

**St Andrew's and Holymoorside**

**United Reformed Churches**



**Church News**

**February - March 2014**



## Minister's Letter

**O**ur situation as churches today has been likened to a crossroads. We are in a rapidly changing world where it is either easy to get lost or easier still to be left behind by developments. (Think of climate change or fracking!) The result is that we surround ourselves with the little circle of knowledge and practice that has been ours till this point. It's been called a 'magic circle'. It works for us but not for God – it magically isolates us from the real world and from making new disciples.

To realise its implications we need to cross over.\* No, we're not all going to become 'flatliners'! It can best be exemplified by Gandhi, who as a young man in South Africa immersed himself in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. When he went back home he took with him all he had learnt and applied it to his own situation. What came out and what the world recognises as a 'trademark' is the idea of non-violent resistance in our modern age.

The period of Lent that leads up to Easter – Easter is in April this year – is our space to 'cross over' before coming back through the experience of Easter. Lent is making space to use time differently, to reflect, to be changed, and finally to bring that experience to bear when we 'return' from the cross-over to realise God's revelation of resurrection for us again this year.



Lent is traditionally a period that recounts the story of Jesus' life. We hear some of the crucial events over a few brief Sundays and they lead us to the Easter story. One of the Bible Study groups at St Andrew's last autumn was looking at John's Gospel, discovering many hidden details. That experience can be brought over into this pre-Easter period if we set it alongside Ezekiel. Looking at Ezekiel chapters 33 – 37# they can be summarized very quickly as: mission, prophesied sign, shepherd imagery, judgment, and restoration. If that's not a general outline of the Jesus story then I don't know what is. This same pattern can be seen in John's gospel chapters 8 – 11#. John seems to rely on this structure and shows Jesus as enhancing it at every turn. So we find that Jesus becomes the 'good shepherd' (although the word 'good' is never to be read in Ezekiel), that allows the unity of Father and Son to be emphasised, also Jesus' authority to rule and his rightful place as the Davidic descendant (celebrated in so many Christmas carols and readings).

Along with Ezekiel's watchman we need to be the watch-people for today, ensuring safe transmission of the Gospel to the people of today. These ideas bring Lent into a focus that should help us all concentrate on our spirituality, strengthening our faith, re-catching the vision of who Jesus is and his meaning for our lives. Perhaps as we then move towards celebrating Easter we will be re-invigorated to tell the Good News for our generation.



\*I'm indebted to Albert H Keller's essay 'Follow him through the land of Unlikeness' in *The Power To Comprehend With All The Saints*, Eds W M Alston Jnr & C A Jarvis Eerdmans 2009 p100ff

# They are comparatively long passages to read but why not try reading them side by side?

# St Andrew's News

Congratulations to Jill Brown on the birth of another granddaughter, Lara, a second daughter for Rachel and James, a sister for Claudia and great granddaughter for Vilma and Fred.

*We wish the family good health and happiness for the future.*

\* \* \*

Margaret Wilcockson had a pace-maker fitted on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Although she was quite poorly over the Christmas period she is feeling a little better now. She is not well enough to attend worship but always follows our activities with interest.

*We send our love and good wishes to you, Margaret.*

\* \* \*

Margaret McCullough spent a while in the Royal Hospital suffering from anaemia. After treatment she was soon looking much better and back in her usual place at church.

*Our good wishes to you, Margaret. We knew you would obey doctor's orders!*

\* \* \*

Alison Harrow is now making steady progress following her recent treatment.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Alison, Margaret and Alex at this difficult time.*

\* \* \*

Unfortunately, Heather Newman, "Audrey's daughter" is undergoing a further course of chemotherapy treatment. Heather remains positive as always.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather and the family. We pray that the treatment may be effective.*

\* \* \*

It is good to see "new faces" in the congregation recently. We are delighted to welcome Jim and Bernice Wilson, Liz Sharples and her mother, Ann Blakemore.

*We hope that you will soon feel part of the fellowship.*

\* \* \*

Please continue to remember in your prayers those who are ill or house-bound, including Lawrence Wood and his daughter, Fiona, Birdie Townend, Cora Whittaker and Emmie Symes.

