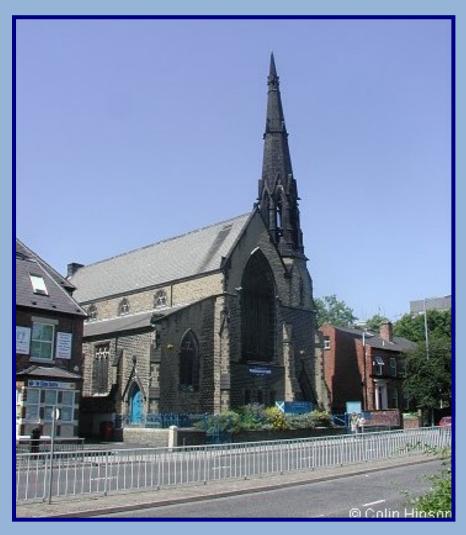
ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25 June 2019



Church Secretary Elizabeth Draper, 52 Highcliffe Drive, S11 7LU (230 7252) F.W.O Secretary Shelagh Beach Chairman Management Team: Prof Ian Cooke, 80 Grove Road, S7 2GZ (262 0718) Treasurer Elizabeth Cousley, Douglas Jones GGSM(Lond) PG CE, 96 Southey Hall Organist & Choirmaster Road, S5 7PY (257 6630) Messenger Editors Ann Cathels, email cathelsann5@gmail.com Elizabeth Draper, email elizdraper504@btinternet.com Paula Higgins email paula@buzzsheffield.co.uk

Webmaster

Website: http://www.standrewsurcsheffield.org.uk

Buzz at St. Andrews Child Contact Centre Coordinator 07905417228

Email childcontactcentre@buzzsheffield.co.uk

Calendar for June 2019

Sun	2	June	10.45am	Prof Clyde Binfield
Friday	7	June	6.30pm	In:spire concert - Rakhi Singh, violin
Sun	9	June	10.00am	Pentecost CTBB combined service at St Mark's
			10.45am	St Andrew's will also be open
Tues	11	June	10 – 12	Community Choir
Sun	16	June	10.45am	Revd Fleur Houston
Tues	18	June	10 – 12	Community Choir
Fri	21	June	7.30pm	Ninebarrow Folk Duo
Sun	23	June	10.45am	Worship Group
Tues	25	June	10 – 12	Community Choir
Sun	30	June	10.45am	Mr Chris Limb
Tues	2	July	10 – 12	Community Choir
Sun	7	July	10.45am	Revd Dr David Stec - Communion

Rotas

Creche

JUNE 2	Shelagh Beach
9	Barbara Macmillan
16	Jean Dickson
23	Isabel Sandland
30	Shelagh Beach
JULY 7	Barbara Macmillan
O-#	

Coffee		Flowers	
JUNE 2	Shelagh Beach	JUNE 2	Isabel Sandland
9	(PENTECOST)	9	Jean Dickson
16	Kathleen Smyth	16	
23	Jean Dickson	23	
30	Shelagh Beach	30	
JULY 7	3	JULY 7	

Please sign up on the rotas when you are able to help. $\ensuremath{^{2}}$

PASTORAL LETTER

This is part of a sermon Robert Beard preached at St Andrew's in January 2017 based on readings Micah 6.1-8 and Matthew 5.1-12.

Divisions that are setting nations, communities and individuals against each other seem destined to characterise at least the first quarter of the 21st century. The ceaseless conflicts in the Middle East and the western powers' involvement in them, the burgeoning economic power of China and India, the military and political struggles in many African countries, the hostility shown to people fleeing war and starvation, and even the continuing tussles around the UK's proposed secession from the EU, all betray a human race profoundly at odds with itself.

Our awareness of these events comes predominantly from the World Wide Web and our rolling news media, which enable us instantly to inform – or misinform – ourselves about situations across the globe as they develop in real time. Our unprecedented level of access to knowledge about our human sisters' and brothers' lives is something that earlier generations could scarcely have imagined.

In fact, while our awareness of international events may make us the best informed generation in human history, this very awareness may also be a factor in spreading what would have once been only local divisions right across the world, enabling – and sometimes encouraging – people to take sides in conflicts and struggles in other countries, of which our forebears might have remained blissfully unaware.

