

**ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ**

# **MESSENGER**

Price £1.25

August/September 2019



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### **Calendar for August and September 2019**

Sun	4 Aug	10.45am	Worship Group
Sun	11 Aug	10.45am	Mr Michael Bayley
Sun	18 Aug	10.45am	Revd Dr Walter Houston
Sun	25 Aug	10.45am	Worship Group
Sun	1 Sept	10.45am	Mrs Melissa Quinn
Sun	8 Sept	10.45am	Worship Group
Tues	10 Sept	10 – 12	Broomhall Community Choir resumes
Thurs	12 Sept	7 pm	Church Choir practice resumes
Sun	15 Sept	10.45am	Mr Stephen Percival
Sun	22 Sept	10.45am	Mrs Jenny Carpenter - HARVEST and Mrs Helen Walton
Sun	29 Sept	10.45am	Revd Canon Adrian Alker celebrating Douglas' 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
Sun	6 Oct	10.45am	Revd Fleur Houston - COMMUNION

### **Rotas**

#### **Creche**

AUG	4	Barbara Macmillan	SEPT	1	Barbara Macmillan
	8	Jean Dickson		15	Isabel Sandland
	11	Jean Dickson		22	Shelagh Beach
	18	Isabel Sandland		29	Barbara Macmillan
	25	Shelagh Beach	OCT	6	Jean Dickson

#### **Coffee**

AUG	4	Barbara Macmillan
	11	Kathleen Smyth
	18	Barbara Macmillan
	25	Shelagh Beach
SEPT	1	
	8	Jean Dickson
	15	
	22	Barbara Macmillan
	29	Sheila & Ian Cooke
OCT	6	

#### **Flowers**

AUG	4	
	11	Jean & John Price
	18	Ann Cathels
	25	Sheila Cooke
SEPT	1	Isabel Sandland
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	
OCT	6	Sheila Dunstan

## PASTORAL LETTER

*The Revd Helena Roulston led our worship on 14 July on the texts  
Amos 7: 7-17, Psalm 82 and Luke 10: 25-37:*

Speak Lord and let me listen, but first let me tell you what to say. Are we willing to hear the challenging voice of God?

It seems to me that this was the struggle Israel was facing in the book of Amos. Amos came, as many of the prophets did, with a message that the people, and in particular the King, did not want to hear. Amos brings a message that challenges the status quo of the nation at a time when the rich are doing rather well and do not want to hear the message of despair, pain and destruction. I can imagine that it isn't really the kind of message that any of us would want to hear, and nor did the priest Amaziah.

Amaziah, the priest to the King, would have been the one to whom the King turned to seek the will of God. Essentially Amaziah was the voice of God to the King and thus to the nation. And so Amos wasn't just threatening the nation in general with his message but threatened the personal security and authority of Amaziah himself. His position in the King's court may have been questioned and Amaziah could be sure that the King wouldn't have welcomed such a message with thanksgiving.

So what does he do?

Amaziah shuts his ears and pretends not to hear. He sends the messenger and the message of God away: 'Don't be saying such despairing words here, Amos. We don't want to hear about the injustice of our society, don't tell us that our piety and religious instruction doesn't provide for the poor. Amos, your words are too difficult for us, be gone.'

Amos was speaking out against the injustice and religious arrogance around 700 years before Christ, and the psalmist continues the plea of Amos in the words we have just read – the plea for justice. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? The psalmist pleads for justice for the weak and the orphan. How long? How long will you seek the sweet and seductive tones of false promises and lean on religiosity as an excuse?

Almost 3000 years later the message is still the same. Will you listen to the difficult message that God brings? Will you speak what the people want to hear or will you speak the truth ?

When standing face to face with the battered and bruised man, the priest and the Levite turn away. Are they concerned about ritual uncleanness? We can't be sure. Perhaps they are worried that the robbers are still lurking in the bushes. For whatever reason, when they are faced with brokenness they turn away, they cannot touch the unclean, they will not let their hands be tainted for the law will not let them.

The Samaritan, already an outcast, has no such concerns. He picks up the man, binds his wounds and pays for his care. It is the Samaritan who is the neighbour that the Jewish lawyer, the one questioning Jesus, is called to love. I can imagine that the lawyer, the teacher of the law, would have found it easy to love the priest or the Levite as a neighbour. He would have probably found it acceptable (and perhaps predictable) to be told to love the poor as a neighbour. This teacher of the law would know Scripture, he would have heard and read God's constant call to look after those in need, and so it wouldn't have been a shock to hear that his neighbour was the man who was robbed.