\* \* \*

Ethel and Gordon would like to thank all who gave their support by attending the funeral of their sister in law, Mavis. Walter much appreciated being surrounded by so many friends.



## **Jim Borland**

Jim Borland, former member and Elder at St Andrew's, died at Torrance Lodge Care Home, Kilmarnock on 24 December 2013 aged 91 years.

Jim was born in Kilmarnock and attended the local Academy. His plans to continue in the family tailoring business were interrupted by the war when he served as a ships wireless operator. He was present at the D day landings, returning to Kilmarnock at the end of the war. Work prospects saw him move to Bradford where he met his future wife Margaret. Margaret had a passion for acting and was a leading light in the Bingley Little Theatre. They married in 1953 and had three children, David, Jon and Katherine. During this time he and Margaret became Elders of the Bradford Presbyterian Church.

In 1966 the family moved to Chesterfield where Jim was Sales Manager for Coalite. He was a member of Walton Golf Club, playing there for many years. Both he and Margaret were elected to the Eldership of St Andrew's carrying out their duties with diligence and dignity, with Margaret eventually being elected Church Secretary. Jim was a keen sportsman interested in golf, rugby and football. Whilst at St Andrew's Jim was a member of the Badminton Club and worked with others in the congregation to fund and build the hall.

Jim retired in 1985 and he and Margaret moved to Mauchline, Ayrshire. Both were members of Mauchline Parish Church where Jim served for a time on the Congregational Board and was a great asset.

Following Margaret's death in 1999 Jim continued to live in Mauchline and his many friends were frequent visitors to his home until he had firstly to move into sheltered housing and then into Torrance Lodge Care Home.

Ian Gordon



## **Christmas Collection for Christian Aid**

£300 was donated to Christian Aid at the well attended Carols by Candlelight Service.

Later donations raised the total to £410.

Thank you everyone!



## **Ministry and Mission Fund**

St Andrew's will be paying £1909 every month in 2014 to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund (M&M). This is the same amount as last year although Church Meeting agreed that we would increase it if possible. The Fund pays all URC ministers and supports other activities. Thank you for your regular weekly or monthly giving to the church which makes it possible for us to give generously to M&M. If you would like envelopes or to sign up for Gift Aid, speak to Audrey Turner.

*Patrick*

## **Special Church Meeting 7.00pm Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

How can we develop our work with children and young people and reach out to families in our community? We have invited Rev Colin Bones, minister of Bulwell URC, and Mrs Christine Harrison, Bulwell's families worker, to meet with us to help us explore this question. They will explain their work, how their project developed and what they are achieving. We hope they can help us develop our ideas for engagement with children and young people. Do come along!

## **Easter Refresher**

Deborah Baird, the Synod Training Officer is running an 'Easter



Refresher' on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2pm – 5pm, at West Derbyshire URC, Wirksworth. Everyone is welcome. Bookings to be made through Hannah Bones, Synod Office, 1 Edwards Lane, Nottingham, NG5 3AA Tel: 0115 9609241

Email: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)

## **Donation**

Elders agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Synod Welfare Fund which provides Christmas gifts to ministers' widows and widowers living in the Synod. Gifts of £125 each were made to 27 people last Christmas.

## **Street Pastors**

We have received a letter of thanks from the Chesterfield Street Pastors for all the financial and prayer support they have received from the churches over the past year. In a recent feature in the Derbyshire Times, the police and the community safety partnership expressed their appreciation of the work of the Street Pastors which has reduced incidents leading to hospital admissions or arrests by 20%. Anyone who would like to make a donation can contact the Street Pastors via the Community Safety Office at the Town Hall or [chesterfield@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:chesterfield@streetpastors.org.uk).

\* \* \*

# Holymoorside News

## Church Events



The nativity this year was a bit hit and miss as usual. It is difficult trying to write a script not knowing how many children may turn up. This year we had new Beaver leaders and they promised a good turn out and we had. There were four wise men, (the Bible only mentions 3 gifts), but only one shepherd an innkeeper and Joseph and Mary. One adult angel and the Beaver leader accompanied several shy angels. The innkeeper very obligingly also became a shepherd.

