength is that it does what it says on the tin – reminds us what an utter privilege it is to experience the beginning of a new day.

We of course forget how special that is, why? Because it happens every single-blooming-day-of-the-week! The magic is lost in the mundane. That's not a tragedy of course, again, that's part of its power. Who else has been caught-dumb struck after opening their curtains to find a glorious morning scene awaiting them, a scene of such devastating beauty outside, and wondered if anyone else had ever viewed such a marvel? (Apart from Shelley and Keats that is!) Who, may I ask, has not been lifted in spirits by the warm glow of the morning sun, has not sighed at sight of the snow-covered earth, not yet spoiled by human feet, (but dotted by tiny birds feet!) has not simply been humbled in the miracle that is the beginning of a new day? Well, you'd



Tim Cooke

have to be made of stone if you hadn't.

They might not catch us dumb struck every morning, but the miracle has happened all the same. Each one a heaven-sent calling to us. A fresh start. A new day. Again and again. A chance to learn a new skill, be better, be kinder, make bath-tub-gin. And if we miss that chance many times over, we still get another one. It's incredible really!

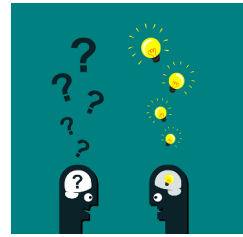
BUT let us not forget what an utter privilege that is too. Mornings don't just happen around Spring when vicars start describing them in their sermons, oh no; mornings come even if we'd rather they didn't. Sometimes the last thing we want is the chippery song of a silly blackbird in our ear!

Mornings bring their fair share of heartache, and they often bring hope that is dashed by midday. Yet still they come, and we are the lucky ones really, aren't we? To see the sun rise must be one of the greatest blessings we on earth are given. Enjoy the summer ones in the coming weeks!

Spencer Mitchell
via Association for Church Editors

Questions of the Day

A few more from Charles Nove on Magic Classical



1. My root is at the top of the trunk. I grow in the winter and then die in the spring. What am I.
2. On a 12 hour digital clock that does not display the leading zero, what is the smallest time interval between two palindromic times, e.g., 1.01, 1.11?
3. We are five little items of an everyday sort. You will find us all in the ladies court. What are we?
4. What are the next two numbers in this sequence: 309, 416, 525, 636 ?
5. When asked how old he is the Magic Town Riddler replies: "If you reverse the numbers in my age you'll get double the age I'll be next year." How old are they?

1. An icicle.
 2. 2 minutes from 9.59 to 10.01.
 3. The vowels, A, E, I, O and U.
 4. 749 and 864—second digits are square of the first.
 5. 25

Calling all readers!

2026 is the Year of Reading

The National Literacy Trust are concerned that nearly half of UK adults no longer read books for pleasure - possibly because of our smartphones.

A recent survey, by *Christianity* magazine, lists the 100 most influential and popular Christian books. The top five are:

5. *The Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer
4. *Mere Christianity* by CS Lewis
3. *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew



Pixelina / Pixabay

2. *The Cross and the Switchblade* by David Wilkerson

1. *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom

If you only read one book this year, why not read or re-read one of the top rated books above?

Sally Churchus
via Association for Church Editors

From the Book of Remembrance for this month

Remembering those who have gone before us

Annie Adamson Saunders
Dr. James Fraser M.B.Ch.B.
Vera W. B. Heighton
Stanley & Margaret Joyce Ord
Peter Hawkins Morley
Margaret (Peggy) Thomson
Smith

John Williams
Elizabeth Carmen Patterson
Janet Norrie Caldwell
Frank Packer
John Blaney Walton
Bill Waugh
Derek Milton Lowdon

Church Register

DEATHS

CHRISTOPHER Allan Robin, aged 86 years,
on 10th March 2026.
Service and committal at Whitley Bay
on 31st March,
conducted by Revd Louise Sanders.

SHORT Derek Nigel, aged 80 years,
on 19th March 2026.
Service and committal at Whitley Bay
on 8th April,
conducted by Dr Ann Sinclair.

Derek and his wife Janice were members of St. Andrew's who contributed much to the life of the church's young people and were a great loss when they left.

June Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 31st May.
Please have contributions to Tim **by 24th May.**

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers from the URC
and lectionary readings*



3	Synod on Tour (9 th) Stockton Road, Sunderland.	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
10	Christian Aid Week (10 – 16 May). Prayers for global justice and generosity. Commitment for Life Advocate, Maranny Jones.	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
17	St John's, Wideopen; St George's, High Heaton and Stamfordham exploring ministry. Interim Moderator: Revd David Grosch-Miller. Superintendent: Revd Tim Woolley.	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
24	Pentecost Sunday, the joy of receiving the Holy Spirit. Synod on Tour (30 th) St George's, Morpeth.	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
31	Trinity Sunday, the wonder of three in one. Children's, Youth and Families Committee. Convenor: Revd Julian Sanders; Field Workers: Hannah Middleton; John Stephenson. Youth Pioneers: Angela Feather; Irene Frith and Tony Harbottle-Noppen and the Youth Ops Team.	Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

May Rotas

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



ELDERS

Vestry: Jennifer Fleetham
Communion: Ann Sinclair

Reception: Carole Moore
Extra: Carole Mallett

STEWARD

Valerie Thompson

SUNDAY 3rd

Organ: Helen

Prayers: Andrew Cooke

Readers: Joan Blanchfield / Marilyn Walton

Tuesday 5th

Prayers: Carole Mallett

SUNDAY 10th

Organ: Helen

Prayers: Valerie Taylor

Readers: Chris Hales / Susan Clark

Tuesday 12th

Prayers: Ray Hammond

SUNDAY 17th

Organ: Helen

Prayers: Sandra Pine

Readers: Ray Hammond / Jenny Hooper

Tuesday 19th

Prayers: Marilyn Walton

SUNDAY 24th

Organ: Alex

Prayers: Ann Hammond

Readers: Kevin Ames / Sandra Pine

Tuesday 26th

Prayers: Ann Sinclair

SUNDAY 31st

Organ: Helen

Prayers: Worship Group

Readers: Worship Group



Church Calendar for May / June

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)

Friday	1	Finance Team Meeting	2.30 pm
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
Thursday	7	Pastoral Team Meeting followed by Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Friday	8	Film Club – 'I Swear'	2.00 pm
Saturday	9	New Testament Live	10.00 am
Sunday	10	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Friday	15	Executive Team Meeting	2.30 pm
Saturday	16	Poetry Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	17	Let's Sing; Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group; Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	18	Worship Group Meeting	7.00 pm
Sunday	24	Communion Service; Mrs Lucy Cooke	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Sunday	31	Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair & Worship Group	11.00 am
JUNE 2026			
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning in aid of the Alan Shearer Centre	10.00 am
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
		Evening Worship - Service to be confirmed	TBC

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems

For Those Who Suffer

You are love,
and you see all the suffering,
injustice, and misery,
which reign in this world.
Have pity, we implore you,
on the work of your hands.
Look mercifully on the poor,
the oppressed, and all who are heavy
laden with error, labour and sorrow.
Fill our hearts with deep compassion for
those who suffer and hasten the coming
of your kingdom of justice and truth.

Eugène Bersier (1831-1889)

As we approach Pentecost:

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)