The Samaritan, however, was a heretic from a nation who had previously despised and rejected God (for the message of condemnation and judgement from Amos was to the northern territories of Bethel and Samaria). Jesus was not just telling the lawyer to love the poor and needy, Jesus was calling the lawyer to love the unbeliever and not only to love but to follow the example of mercy that the unbeliever was showing. 'Go and do likewise'.

Here in Sheffield we are blessed to live in a multicultural community, living and working side by side with Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Humanists, Baha'is, Jews, Pagans, Unitarians, Quakers, Buddhists and all manner of faith and belief. Jesus challenges us not just to tolerate each other, not just to show respect to one another but to learn from each other, to pay attention and follow the acts of kindness that we see in those around us, whatever their belief.

And so what is the challenging message of God to us today?  
Jesus said to him 'Go and do likewise'

*Rev Helena Roulston*

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Things go quiet over the summer but we have several special services coming in September. **Sunday 22 September** is our **HARVEST FESTIVAL**, to be led by Jenny Carpenter and Helen Walton. It is also the annual Invitation Service for the groups who use our building. We hope that members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Jesus for All Nations will take part, and that the other groups will be represented.

**Sunday 29 September** marks the **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** of Douglas Jones' arrival to be our organist and choir-master. And what a wonderful 20 years! Douglas' superb musicianship, skill on both organ and piano, and understanding of the needs of a choir of whatever size, have been an immense asset to us and a crucial support to our worship. The anniversary will be a truly musical celebration.

**AUTUMN STUDY GROUPS:** This year we shall be looking at what are known as the Holy Habits. We shall again be meeting in members' homes and elders are deciding which four of the ten Holy Habits they will lead discussions on. Please note the dates:

Thursdays	24 October	86 School Green Lane
	31 October	60 Bradway Road
	7 November	64 Silverdale Road
	14 November	80 Grove Road

Further information to come.

### **FAMILY NEWS**

This very hot sultry weather has been trying for all of us; difficult to get the house cool enough to sleep comfortably, and no appetite for yet another salad.

The news of **Jean Armstrong** is not good...she has been taken into the 'Frail' ward at the Northern General because she needs more care than the home she is in could provide; because of the real difficulty of getting him mobile, Bill has not been told of this, and visitors have been asked not to mention it to him.

**Anita McVittie** will soon have the wires removed from her toes, and is concentrating on the exercises to get more mobile; she is having trouble with one eye, and is having her heart monitored; Fraser finds the effort of moving tiring....we send them wishes for continuing improvement, and they know that any help we can give is always on offer.

**Sadie Jones**.has attended church occasionally, but is not back to being fully recovered after the unsatisfactory investigations a few months ago. And now, greetings to all our friends who can no longer join us regularly. Remember, as we do, that we share more than memories; we share a faith that strengthens and, when necessary, comforts us.

*Ann Cathels*

### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **MAURICE BUTCHER**

Marion Butcher's husband Maurice died suddenly at the end of June. Maurice was born into a farming family in Coal Aston, and all his life kept in touch with that side of his life; he worked on a farm when he was young, then moved to Sheffield where he was with a company that sold

tractors, finally spending the remainder of his working life with a car sales firm. He rode with the Barlow Hunt for several years, was a ploughing judge until he had to give up driving last year, and he and Marion went to Bakewell Market every Monday to keep in touch with the farming world. We send our sympathy to Marion, who is supported by their sons and their families.

#### **VICTOR and AIMEE**

Victor Li and Aimee Jin got married on 20 July in a civil ceremony in Vancouver. Aimee got her degree in glass at Nottingham and now plans to do a Masters in Medieval Glass at York University. But there is not enough time left on her visa to complete a two year degree unless she is a dependant married to someone who has a right to be here. As they were planning marriage anyway, Victor stepped in and in one month they got it organised. Now she can start in October, living in Terrington. They plan a traditional wedding with their parents later and hope to have a blessing here in Sheffield. We sent our best wishes to them and we hope to see them soon.

#### **THANKS:**

The church is most grateful to the anonymous benefactor who has given a generous donation to the Benevolent Fund.

[The Benevolent Fund is a separate account to be available at the discretion of the minister (if there is one) and elders for cases of special need.]

#### **CARE 4 CALAIS:**

Manuchehr, an active member of St Mark's Church who helps every week at the Breakfast, is going to Calais on 4 August with a team from Care4Calais to provide support to the refugees. They have plenty of clothes but they desperately need more money to pay for food and other support. We held a special collection for Care4Calais on 28 July which raised £285.30.

