



NEWSTAND

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. ANDREW'S URC



Tim Cooke

Musings — Prayers — Church events
The Good Shepherd — Words for thought

Volume 92 Issue 6 — June 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

The Unintended Guest at the Feast!



Image by Louise Sanders

I have always loved feeding the birds and have feeding stations in both the front and back garden. I love watching the variety of birds who visit – blue tits, great tits, goldfinch, sparrows, long-tailed tits, siskins, starlings and pigeons. But one morning, there was a new guest – one with a long tail! A mouse was clinging to the feeder, nibbling happily on the peanuts meant for someone else. Julian was not amused. He worries the mouse will find its way indoors, but I couldn't help smiling at the sight - a tiny, uninvited diner at the feast.

It struck me how often our kindness spills beyond the boundaries we imagine. We set out to help one group, and another finds nourishment too. We plan carefully, but grace refuses to stay tidy. It overflows, reaching places we never intended. The peanut feeder becomes a parable of abundance - generosity that cannot be contained.

Jesus once told of a banquet where the invited guests stayed away, and so the host sent servants to gather "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" (Luke 14:21). The

feast was filled not by those expected, but by those overlooked. God's hospitality is like that - wide, surprising, and sometimes inconvenient. It blesses more than we plan for.

Perhaps the mouse reminds us that God's grace is not a precision instrument. It's lavish, untidy, and alive. When we open our hands, we never know who will be fed - or what new life will scurry into view. And maybe that's the beauty of it: the kingdom of God is always larger than our intentions, and its guests more varied than we imagine.

It's good for us to be reminded that the boundaries we may try to put in place are often overcome by a God who wants his blessings to be for everyone. His grace doesn't stop at the edges we draw; it spills into unexpected corners, feeding life we didn't even know was hungry. And perhaps that's the invitation - to trust that when we act with kindness, God will take our small offerings and make them part of his great, generous feast.

*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.

**making
music**



Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning – Saturday 6th June 10.00 am – 12 noon

The Coffee Morning this month has been organised by Laura Wood and is in aid of the Alan Shearer Centre. The Centre is a highly specialist, respite, residential and social facility for people living with complex disabilities and acute sensory impairments. It is situated in its own grounds on the outskirts of Newcastle and comprises three specialist facilities on the site.

Do come along if you can to support this worthy cause. Laura has put her heart and soul into organising the event and it promises to be a super morning with various stalls and amazing raffle prizes. Please note the Coffee Morning will start at 10.00 am and not the usual 10.30 am. Also donations for the cake stall would be much appreciated.

Film Club – Friday 12th June, 2.00 pm

This month's film is *Song Sung Blue (12)*. Based on a true story, Mike (Hugh Jackman) and Claire (Kate Hudson) are two down-on-their-luck musicians who prove that it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. They form a joyous Neil

Diamond tribute band called Lightning and Thunder rising to unexpected hometown stardom. When tragedy strikes, their love for each other and passion for music give them the strength to overcome hardships, rediscover hope and inspire everyone around them.

Play Reading Evening– Saturday 20th June, 7.00 pm

Once again there is an opportunity either to take part or just listen to a play, usually a comedy and at the same time enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles. Tickets are £5.

Dates for the Diary

- Quiz Evening with Fish & Chips – Saturday 18th July, 6pm
- Grainger Singers Concert – Saturday 12th September, 7 pm
- Art Exhibition – Saturday 3rd October

Ann Hammond



Family Fun Afternoon!

St. Andrew's URC
Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton

Crafts!

Games!

Refreshments!

Fun for All the Family!



Saturday 20th June, 3pm

Contact: Revd Louise Sanders
louise.sanders208@gmail.com

Word of thanks

From them to you



June Laves / Pixabay

A sincere thank you to all my friends at St. Andrew's for the lovely gifts, cards, flowers and Happy Birthday wishes I received to celebrate my 50th birthday. Me, 50 - I can't believe it. Being at home with Mum and Dad made it all the more special as was Ann's service when she included one of my favourite hymns. I will always look forward to spending time with you all from time to time.

**Love,
Alison**

Thank you so much to my lovely friends at St Andrew's for your care and concern during my recent surgery.

Flowers and cards and kind messages were really appreciated.

Gordon deserves a medal for coping with a frequently grumpy patient so well.

I promise that I will never again say that Gordon is accident prone.

Many thanks again,
Ingrid Connacher

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Louise and all at St Andrew's for your support over the last two difficult years - the prayers, love, flowers, cards and visits. The love you have sent me has embraced me and helped me enormously.

I saw my consultant on 17th May but had a letter from him before that with excellent news. There was no malignancy following bladder removal. I know I am not out of the woods yet and it is a long journey, but just to say again how much I appreciate your support.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours in fellowship,

Kath Eyre

Fun for the whole family!
Fundraising Morning
In Aid of
The Alan Shearer Centre

★ Family fun, cakes, prizes & kids' activities!