It is sometimes easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless to do anything about the conflicts and catastrophes we learn about from our news media; but in the face of deep divisions within the human race throughout the world, our course of action is as clear as ever. In the 21st century, no less than in the 7th and 8th centuries BC (the time of the prophet Micah), or in the 1st century AD (the time of Jesus Christ), the message of the Jewish and Christian traditions reminds us that there is always something we can, and must, do.

Micah came from Moresheth-Gath in the southwest part of the southern kingdom of Judah. He prophesied about 737 to 696 BC, during the reigns of the kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, and was a contemporary of the prophets First Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. Micah's messages were directed chiefly toward Jerusalem. He prophesied the future destruction of Jerusalem and Samaria, and the destruction and then future restoration of the Judean state; he rebuked the people of Judah for dishonesty and idolatry; and it is his prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem that St Matthew cites in his gospel (Micah 5.2; Matthew 2.6).

His 40-year career over, he disappeared from history and we have no information about the end of his life, but he left behind one of the best-known sayings in all of Scripture: **God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does Yahweh require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?** (Micah 6.8)

Amid all the turmoil of current events, there remain little communities of people who have glimpsed the vision of a different way of relating to people whose beliefs and lifestyles are different from their own. In their worship and in their outreach, these communities continually commit and recommit themselves to seek out, welcome, shelter and aid their brothers and sisters of every background and experience. Churches – although not all Churches – understand themselves as called and equipped to be just these kinds of communities: and not only Churches, of course, but an allbut-infinite variety of compassionate communities. These communities unite around Micah's injunction to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Of course, not all such communities use religious vocabulary to describe what they seek to do, but the evidence of their actions shows that they share the same values as those who do. Turning to our gospel reading, it is within such communities, whether they bear religious labels or not, that those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who are meek, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful, who are the pure in heart, who are peacemakers or who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, find their natural home. They may not all talk about God, but their work is characterised by the justice, kindness and humility of which Micah spoke. All such communities are blessed, not with material rewards and public adulation – the blessings that come from outside – but with a blessing that comes from God incarnate working within them, or in non-religious terms, from the love that they embody. Their actions may not be regarded as newsworthy, but to those whose lives they touch, they are revolutionary and transformative, and may ripple outwards to have far-reaching effects.

Let us pray that our resolution may never waver to commit ourselves continually to the justice, kindness and humility of which the prophet spoke, that we and all whose lives our lives touch may experience the blessings held out to us in our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Revd Robert Beard BD

COMMENT: Doesn't this chime with Rosalind Selby's sermon on 19 May, where she spoke about how to apply the Ten Commandments today. Only three of the Ten are actually against the law of the UK; the interpretation of the others has evolved as societies change, because they were formulated for a very different world and way of life.

In Judaism it is the role of the rabbi to interpret and apply the law to each individual case. Rosalind compared the way Parliament makes laws which are interpreted by judges in each case. Adherence to the strict letter of the law may obscure the real spirit behind it, which is why Jesus summed it up in his two commandments: Love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

(Coincidentally, this year's Reith lectures, currently on BBC Radio 4, deal with the development, interpretation and application of the law.)

LOOKING AHEAD

PENTECOST: On **Sunday 9 June**, the combined CTBB service will be at St Mark's, followed by a short AGM and then a bring-and-share lunch. St Andrew's members are asked to bring desserts.

Judith Adam and Ann Cathels will open St Andrew's and share worship with anyone who comes. There has always been some unexpected visitor to welcome.

On **Sunday 7 July**, the Beacon Methodist Church at Broomhill will hold its farewell service there (although Sunday morning worship will continue until the end of August). The Beacon group has been disbanded; the Broomhill building will continue to offer some social activities to the community, including a coffee and prayer morning every Thursday, but the congregation will go their separate ways for Sunday worship after August. We send good wishes to all the members and give thanks for their many years of witness in the Broomhill neighbourhood, and their commitment to CTBB.

CONCERTS:

The last concert in the current In:spire series will be on **Friday 7 June** when Indian **violinist Rakhi Singh** will play accompanied by Annabelle Lawson at the piano. This has been another successful series giving us the opportunity to hear wonderful world-class musicians and some very interesting repertoire.