#### **FOODBANKS IN SUMMER:**

During the summer holidays many children are missing a mid-day meal at school. There is even greater need for help from the food banks. Please try to buy some extra provisions with your weekly shop – cooking oil, tins of food, pasta and sauce, washing liquid (children playing out usually get dirty!), rice, tinned tomatoes and anything else you think a family could use. Thank you.

*Sheila Dunstan*

#### **SALE OF THE MANSE**

The Manse was put on the market with Estate Agents Spencer at the beginning of May 2019 and has sold for £565,200, completed on 5 July.

The YCU are the Trustees of the Manse and official owners of the property and there was excellent communication with the Rev Dr Matthew Prevett who had just taken over as Trust Secretary of the Yorkshire Synod. The money from the sale will be held in deposit at the YCU and ring fenced in the Manse Fund. Where the money is no longer required for the purchase of another Manse or is not required to fund capital improvements or emergency repairs for another Manse, the balance will be divided so that 25% goes to the Synod Mission Fund and 75% is released for use by the church; there will be no Synod restriction on the use of the church share.

*Sheila Cooke*

*[The church owes Sheila enormous thanks for the great amount of work and time she has given to this matter.]*

### **GREEN AUDIT**

The URC is promoting ways to reduce energy usage and protect the environment. **Green Journey** is an organisation now supported by Synod /URC to encourage churches to reduce their carbon footprint. They can help churches with the procurement of Green Energy at the most competitive prices, and an Audit team will come to the church and review its energy usage, followed by a report detailing ways in which the church could reduce the energy used and save money. Green Energy's commission is obtained by increasing the unit price for energy in subsequent contracts taken up.

The Church Meeting on 23 July agreed with the proposal from Elders and MT to accept the invitation to have a green audit (free) of our energy usage. A report will be presented with recommendations and then the church can make its decisions.

**ST LUKE'S HOSPICE** has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest collective honour given to volunteer groups across the UK. It recognises the tremendous contribution that volunteers play in the work of a caring organisation. In St Luke's case, in 2018 volunteers gave a total of 116,800 hours of their time, and the 14 shops raised income of £2.9 million for patient care. The Master Cutler's Challenge this year is also for local businesses to support St Luke's and Rotherham Hospice.

**HISTORY:** Professor Clyde Binfield is writing a book on the history of Silcoates School, which was founded 200 years ago to educate sons of Dissenting Ministers (chiefly Independent, though the early staff seemed to hail from N. Ireland and Scotland). It is on its original site two miles out of Wakefield, and has produced some interesting pupils.

The **SNOOKER TABLE** that Buzz is no longer using has been donated to the Stephen Harrison snooker academy. The academy engages disadvantaged and disabled young people in the north of the city. Stephen was a professional snooker player for 12 years and was recently awarded an MBE for his charitable work. The charity has been running for ten years and he was grateful to Buzz as he needed additional snooker tables that can be used to engage more children. The charity has 60 children attending, learning social and professional skills through sport.

### A TASTE OF ETHIOPIA

The Church Meeting on 23 July was as usual a more social affair and after minimum business we gathered round two members of Father Tesfa's Ethiopian Orthodox congregation to watch their traditional ways of preparing coffee and bread. Starting with raw coffee beans (a greeny-grey colour), Judith and Hirut demonstrated roasting, grinding and brewing; the roasting and brewing were done in traditional vessels but the grinding - originally done in a pestle and mortar - now uses an electric grinder. The special bread, injera, is fermented for at least three days and then is poured like a batter onto a hot flat stove; it very quickly bubbles up, the soft fluffy "pancake" is ready in minutes to be rolled up and used to scoop up the savoury foods. We enjoyed trying all these dishes. They also made fresh popcorn; they eat very little in the way of sweets and desserts. Tesfa explained and answered our questions.

The ladies wore beautiful traditional dress associated with these ceremonies; Ethiopians typically make and drink coffee several times a day. Tesfa and Margaret Fall had put together a fascinating Powerpoint presentation about this huge and very old country, and we learned something of its geography, history, economics and religions.



Hirut (Ruth) is wearing the traditional dress for Church.



Judith is wearing the coffee ceremony dress.



The landscape is mountainous and majestic; coffee is the chief export. Christianity is the largest faith and among many amazing images was the temple literally carved (downwards) out of the rock.