Hosted by The Wood Family
At: St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton, NE25 8LU

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE
10AM – 12PM
Pop in anytime!

Cake Stall

Tombola

Craft Stall

Toy stall

Soft toy tombola



RAFFLE

Amazing prizes to be won!

- Afternoon tea at Spanish City
- Northumberland Zoo tickets
- Local restaurant vouchers
- Hair salon voucher
- Soft play tickets
- ...and more!

★ You don't need to
be present to win!



Guess the name
of the teddy

Suggested donation on entry. Cash preferred.

Come along and support a great cause! ♥

For more information, please contact: Laura Wood on:

07532231565

Midweek Prayers

Coming together
in a time of quiet



Ann Sinclair

Opening Words

Gracious and loving God,
everything we have and are,
every good thing we see or hear,
every hope and joy and every
blessing
comes from Your loving heart.
You envelop us in a love that fills
the very essence of our lives.
Surround us with your peace,
with your grace and love.
Transform our fears, anxiety and
doubt,
fill us with confidence and faith, hope
and love
that we can share with all those we
meet. **Amen**

A Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord,
we ask you to forgive us all the things
we have left undone,
the acts of kindness we never find
time for,
the thoughtful word never spoken,
the things we find so hard to do.

Gracious and loving God,
forgive us for all the opportunities we
have missed,
the dreams never brought to reality,
the possibilities we never imagined,
the gifts we never used
through lack of thought and
understanding.

Gracious Lord,
save us from being a people of
unfulfilled intentions.
Help us to put our thoughts into
actions.
Help us to learn from Jesus
and in growing closer to Him
may our lives speak not of ourselves
but of You. **Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

God's Spirit is upon us:
the Spirit of forgiveness,
the Spirit of grace,
the Spirit of oneness.
Today, and in all the days to come,
God's Spirit is with us.
Thanks be to the One who is our joy
and our strength. **Amen.**

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 Intercession

Lord,
we pray for those whose lives are filled
with darkness,
for those whose days are shadowed
with despair;
for those whose eyes are closed to
the hope of your presence
and for those whose words and
deeds darken the lives of their
neighbour.

May they be held in the loving hands
of the Lord.

Lord,
we pray for those on the bottom of
life's ladder of hope
and for those who have reached the
top
without regard for those who are still
struggling;
and for those who don't know where
their next meal is coming from.
May they be held in the loving hands
of the Lord.

Lord,
we pray for those whose homes are a
daily battleground
and whose promises to love have
been broken;
for those who are discovering the
pain of learning to trust again;
and for those for whom each day
seems harder than the last.
May they be held in the loving hands
of the Lord.

Lord,
We pray for those who daily face the
terrors of war,

for those living under corrupt and
violent governments,
for those who have lost everything
through natural disasters
of floods, earthquakes and
hurricanes.
May they be held in the loving hands
of the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear these
prayers we bring to You
in the name of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Closing Words

Lord, go with us on our journey of faith
-revive us when we grow weary,
direct us when we go astray, inspire us
when we lose heart, keep us travelling
ever-onwards,
grant us grace to serve You sharing
Your love and living Your life. **Amen**

Contributed by Ann Sinclair

*Inspired by D Clowes: 500 Prayers for
the Christian Year, N. Fawcett: Prayers
for all Seasons, and A. Sinclair*



Dikko / freechristianillustrations.com

The Good Shepherd

A Spring tale



Pat / Pixabay

Whilst now probably seeming a distant memory, some of you may recall the service on 26th April by Dr Ann Sinclair of The Good Shepherd. What I did not expect was such a literal re-enactment two days later!

On holiday in Keswick I was ambling down from the tops of Latrigg and approaching a gate in a field when I stumbled across a lamb and a sheep in clear distress. The lamb had become separated from its mother by wire fencing (presumably the lamb had managed to pass under the wire but was unable to return). After pondering the predicament for a moment I opened the gate and waited silently for what seemed like an age for the lamb to pluck up the courage to pass through to join its mother (the husband proving woefully

inadequate at channelling his inner sheep dog!)

Whilst I waited patiently, I thought of the address and readings from the service "I am the gate for the sheep", "whoever enters through me will be saved" and "I am the good shepherd" with mild amusement - I don't think Ann meant for me to take it at such face value!

Happily the, no doubt, relieved and certainly very hungry lamb did pluck up the courage and was re-united with its mother.

Just one request though Ann - could your next Morning Worship be about winning the Premium Bonds (failing which the parable of the Gold Coins will do)!

Amanda Anderson

Where's Louise?