Giving out one line sentences to the children meant that there was no time to practise with each child, so this year and I'm sure the bit that everyone will remember, was that we had the gift of frankenstein!

*If anyone would like to volunteer for the job next year, I will be very grateful.*

\* \* \*

The service with the band became a joint service with St Peter's. The Bible readings and poems were shared between the two churches and a selection of players from the band accompanied the carols. It was enjoyed by everyone and hopefully will continue as a Churches Together event in the future.

The Church Bazaar was held in the Village Hall for the first time. The hall was extremely busy and there were a lot of stalls. As a result we raised £481.03. Thank you everybody.

\* \* \*

### **Churches Together in Holymoorside**

We held a Messy Church in the Village Hall making Christingles, potato prints and stained glass windows. Other activities included lego, plasticine and colouring. The Committee Room was the quiet area where a group of older people discussed what the Christingles meant to them.

Unfortunately we did not have as many families attending this event. The oranges were not wasted however, as some of them were cut into pieces and given to the Football teams at half time and spectators were also included.

The Churches Together committee tried to include the villagers in the Nativity Scene. We asked them to come along and help to repair torn clothing on the figures and the scouts were asked to erect the stable, not many volunteered . We would like more help next year to assist with this project.

The Christmas Eve carols in the Recreation Ground were accompanied by the band. It was a little different this year in that we did not go in the village hall or have Santa. We sang carols and heard short readings and considering the weather a lot of people turned up.



## Forthcoming events

### *February 22nd Commemoration of 1<sup>st</sup> World War*



Come along at 2-pm to the meeting room and help us commemorate the start of the First World War. There will be a re-enactment of life in the trenches, a sing-a-long and a war time tea. Tickets will be available from Barbara at £5.00 each.

\* \* \*

### *Lent Course*

The 2 ministers, John and Ben are meeting to discuss a Lent Course for Holymoorside. The York Course has been suggested and hopefully decisions will be made on dates, times and the place where the meetings should take place. Last year it was in our church, maybe this year it will be in St Peter's? Watch this space.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to sort out any of the Lent Dates until after the Magazine has been published.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **February :**

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Churches Together Meeting at 25, Miriam Ave (with Lunch)	1 pm
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Communion - Meeting Room	10.00 am

Sun 9th Church Meeting in Meeting Room after church service

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> World War 1 entertainment - Meeting Room 2.00 pm

### March

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee and Communion - Meeting Room 10.00 am

\* \* \*

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# oots<sup>©</sup>

## ***Bible Study***

Over the turn of the year we have moved, in the Revised Common Lectionary, from year C to year A; from Luke's Gospel to Matthew's. It is suggested that it was written in Antioch, in Syria. If so it explains some of the details of the Gospel's context – it was what Matthew experienced every day!

Antioch was a very early Christian settlement area, yet a cosmopolitan Roman city. Matthew was also writing, we believe, after the destruction of the Temple in 70CE. In other words Matthew was living in a high tension environment. It was a densely populated city – extremely so even by today's standards. He would have seen many different races and classes of people. He would be familiar with family feuds and differences of opinion on every conceivable issue. Into that he directed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was all of the above and yet held together in a group through a shared allegiance to Jesus. And Matthew tells those people who Jesus is:

a person of supernatural birth fulfilling ancient prophecy;  
as a baby he is acclaimed by Gentiles;  
he is acclaimed by God at his baptism;

he teaches with authority replicating Mosaic imagery using mountain tops;

he is recognized as a prophet, similar to some O T prophets, holding together prophetic speech and healing action;

he is shown as faithful to God to the very end.

Two other appellations given to Jesus are worth a note:

Son of Man, and Son of God.

They attempt to convey something of who this extraordinary man is and what he means for those who meet him. Principally Jesus is King and above all Messiah! Matthew and all Christians believe Jesus is the one all Jews have been waiting for over eons. Those thoughts meant that what we now know as Christianity is a sub-set of Judaism, now distinctly and identifiably different.