A rather different concert - but equally inviting - will take place on **Friday 21 June**. **Ninebarrow** are a folk music duo, well-known and highly regarded in that sphere, and this event should be a magnet for folk-lovers in the region.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Church Lunch: We've booked at the <u>Dore Grill</u> (now Joe and Dolores) on **Wednesday 12 June, 12 for 12.30pm.** Pay individually and you do not need to choose your meal beforehand, just order on the day. Menus are available and the food is very well reputed.

We have to confirm numbers beforehand so please give your names to Elizabeth asap. Do try to come. 5

The **Community Choir** will wind up their season with a concert / party in the church on **Tuesday 16 July at 7pm**. Everyone is invited - bring some food to share and join in !

The **Summer Church Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 23 July at 7pm** and, as has become the custom, will not be just a business meeting but will offer some interesting entertainment. Plans are being made - further details later.

Wedding: On **Friday 28 June at 12.30pm**, Nicola Swallow and Rob Kelly will be married in St Andrew's by the Revd Simon Copley. Nicola's grandmother was Jean Potts (a faithful member here for many years) and her mother Carolyn was brought up and married in this church, and Nicola was baptised here.

LOOKING BACK

We've had two more wonderful concerts: on 26 April the Sheffield Young Singers and string players from the Sheffield Music Academy gave a wonderful display of their talents, and on 14 May TangOpera demonstrated the breadth of music inspired by South American tango. See the reviews of both these events on pages 8 and 10.

INTER-FAITH

CAKE: Just before the service on 19 May, during Ramadan, we were presented with a lovely chocolate cake from the Quba Mosque, as a gesture of friendship and goodwill. This is the third time we've received such a gift - each from a different mosque - and we appreciate these efforts at social cohesion and inter-faith harmony. Last year we followed it up with a group visit to the Muslim Centre on Severn Road, and we presented them with shortbread for St Andrew's Day.

JESUS: On 28 April this year Ann and Elizabeth went to an exhibition on 'Jesus, Son of Mary' at the mosque/information centre in Hillsborough. This was a very well-organised event: 12 large panels explained the place of Mary (Mariam) and Jesus in Islam, with a person at each place to answer questions, discuss and explain. They came from an interesting variety of backgrounds - French, Spanish, a Catholic convert - and gave everyone a warm welcome. It was a pity there was such short notice for this event as more of us might have gone.

TALK: On **Friday 21 June**, Dr Chris Hewer is going to speak at the UK Islamic Mission on Abbeydale Road. We know what a superb and well-informed lecturer Chris is from his study days here; his topic this time is 'How do we talk about Jihad?' The talk 7 - 8.30pm will be followed by a meal and we have received an open invitation. (It is unfortunate that his date clashes with the Ninebarrow concert, but it would be great if someone could take it up.)

COMMUNITY

Recent changes of personnel at the Jesus Centre: Kevin Day has retired, Andrzej Kurpiel and Jamie Greenhough have moved on.

LITTER-PICKING: There is now an organised litter-picking group for the Broomhall area. It takes place on the fourth Saturday of every month, starting at 10am and meeting at the junction at the very top of Collegiate Crescent, where it meets Brunswick St. etc.

DONATE, DON'T WASTE: The red coloured clothing bin will be located at the Jesus Centre until September as in previous years to help collect usable unwanted items from departing students and others. The two universities, the Students' Unions and the British Heart Foundation take measures to try to prevent dumping, litter and waste of re-usable goods, but it is an uphill task.

GALA DAY at the Jesus Centre on Saturday 3 August:

- table-top sale sellers invited
- activities for children and everyone
- entertainment throughout the day performers invited

The AGM of Sheffield CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY (CAP) will be held on **Thursday 30 June at 7pm** at the Quaker Meeting House. The main speaker will be <u>Bishop Pete Wilcox</u>, Bishop of Sheffield, on 'The Universal Ministry of the Church of England in the Era of Universal Credit'.

FAMILY NEWS

This month brings a few changes to report, and I am putting them in no special order of importance....because as in all families, all that happens in the family is important.