As she said a few Sundays ago, although Louise isn't with us on Sundays for a while she is, on the whole, around the church, except for the following dates:

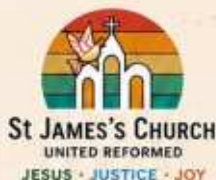
7th - 13th June - Annual Leave

3rd - 6th July - General Assembly

19th - 21st June - EM2 residential

27th July - 9th August - Annual Leave

Hopefully this will help people to know when she is or is not away.



TOGETHER IN CHRIST.
MANY CULTURES. ONE BODY.

MULTICULTURAL *Worship Service*

Let us come together to celebrate
the beauty of our diverse cultures in worship
and glorify God as *one family* in Christ.



DATE
**WEDNESDAY
3 JUNE 2026**



TIME
5:30 PM



VENUE
**ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
NEWCASTLE NE1 8JF**



A celebration of
our many cultures
united in faith,
hope and love.

Followed by food and fellowship!

"From every nation, tribe, people and language...
a great multitude that no one could count."

— Revelation 7:9

CONTACT



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ALVIN MARK
Northern Synod's Rep
at URC Youth Executive Committee.
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ONE IN FAITH. | ONE IN HOPE. | ONE IN LOVE.

⇒ All are welcome! ⇐



What?

*A thought for the day from
Tom Gordon*



Gerd Altmann / Pixabay

**I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and
When and How and Where and Who.**

*Rudyard Kipling, Just So Stories
(‘The Elephant’s Child’)*

These “Thought for the Day” pieces offer some points to ponder. They’ll not provide answers to everything, but they might raise some questions – like Kipling’s – that are worth thinking about. That’s what was on my mind when I wrote “What is Love?”, a poem to follow the story of “The Old Photo Frame” in my book, *A Blessing to Follow*. Is it an answer? Kind of, I suppose. But, more importantly, it asks an important question, don’t you think?

What is love that it might be given
without condition, with such
commitment that it changes my life?

It is love that lasts, that stands the test of time, which years nor distance cannot threaten or destroy. What is love that it might be received with full acceptance, and celebration and becomes all for me? It is love that stays and lives within your heart, and keeps, forever new, mine to give and yours to know. What is Love that it might make us one, and bind us ever still in what we give and take in one true union? It is the way to know the truth that leads to life, where love is ours and fullness is our gift that will not die.

A prayer for today

A glimpse of love is the glimpse of an
answer to many things – thank God!

An original reflection © Tom Gordon

Also available at

<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>

“

God is the only one who never makes me feel shy,
or afraid of being in the way, or not good enough
or something enough, and I do love it so.

Anon

Dates for digesting

Christian and Secular events in June



Mae / Pixabay

Wednesday 3 June: World Bicycle Day

An international event promoting the bicycle as a simple, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable mode of transport.

Thursday 4 June: Corpus Christi

This feast day commemorates the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Friday 5 June: World Environment Day

A global call for climate action

Saturday 6 to Sunday 14 June: Love Your Burial Ground Week / Churches Count on Nature 2026

Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week, focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is organised by Caring for God's Acre (the conservation charity for UK burial grounds) in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK.

Thursday 11 June: the FIFA World Cup starts (men's soccer)

Matches will take place in the US, Mexico and Canada

Sunday 21 June: Father's Day

Remembering and giving thanks for the Fathers and father figures in our lives

Friday 26 June: Take Your Dog to Work Day

An annual event encouraging dog owners to bring their pets into the office to raise money for animal welfare charities.

Saturday 27 June: Armed Forces Day

A day to recognise and celebrate the service provided by our regular and reservist members of the armed forces past and present.

Monday 29 June: Saints Peter and Paul

Honouring the martyrdom of these saints, their contribution to early Christianity, and their roles as pillars of the church.

Monday 29 June: Wimbledon Tennis Championships begin in London

A silent A to Z

26 words with pointless letters



Kristina Flour / Unsplash

A as in BREAD

B as in DEBT

C as in INDICTMENT

D as in HANDKERCHIEF

E as in GIVE

F as in HALFPENNY

G as in GNAW

H as in HOUR

I as in FRIEND

J as in MARIJUANA

K as in KNOW

L as in CALM

M as the first M in MNEMONIC

N as in AUTUMN

O as in PEOPLE

P as in PSALM

Q as in COLQUHOUN (a Scottish surname)

R as in FORECASTLE

S as in ISLAND

T as in CASTLE

U as in GUARD

V as in MILNGA VIE (a place in Scotland)

W as in WRONG

X as in SIOUX

Y as in PEPYS

Z as in RENDEZVOUS

Would you listen to these?

Some catchy sermon titles

Eternity! Smoking or Non-Smoking!

Don't judge those that sin differently than you do.

While there were nails in his hands and feet, there was love in his heart.

God left one thing out of the Bible...Your opinion.

Carpenter seeks joiners!