Tesfa, Margaret and the Ethiopian members (who included Seni with Ahatty and Tamanit) were warmly thanked for all the work they had put into this very interesting evening. We hope to learn more on another occasion.

*And from Father Tesfa:* It was a privilege to be able to introduce some of Ethiopian culture. The lion's share of the contribution and all credit goes to Margaret Fall. We all are indebted heavily by her efforts and hard work to make us and our origin recognised. Thank you also to every one of the participants who took great interest and endured the long evening. I hope the coffee didn't deprive them of their sleep.

*Elizabeth Draper*

## **NINEBARROW CONCERT**

St Andrew's has played host to some wonderful musical talents in recent years, from the Sheffield Youth Orchestra to the virtuosos in Annabel Lawson's soirées.

On the evening of 21 June, though, it was a less frequently heard musical genre that took centre stage - folk - in the shape of Jon and Jay from Ninebarrow.

Former nominees in the Radio 2 British Folk Awards, the duo was making a first stop in Sheffield as part of their latest tour.

Hailing originally from Dorset, from where they derive the inspiration for many of their songs, the lads took a rapt audience of 120 through a wonderful catalogue of traditional British folk songs, interspersed with several self-penned numbers from their three albums.

Each number was introduced by the story behind the song before Jon Whitley (on guitars, mandolin and keyboard) and Jay LaBouchardiere (on harmonium) began to sing, their clear tenor voices intertwining to magical effect in the wonderful acoustics of the church.

Particular highlights were songs about a spotted pig and a man who kept being rescued from sticky situations (the prickly-eye bush), not to mention the hangman's noose, by a faithful lover. There was also a moving tale about a town whose inhabitants were forcibly evacuated to make way for a tank range during the Second World War.

Folk is a vital oral record of a time and way of life that is largely gone, but if Ninebarrow's performance (and the reception they received) is anything to go by, its future is in good hands.

The evening was brought to a fitting close by two *a cappella* numbers that perfectly captured the mood and sent us all happily into the warm evening (the first of summer).

Huge thanks to all the team of helpers for putting on a delicious spread of wine and canapés in the interval. Next stop a rock concert?!

*David Cooke*

### **THE BROOMHILL COMMUNITY CHOIR'S END-OF-TERM CONCERT**

The Community Choir, which meets every Tuesday morning in term time in the church, is going from strength to strength, as was evident from the splendidly entertaining evening they gave us on 16 July. And not just the Choir - they were joined by the Eglantine Recorder Consort, a flute quartet and the Steel City Concert Band. As over 30 numbers were performed, I don't intend to name them all, but they covered an impressive range of periods, styles and composers, and the standard of performance was pleasingly high.

This is the Choir's second Summer Concert so they began appropriately with 'Another Opening, Another Show' from 'Kiss Me, Kate' which led into a Cole Porter miscellany, both romantic and lively. Later they sang the Lacrimosa from Mozart's Requiem (their most challenging piece) and the Slaves' Chorus from Verdi's 'Nabucco', then two contrasting love songs, and rounded off the evening 'With the Voice of Singing' and 'Sing a Song of Sixpence'.

The Recorder Consort is a revelation of the scope of this ancient and versatile instrument. The pieces played by Mary, Helen, Liz and Karen ranged from Henry VIII's 'Pastime with Good Company' through Bach to modern classical works and a song written for the National Recorder Festival in 2014. We were told something of the history of the music and the instruments - the tenor recorder is about a metre long and the bass recorder looks like a six-foot long drainpipe ! The clear sweet notes and amazing range are captivating.

Tim Gleaves also gave us some history of his instrument, the Border pipes, which has seen a revival in this country in the last 50 years. The tone is mellower than the Scottish bagpipes, which are really intended for outdoor use, and the music Tim played on both his sets was a delight to listen to. Again the pieces covered a wide time span - 1280, 1589, a modern French composition and 'Quebec Mazurka' - written by Tim five years ago in memory of the farm they used to live in overlooking Whitby.

We would never have known from their performance that this was the first time the flute quartet had played together in public, and hopefully not the last. (At that point they didn't even have a name but have since decided to call themselves 'Northern Flutes'.) Their magical sound encompassed a

wide range of moods. In the first half they played Mozart and Handel and two dances from Peter Warlock's 'Capriol Suite'; in the second, Scott Jopling and Glenn Miller and they finished with the Burns song 'John Anderson, my jo'.