Martha Fall has broken her arm, quite a bad break, because it has not been put in plaster, but had a plate fitted. This will inevitably mean more involvement for Margaret with caring for Connor, and taking Martha to and from hospital for check-ups. Lorna Drought had a fall at home, but fortunately, apart from being badly shaken, sustained no damage. Sadie Jones' cataract operation is not as successful as she hoped, and she is also being investigated for a heart problem. Wendy Smyllie is now very frail and forgetful, she is content to rest in bed, and is being cared for at home; with helpers coming in, and their son Rick and his wife giving time, Bill has been able to attend church. Bill Armstrong and Jean Lawrie are both resident permanently in homes, one at Loxley and one at Ranmoor; the **McVitties** are coping with the change in their life style after Anita's operation and Fraser's hospitalisation, and we hope that the warmer weather will make it possible for them to enjoy their garden, even if it should not be possible for them to do the wonderful gardening work they did. We send them all greetings and remember them in the family prayers in the service. Ann Cathels

And we've had an update from Marion Hood (Aileen Austin's daughter) in Belfast:

Sorry to hear about all the illness at church. We are all fine, thank you. 'A' levels happening at the moment so lots of studying and stress going on.

Richard has settled well here. I've got a car that takes his wheel- chair so have been getting him out and about a bit. His care home has a hydrotherapy pool and he's loving that; it's great exercise for him. Please send our love to all at St Andrew's.

IN:SPIRE WITH...Chamber Music at Twilight

On Friday 26th April we were treated once again to a splendid evening of quality music organised by Annabelle Lawson in the in:spire with... series of concerts. On this occasion we were entertained by the Sheffield Young Singers, directed by Helen Cowan, and members of the string ensembles of Sheffield Music Academy directed by Martin Cropper.

As it turned out it was a feast of music by English composers, much of which was arranged or adapted for the range of forces who were performing at this concert. The Sheffield Young Singers comprises upper voice singers, girls and boys (trebles, sopranos and altos) who perform beautiful music with considerable confidence and skill. They are directed by Helen Cowan who is an excellent teacher and choral director who has graced many concert platforms and who is well-known in Sheffield. The choir frequently appear in the city, but are no strangers to audiences further afield, including Birmingham and London. It was an honour to welcome them to St Andrew's which is gaining an ever-increasing reputation as a venue for fine musical concerts.

The Sheffield Young Singers began and ended the concert with a range of music arranged more-or-less chronologically, beginning with that of Henry Purcell's Come Ye Sons of Art, from which we heard the opening solo and chorus, and the duet Sound the Trumpet. Although much of this music was originally written for Countertenor soloists, it works very well when performed by the whole choir. In any event, it was a brilliant excuse for combining the forces and getting the string players involved as well! I do hope they will come back again and treat us to Dyson's Three Songs of Praise which would have made a wonderful addition to the programme later on, and which would suit these performers very well. Following on from the Purcell, we heard three arrangements of songs more usually sung unaccompanied by SATB choirs. John Dowland's madrigal Come Again! Sweet Love doth now Invite was a very effective rendering with the first verse sung in unison and the second in two-part harmony, gently accompanied at the piano by Rosie Attwood-Harris (what a great name for such a splendid pianist!)

Similar forces were employed for a beautiful setting of Stanford's *The* Bluebird. This needed a few more voices in the lower parts, but the overall effect was still quite magical. The best performance (and arguably the most effective arrangement by Neaum) was of the traditional song Water of Tyne, expertly rendered by this choir with some wonderfully controlled dynamics, balance and expression. Next, we heard the musicians from the Sheffield Music Academy who performed Gustav Holst's St Paul's Suite for String Orchestra, often coupled with Dvorak's or Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings on commercial recordings. The musicians comprised nine upper string players (violins and violas) and three 'cellists. Martin Cropper directed the ensemble from the front. It was a most commendable performance; professional players would be hard-pressed to perform this work any better. Holst wrote the work for pupils at St Paul's School for Girls in London, where he taught, so he knew exactly how to get good results from string players through his skilful composition and orchestration techniques. There are four movements. The opening Jig was welldeclaimed throughout. The delightful Ostinato was followed by a stylish Intermezzo featuring three solos which were all excellently performed.

The delightful Ostinato was followed by a stylish Intermezzo featuring three solos which were all excellently performed. An outstanding rendering of the famous Finale completed a memorable performance. Well done to all the young players who contributed, and congratulations to those who have gained places to study next year at the RAM and the RNCM.