I am a member of the lost and found. Who do you think you are?

You say you believe in God, but do you believe Him?

Is HE a spare tire or your steering wheel?

Heaven or Hell. Where do you choose to go?

Basking in the Son

When He was on the cross, we were on His mind.

From the Book of Remembrance for this month

Remembering those who have gone before us

Katherine Kay Quinn

Jean Bell

Hector Jewels

Tom Murphy

Jenny Murphy

Mildred Adamson

Kathleen Louise Fraser

Kenneth Walton

John Burnett – White

Sheila McFarlane

Robert Wray Taylor

Margaret Victoria Taylor

Stan and Peggy Gleghorn



Holiday Club 2026

20th - 24th July

Planning Meeting!

We are delighted to once again be holding our annual holiday club, which this year will be entitled 'Superleuths'. Our first planning meeting will be held on **Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm**. If you are interested in helping in any way with holiday club, do come along and find out more details.

If you are unable to attend the planning meeting and would like to help with the club, please let Louise know so we can add you to the list and keep you updated.

The poster features a yellow background with blue text. A large magnifying glass is positioned on the right side, focusing on three stylized human figures. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the main title and dates at the top, followed by the event details and a call to action. A small disclaimer is at the bottom left.

July Newstand

The next edition of Newstand will be out on 28th June.

Please have contributions to Tim **by 22nd June**.

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

*Weekly prayers from the URC
and lectionary readings*



7	World Environment Day (5 June). Stewarding God's creation with care and courage. Synod on Tour (13th) St James's, Alnwick.	Genesis 12:1-9 and Psalm 33:1-12, Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
14	Horsley, Bellingham and Wark. Minister: Revd Roberta Ritson. Superintendent: Revd Marie Beard.	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
21	Refugee Week (15 – 21 June) and Learning Disability Week (15 – 21 June). Praying for belonging, safety and dignity for all. Synod on Tour (27 th) at Northgate, Darlington.	Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17, Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39
28	Trinity Gosforth exploring ministry. Deacon: Revd Jill Henderson. Interim Moderator: Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn. Superintendent: Alison Wilkinson.	Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13, Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

June Rotas

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



ELDERS	Vestry Reception Communion	Catriona Fenwick Celia Purves Carole Mallett
STEWARD	Hazel Howliston	
Tuesday 2nd	Prayers Carole Mallett	
Sunday 7th	Organ Helen Storey Readers Ann Hammond / Celia Purves	Prayers Chris Hales
Tuesday 9th	Prayers Ray Hammond	
Sunday 14th	Organ Helen Readers Mike Short / Jean Jackson	Prayers Carole Moore
Tuesday 16th	Prayers Sue Ames	
Sunday 21st	Organ Helen Readers Andrew Cooke / Kathleen Hopper	Prayers Hazel Hall
Tuesday 23rd	Prayers Carole Moore	
Sunday 28th	Organ Alex Readers Tim Cooke / Hazel Hall	Prayers Andrew Cooke
Tuesday 30th	Prayers Marilyn Walton	

Church Meeting in June

A reminder that the next Church Meeting will be on Sunday, 28th June 2026 after Morning Worship. An agenda will be available nearer the time, but if you have anything you wish to be considered for inclusion, please contact me.

Jen Fleetham

Church Calendar for June / July

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)

Tuesday	2	Planning Meeting for Holiday Club and Family Fun Afternoon	7.00 pm
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning in aid of the Alan Shearer Centre	10.00 am
		Jesmond Choral Group – 'The Mikado' (at St Andrew's)	7.30 pm
Sunday	7	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
		Evening Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	6.30 pm
Friday	12	Film Club – 'Song Sung Blue'	2.00 pm
Sunday	14	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am
Friday	19	Executive Team Meeting	2.30 pm
Saturday	20	Family Fun Afternoon	3.00 pm
		Play Reading Evening	7.00 pm
Sunday	21	Let's Sing; Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group; Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship; Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Friday	26	Finance Team Meeting	2.30 pm
Sunday	28	Communion Service; Dr Ann Sinclair	9.30 am
		Morning Worship; Mrs Lucy Cooke CHURCH MEETING FOLLOWS SERVICE	11.00 am
Monday	29	Activities Team Meeting	2.00 pm
JULY 2026			
Saturday	4	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
Sunday	5	Communion Service; Dr Donna Moore	11.00 am
		Evening Worship – Worship Group	6.30 pm
Saturday	11	Flower Team Concert by Acappella	TBA
Sunday	12	Morning Worship; Mrs Valerie Taylor	11.00 am

Pause in this moment

A place for
prayers,
thoughts
and poems



When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost!
That's why I chose this way."

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride;
I'm confessing that I stumble –
Needing God to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong;
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success;
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all;
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect;
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name.

Carol Wimmer