Out of ordinary everyday situations Matthew is attempting to help his readers focus on eschatological ideas. In other words he wanted them to look forward to the final day of judgement when Jesus' authority will be seen to be complete. And for Matthew it was happening and he pointed it out to his readers. Jesus healed ills, forgave sins, called followers. He demonstrated God's power.

There are hints of an earlier Gospel by Mark whose material Matthew used, but it carries a more universal feeling and as such directly addresses today's audiences. Including you?



# *Prayer page*

## *Approaching*

Jesus,

you came into the world as the Light of the World;

shine your light once more into our hearts,

that we may see with your clarity,

with your truth and with your compassion,

that no one's worth may go unacknowledged,

and no one's gifts go unused.

May we bring fresh energy as your people,

be daring disciples, courageous in decision-making and action,

faithful to your calling on our lives.

Through our example may all, the first and the last,

the least and the greatest, be one, as you are one, with the Father.

We pray in your name. **Amen.**

## *Arriving*

God of integrity and truth,

we come to you with eyes dulled by familiarity.

Help us to learn from those who cannot see,

that trust is an integral element of life with you,

that sight sometimes needs to be inward not outward,

that a closed world of sight can be an open world of sound.

We come with hearts influenced by outward appearances;

with attitudes rigid with false expectations

and lives limited by the false opinions of others.

God, you know the deepest thoughts, emotions and  
the challenges we need to face.

You know the strength we need to overcome them.



Free us to see more clearly, accept more generously,  
think more creatively and live more confidently.

We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### ***Staying***

God,

you are a God of the high places – the moorland, the mountain-top  
- and we thank you for the great and elevated experiences of life –  
in church, out in the world or face-to-face with your people.

Sometimes the light is blinding, hiding all around,  
including the things we most desire to know and un-  
derstand.

Help us to realize there is no dimmer switch,  
but that turning away from the blaze of glory, we can  
find you in the ordinary,  
the objects and experiences of daily living.



Like Moses at the burning bush help us to see  
through the obscuring phenomena to the heart of our God  
speaking to us through all that confronts us hour by hour.

In Jesus be with us, God,  
guiding, sustaining and strengthening,  
to do the work you would have us do. **Amen.**

### ***A blessing as you go***

Go to your tasks with your hearts uplifted, bringing light and joy to  
others. Go with hands strengthened, and serve others.

Go with courage, go with grace, and be blessed in all you do,  
in Jesus' name, Amen



## **Council for World Mission (CWM)**

The URC is a member of the Council for World Mission, a worldwide community of churches. Douglas Cummins contributes the following extract from a recent CWM Europe newsletter :

Victoria Meachin is CWM Intern working in Altrincham and Hale URC, near Manchester, and for one day a week with the Congregational Federation Youth and Children's Office in Nottingham. She says no two days as an Intern are the same: "I help out with the Toddler Group on Tuesdays and prepare craft activities for the children. I help with Pilots and recently helped them prepare for the Christmas panto. I am also starting to become involved with planning services and am working on a Taizé-style service. With the Congregational Federation I am working on the preparation and planning for a children's week in South Wales called 'The Big Picture'. I am finding it really fun and interesting working alongside members of the church to provide activities for children and look forward to seeing the benefits."

You can find out more about CWM on the website: [www.cwmission.org](http://www.cwmission.org). The CWM Prayer Book on the site has fascinating information about the member churches and the Partners-in-Mission (missionaries).



Silindeni Gumbo is 28 years old and moved to Matabeleland South from Mashonaland in the north of Zimbabwe. It took her a while to get used to the lack of rain in Matabeleland South and the new language was challenging for her to understand. She also described how it was hard being away from her parents.

Unlike many of her peers who have left Zimbabwe to find work, Silindeni believes that she's made the right decision by working at the Asenzeni garden and health club set up by the Dabane Trust in Matabeleland South. She works hard for her family and wants her 10 year old daughter, Talent, to also make the right decisions when she's older.