As if not to be out-classed, the Sheffield Young Singers continued the concert with Holst's *Hymn to Vena*. An almost haunting, atmospheric opening to this work captured the audience from the start. The choir sings this style of music exceptionally well.

I confess I have never heard this song before, but I would delight to hear it again! By contrast, Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols was featured as the choir sang *This Little Babe* with the utmost confidence, and then finished their selection with a fine rendering of John Rutter's Shakespearian song *It was a Lover and his Lass*, an interesting fusion of Elizabethan swing!

The evening concluded with a rendering of the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's 'Messiah' which involved all the performers augmented by the audience. There were only a few audience members left seated to hear this, which was just as well, as it will probably go down in history as one of the less memorable moments of human musical endeavour!

What a splendid occasion! Thanks to Annabelle for arranging the event, and to all those who took part. If I could re-live the experience I would do so gladly. Congratulations and thanks to all involved in providing both the music and the refreshments.

TANGOPERA

St Andrews was transported to Argentina on the evening of Tuesday 14th May. And what an experience it proved to be! The Iberian & Latin American Music Society (ILAMS) held an evening of music designed to show the development of Tango music into the form it exists in today. Most of us think of tango as a dance but we learnt where the music came from and how it developed.

The leading performer in our concert was Leonardo Pastore, a well known Argentinian opera-tenor who has had an illustrious career performing some of the greatest roles in opera, and he looks just like everyone's image of a famous tenor! Though he spoke no English, his expressions enabled us to follow the themes of the songs he sang. Tango music is a distinctive style of music that originated in the late 18th and 19th century. European immigrants (Spanish) and African slave populations brought into Argentina the styles of flamenco, pampas, polka, hanabera, milonga and candombe.

Our evening set about to illustrate some of these styles, starting with the Milonga style, followed by Bizet's well-known *Habanera*, sung by Leonardo and accompanied by Helen Glaisher-Hernandez on the piano. Helen lives and teaches piano in Sheffield but has a Spanish heritage and spent a year in Argentina where she enthusiastically got into the tango rhythms.

Tango has also been influenced by opera and to achieve the sound by tenor, pianist and violin, Violeta Barrena on violin completed our trio.

Violeta is of Spanish/Swiss heritage, and has performed in many countries and plays frequently with Helen. The trio played a lively piece by Carlos Gardel, who was a French Argentine singer, songwriter, composer and actor, and the most prominent figure in the history of tango. By this time we were realising how well this music sounds in St Andrew's auditorium.

Bringing in the Italian influence, we heard a dramatic Neopolitan song *Dicitencello vuie* (closely related to the tango) written by Rodolfo Falvo in 1930. We also heard one of a circle of songs about Venice, *La barcheta*, by Reynaldo Hahn, presented originally by him on a gondola. Hahn was born in Caracas, Venezuela but was descended from Spanish colonists; his Venetian musical style was adopted by Caruso and became popular and semi-classical. The tenor and the violinist had an amazing rapport between them in this piece and moved to and fro in a way that was quite mesmerising. All evening the songs were sung in Spanish and we relied on the facial expressions and use of hands to understand the themes. A short translation would have helped.

They then introduced their special guest, Hernan Malagoli, who is travelling with Leonardo as they make a European tour. He is an exceptional pianist and with Leonardo singing they gave us a rousing tango piece. André Previn's *Tango Song and Dance* (1997) came next.

By the 20thC tango had been taken to the classical concert hall and as an example we had the song *The Lost Birds*,by Piazzolla about the one who got away. Starting very peacefully it became energetic and rose to a dramatic finale. Next, to the music of the pampas and the gaucho, of the countryside and farm people, cowboys and Argentinean beef, with milonga mixed with flamenco, first brought from Spain.

The final song was a rendition of *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot*. And by gosh it was wonderful! Leonardo has performed this on the stage throughout Latin America and for us to hear him singing this in St Andrews was indeed a great privilege.

By this time we were ready for our complimentary glass of Argentinian wine, but were able to wait while they treated us to an encore! This incredible tenor with talented pianist and violinist showed us how this music spans the worlds of tango dance and opera and has a very complex history reaching from Europe to Argentina. Truly a night to remember.