The Steel City Concert Band started the second half of the programme in rousing style with 'Putting on the Ritz' followed by medleys from 'Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' and 'Les Miserables'.

In between the ensembles, we heard solos and duets from Chris Pill, Steve Vickers and Hugh Prewett, including 'Excelsior' (with great gusto), the drinking song from 'The Student Prince' and 'Yeomen of England'. Douglas Jones led us in 'Rule Britannia' (the Proms season is about to begin !) and on the organ played a gavotte also by Thomas Arne.

Under the musicianship of Steve as conductor and Douglas as accompanist the Broomhall Choir has had a great year. The male voices have been strengthened by members of Worrall MVC, which has closed, and members have used their links to other music groups to enrich tonight's programme. The result was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening, and thanks are due to everyone involved, not forgetting the sumptuous feast provided at the interval.

*Elizabeth Draper*

### **STORY OF A CHALICE**

I recently took the church silver, all three pieces, to be valued by MacAvoy and Beardsmore. This turned out to be a very interesting exercise.

The silver salver on which the collection is received every Sunday is old Sheffield plate. The Chalice commonly used at our communion service is solid silver and was presented to St Andrew's by Norman Hanlon when he was Master Cutler.

The other chalice was presented to St Andrew's by Roderick Mackenzie Urquhart in 1966 when he left Sheffield to move to the new University of Southampton to become Secretary and Bursar. Mr Urquhart was ordained to the Eldership on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1959 and he lived in Park Avenue.

Margaret Fall contacted Sarah Hall's church in Southampton. They were able to tell us that Mr and Mrs Urquhart had joined the United Church in Southampton. This later became St Andrew's URC and the Urquharts' names were on the role until 1980 when they appear to have moved to Winchester. Mr Urquhart seems to have retired from the University of Southampton in 1978.

The chalice was made in Sheffield at 1 Park Lane by David Mellor in 1966. This date precedes the date when the factory at Broomhall was established.

The chalice is beautifully crafted from a single sheet of silver and engraved on the bowl with the Orb and Cross, the emblem of St Salvador. On the base are the Urquhart Arms and round the rim of the base it says "This cup was presented to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, by Roderick Mackenzie Urquhart, Elder 1958 – 1966.

The silversmith who gave me the valuations was very pleased to have been able to handle the chalice and complimented us on having such a rare piece.

*With my thanks to Margaret Fall for her help.*



Front garden photograph by Margaret Fall

*Jean Dickson*

### **LECTIONARY READINGS for August/September 2019**

4 August	Ecclesiastes <b>1:2, 12-14</b> and <b>2: 18-23</b> ; Psalm <b>49:1-12</b> ; Colossians <b>3: 1-11</b> ; Luke <b>12: 13-21</b>
11 August	Genesis <b>15: 1-6</b> ; Psalm <b>33: 12-22</b> ; Hebrews <b>11: 1-3, 8-16</b> ; Luke <b>12: 32-40</b>
18 August	Jeremiah <b>23: 23-29</b> ; Psalm <b>82</b> ; Hebrews <b>11: 29 – 12:2</b> ; Luke <b>12: 49-56</b>
25 August	Isaiah <b>58: 9b-14</b> ; Psalm <b>103: 1-8</b> ; Hebrews <b>12: 18-29</b> ; Luke <b>13: 10-17</b>
1 Sept	Sirach <b>10: 12-18</b> or Proverbs <b>25: 6-7</b> ; Psalm <b>112</b> ; Hebrews <b>13: 1-8, 15-16</b> ; Luke <b>14: 1, 7-14</b>
8 Sept	Deuteronomy <b>30: 15-20</b> ; Psalm <b>1</b> ; Philemon <b>1-21</b> ; Luke <b>14: 25-33</b>
15 Sept	Exodus <b>32: 7-14</b> ; Psalm <b>51: 1-10</b> ; 1 Timothy <b>1: 12-17</b> ; Luke <b>15: 1-10</b>
22 Sept	Amos <b>8: 4-7</b> ; Psalm <b>113</b> ; 1 Timothy <b>2: 1-7</b> ; Luke <b>16: 1-13</b>
29 Sept	Amos <b>6: 1a, 4-7</b> ; Psalm <b>146</b> ; 1 Timothy <b>6: 6-19</b> ; Luke <b>16: 19-31</b>
6 October	Habakkuk <b>1: 1-4; 2: 1-4</b> ; Psalm <b>37: 1-9</b> ; 2 Timothy <b>1: 1-14</b> ; Luke <b>17: 5-10</b>