Silindeni started work in the community garden when it opened in 2009. She lives 2km from the garden and it takes her 30 minutes to get there each day. She grows onions, butternuts (*squash*) and maize during the rainy season and likes working in the garden because she is growing her own crops and getting her own food.

The garden has changed her life because with the money from selling left over vegetables she has been able to buy clothes for her family, send Talent to school, and buy chickens to raise and sell.

The introduction by Christian Care of the local processing centre has been particularly life changing. Silindeni says:

*“I used to grow vegetables and compete with other members of the community to sell vegetables in other villages. I didn’t have time for anything else. Now one member takes all vegetables from the garden to the processing centre (12km away). Now that we are no longer competing, life is much easier”*

This story is available at [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)

\* \* \*

### **Thanks from Lesley Caddy**

*We gave Lesley a gift of £50 to thank her for editing the newsletter. She sent an email with her thanks : -*

I was touched that you should make such a gesture, I never expected thanks; but it means so much to know that my work was both valued and appreciated. That said, I always felt that the joint magazine was my contribution to the life of our churches: I’m not much of a cook and finding time to attend meetings or coffee mornings was always difficult, but this was something I could do!



On that basis, I don’t feel it would be right to keep your gift. However, with your blessing, I will donate the money to a couple of charities that are close to my heart: Save the Children (of which I was Chesterfield

secretary for some years) and Fighting Strokes – an organisation set up by Kate Allatt of Dore, a courageous and inspirational woman I met through my work at the Sheffield Telegraph.

The URC in Chesterfield has been such a huge part of my life for the last 25 years, it seems strange to no longer be a part of it. I'm pleased to say that I have found a new spiritual 'home' at Buxton URC – but I shall always have a special fondness for my friends at St Andrew's and Holymoorside.

*Lesley*

\* \* \*

## **Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March**

### **'Streams in the Desert' – Praying for Egypt**



Ashover Parish Church	10.00am	Mrs Agnes Tranter
Storr's Road Methodist	10.30am	Mrs Eileen Bolch
St Paul's Hasland	10.30am	Rev Julie Minns
Trinity Church	1.30pm	Tessa Hope
Loundsley Green Church	1.30pm	Mrs Christine Williams
St Augustine's Church	1.30pm	Mrs Margaret Johnson
Salvation Army @St Hugh's Newbold	7.00pm	Sister Anne Gilson

***All are welcome.***

# Dates for your Diary - St Andrew's

## February 2014

Sun 2	Church Meeting after worship	12.15 pm
Tues 4	Craft Group	7.00 pm
Wed 5	Talk Faith—111 Dunston Lane	10.30
Thurs 6	Special Church Meeting - Children's Work	7.00 pm
Sat 8	Monday Club Lunch at the Olde House	12 noon
Mon 10	Cluster Meeting - Calow	7.45 pm
Wed 12	Prayers for Healing Elders' Training	10.30 7.00 pm
Wed 19	Talk Faith - 111 Dunston Lane Elders' Meeting	10.30 7.00 pm
Wed 26	The Guild	2.30 pm

## March

Tues 4	Craft Group	7.00 pm
Wed 5	Talk Faith - 111 Dunston Lane	10.30
Mon 10	Monday Club - Tessa Hope on Brazil	7.30 pm
Wed 12	Prayers for Healing Lent Course 1 - 36 Brookside Bar	10.30 7.30 pm
Sat 15	Synod at Wellingborough	10.00
Tues 18	Elders' Meeting	7.00 pm
Wed 19	Talk Faith - 111 Dunston Lane Lent Course 2 - 36 Brookside Bar	10.30 7.30 pm

Wed 26	The Guild	2.30 pm
	Lent Course 3 - 36 Brookside Bar	7.30 pm
Sun 30	Church Meeting after worship	12.15 pm

## Dates for your Diary - Holymoorside

### February 2014

Mon 3	Churches Together Meeting - 25 Miriam Avenue (with lunch)	1.00 pm
Wed 5	Coffee and Communion - Meeting Room	10.00
Sun 9	Church Meeting after Service	
Sat 22	Commemoration of 1st World War - Meeting Room	2.00 pm