Margaret Fall

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THAILAND

Robert's blog continues to paint a vivid picture of his new country, often picking out the eye-catching and unusual. In blog 20, he goes to church:

For the first time in 58 years, my birthday also coincided with Easter Day, so I thought I'd investigate the Anglican provision in Chiang Mai before travelling. Discovering that there are two Anglican Churches in Chiang Mai, and that St Andrew's is just down the road from my flat, I decided to give it a whirl, contacted the Church through their Facebook page, and was cheerfully informed that the Easter Sunday morning service would be held at 10.00 a.m.

Christianity first came to Thailand in the 1550s with the Roman Catholic missionaries who accompanied bands of Portuguese mercenaries, and the Vicariate Apostolic of Siam (now the Archdiocese of Bangkok) was established in the mid-17th century, under the leadership of Portuguese and French priests. Protestantism arrived in the 19th century and, on 26 July 1861, the Community of Foreigners who are of Protestant Christian Faith were granted a piece of land next to the Protestant Cemetery in Bangkok for the building of a Protestant Union Chapel. The grant was made by King Monkut of Siam, best-known to westerners as the King who features in the 1946 film *Anna and the King of Siam* (played by Rex Harrison), and 1956's *The King and I* (Yul Brynner). During most of the later 19th century, services at the Protestant Union Chapel were conducted in the Presbyterian style, but from 1896 a decision was made to hold Anglican services instead, and the Church hosted the then Anglican Bishop of Singapore at a Confirmation service that same year. On 7 April 1904, HM King Chulalongkorn –

also known as King Rama V and Phra Chula Chom Klao Chao Yu Hua – gave permission for the Chapel, now overcrowded and popularly known as "the English church", to be sold, and granted the congregation a larger plot of land for the building of Christ Church, Bangkok, which was dedicated on 30 April 1905. Thai language services were first held in 1934, but the Church didn't acquire its first Thai priest until 1991. It became a parish of the Diocese of Singapore in 1963. Thailand as a whole is now a designated deanery within the Diocese of Singapore, and Anglican

Churches have been founded or planted in several other major cities since the mid-1990s. The Anglican Church in Thailand was registered with the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand on 9 May 1994.

And so to St Andrew's Anglican Church, Chiang Mai...The congregation turned out to be about half Thai and half foreign, and offered a very friendly welcome. I had been hoping for an Easter Sunday Communion service, some great Easter hymns and an exposition of the doctrine of the Resurrection, but I was disappointed. No priest was present and, not holding a licence from the Bishop of Singapore, I was forbidden by ecclesiastical protocol from offering my services.

The small band – singer, guitarist and keyboardist – was in full, and heavily amplified, swing well before the scheduled start time, and proved to be the main feature of the bi-lingual service, which included a non-stop, 25-minute segued sequence of deafening "worship songs", a gospel reading and – I apologise for my cynicism – a no doubt well-intentioned but nonetheless smug-sounding "testimony" by a young business man who had conveniently made his money *before* God called him to a life of Christian witness. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that the Church has no social outreach projects to the local neighbourhood: just groups where "we support each other by prayer". Absolutely not my scene, I'm afraid. How I miss the Broomhall Breakfast! Next time I feel like a dose of Anglicanism, I shall try All Saints', Chiang Mai, which is further away but more liturgically literate, or so I'm assured.

Robert Beard

Follow Robert's story at: https;//robert0461.wordpress.com/2019/a-new-life

LECTIONARY READINGS for June 2019

2 June	Acts 16 : 16-34; Psalm 97 ; Revelation 22 : 12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17 : 20-26
9 June	Acts 2 : 1-21 or Genesis 11 : 1-9; Psalm 104 : 24-34, 35b:
	Romans 8: 14-17 or Acts 2 : 1-21; John 14 : 8-17, (25-27)
16 June	Proverbs 8 : 1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8 ; Romans 5 : 1-5; John 16 : 12-15
23 June	Isaiah 65 : 1-9; Psalm 22 : 19-28; Galatians 3: 23-29; Luke 8 : 26-39
30 June	1 Kings 19 : 15-16,19-21; Psalm 16 ; Galatians 5 : 1, 13-25; Luke 9 : 51-62
7 July	Isaiah 66 : 10-14; Psalm 66 : 1-9; Galatians 6 : (1-6), 7-16; Luke 10 : 1-11, 16-20