### March

Wed 5	Coffee and Communion - Meeting Room	10.00
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# Worship in our Churches

**Holymoorside - 9.30 am**

**St Andrew's - 11 am**

## FEBRUARY

2 Rev P Bettison

Rev J Cook

9 Rev J Cook

Mr Andrew Boswell

16 Mr John Hill

Rev J Cook

23 Rev J Cook

Rev J Cook

## MARCH

2 tba

Rev J Cook - Communion  
6.30 pm Evening Service

9 Rev J Cook

Mrs Margaret Boswell

16 Mr Charles Jolly

Rev J Cook - GIFT DAY

23 Rev J Cook

Rev J Cook

30 Rev G Hornblower

The Elders

## **Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

We will join the churches of the North Derbyshire Cluster for worship at West Derbyshire URC in Wirksworth on Palm Sunday. The preacher will be Rev Dr Michael Jagessar, Moderator of the URC General Assembly and the service starts at 10.00am. This is a Cluster service and there will be **no services at Holymoorside or St Andrew's that day**. We will arrange cars to help with transport.



# Holymoorside Rotas

## FEBRUARY

Date	Door	Vestry	Cleaners	Readers	Flowers
2	Etta	Ju	Rachel & Ju	Marion & Gaynor	Joyce
9	Polly	Julie	Barbara & Polly	Etta & Jean	Margaret
16	Ellen	Gaynor	Jenny & Ju	Ju & Polly	Jean
23	Jannette	Polly	Roger & Gaynor	Julie & Daphne	Gaynor

## MARCH

2	Kevin	Jean	Etta & Sue	Marion & Barbara	Ellen
9	Jean	Ju	Rachel & Daphne	Gaynor & Etta	Meryl
16	Barbara	Daphne	Barbara & Polly	Ju & Jean	Daphne
23	Rachel	Barbara	Roger & Gaynor	Polly & Julie	Sue
30	Gaynor	Julie	Ju & Jen- ny	Daphne & Barbara	Polly

## Coffee Rota - Holymoorside

Feb 9 Julie & Jan  
23 Barbara & Ju

Mar 9 Gaynor & Ellen  
23 Daphne & Ju

# St Andrew's Rotas

<b>FEB</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
2	Marion & John	Ann	Marion & Rosemary	Alison & Peter
9	Helen & Patrick	Peter	Helen & Patrick	Vilma & Denise
16	Ethel & Gordon	Eileen	Ethel & Gordon	tba
23	Alison & Peter	Ian	Alison & Peter	Audrey & Joyce

## MAR

2	Eileen & Ian	tba	Eileen & Ian	Ann W & Joyce
9	Audrey & Margery	Helen	Margery & Molly	Betty & Emma
16	Janet & Mike	Patrick	Shelley & Bill	Gill F & ?
23	Ethel & Gordon	Marion	Ethel & Gordon	Nicola & Judy
30	Marion & John	Ann	Marion & Rosemary	Janet & Mike





## **St Andrew's - Flower Rota**

### **Feb**

- 2 Margaret Woodhead
- 9 Marion Robertshaw
- 16 Vilma Booker
- 23 Ethel Revill

### **Mar**

- 2 Ann Lee
- 9 Denise Healy
- 16 Wendy Braid
- 23 Nancy Steel
- 30 Dorothy Eyre



## Church Officers

Minister	Rev J Cook 187 Newbold Road Chesterfield S41 7BE	Tel: 01246 236020
Secretary	ST ANDREW'S Mrs Helen Lidgett 01773 590585	HOLYMOORSIDE Mrs Judith Bramley 01246 569025
Treasurer	Rev Patrick Lidgett 01773 590585	Mrs Janette Ward 01246 569183
FWO Secretary	Mrs Audrey Turner 01246 232151	Mrs Gaynor Nunn 01246 568546
Pulpit Supply Secretary	Mr Ian Gordon 01246 270954	Mrs Polly Hindle 01246 566992

Churches' joint website : [www.chesterfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldurc.org.uk)

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

Please submit all contributions for the April/May Church News to Helen Lidgett or Judith Bramley by Friday, 28 March, 2014.