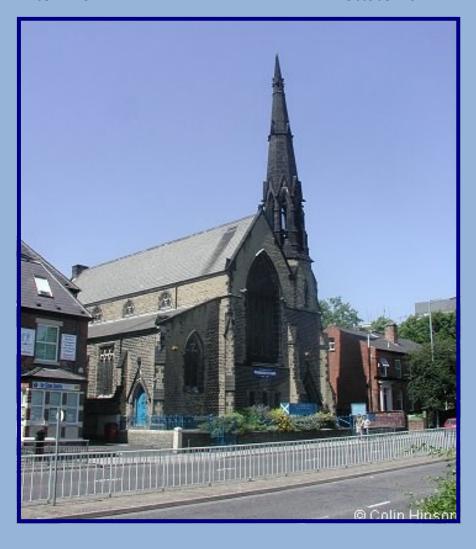
ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25 October 2022



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

Organist & Choirmaster Douglas Jones GGSM(Lond) PG CE, 96 Southey Hall

Road, S5 7PY (257 6630)

Messenger Editors Elizabeth Draper, email elizdraper504@btinternet.com

Barbara Macmillan, email bjmacmi@gmail.com Monica Hanna, email monica.hanna@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 October 2022

Sun 2 Oct 10.45 am Mrs Jenny Carpenter on URC Jubilee and Rev Dr David Stec - COMMUNION

Mon 3 Oct 7 pm Elders meeting
Tues 4 Oct 10 am Community Choir

Sun 9 Oct 10.45 am HARVEST service - Worship Group

Mon 10 Oct 3 pm Asylum seekers meeting

Tues 11 Oct 10 am Community Choir Sun 16 Oct 10.45 am Prof Clyde Binfield Community Choir

Thurs 20 Oct 10 am Management Team meeting Sun 23 Oct 10,45 am Rev Dr Walter Houston Asylum seekers meeting Tues 25 Oct 10 am NO Community Choir

Sun 30 Oct 10.45 am Mr Chris Limb

Sun 6 Nov 10.45 am Rev Canon Adrian Alker

FLOWERS

Jean Dickson has the flower rota for 2022 ready to be filled. Please have a word with Jean to arrange a date. Providing flowers for Sunday worship can be a fitting way to mark an anniversary or remember someone you love. As well as beautifying the church, the flowers give pleasure to the people who receive them afterwards. You can arrange your flowers yourself or you can ask Jean to do it for you. If you wish, you could tell us what you are commemorating.

SERVICE SHEET

If you have any notices to go in the service sheet, please send them to the person who is preparing them for that month:

Judith Adam: January, May and September Sheila Cooke: February, June and October Jean Dickson: March, July and November Monica Hanna: April, August and Becember

A NATION'S MOURNING

The previous issue of the Messenger went out just before the death of Queen Elizabeth II. We had celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in June and in our service on 11 September, led by Jenny Carpenter, we recorded our sadness at her passing and paid tribute to her memory. This Messenger records memories of her.

We give thanks for her long life and her dedicated service to commonwealth and nations. We treasure memories of meeting her, of celebrating and marking moments in her life, of her presence at significant times in our history, and of her speaking to us on radio and television. We rejoice that she lived and shared the faith we hold. Her sense of duty and service was an example to us all.

It was in her Christmas broadcasts that Queen Elizabeth spoke about her life-long faith. Jesus Christ's example of service to others, forgiveness and love supported and guided her throughout her life. During her reign our society has undergone a massive change into the multi-ethnic, multi-faith country Britain is now, and she respected and valued all people of whatever faith or none. We give thanks for her life and example; we mourn her loss, particularly at this uncertain time; and we look forward to our new king with hope and faith.

FAMILY NEWS

Great news to report! Sarah and Tom Collins have had a third son, Lewis Alexander Cousley Collins, born on 13 September, another grandchild for Elizabeth Cousley; also for Linda Callear as Alex and Robbie Livingston's first child was born on 21 September, a girl, Ivy Grace Livingston. All are doing well. Congratulations and all good wishes.



This is Ivy.

Most of us have had our fourth Covid vaccination by now but Covid is unfortunately on the rise again. **Isabel Sandland** had severe symptoms and **Margaret Fall** suffered equally in reaction to the jab.

Wilma and Alistair Love and several of the family have just got over a nasty bout. Alistair also spent two weeks in hospital after a collapse at home and is now recovering well with a pace maker; he has just celebrated his 90th birthday. Congratulations! We are sorry to learn, however, that Wilma and Alistair are moving soon to be near their daughter in Kidderminster and save the family all that driving. A wise but regretful decision and an awful upheaval. We hope all goes smoothly and wish them all the best.

Jean Dickson has moved into her new apartment at Hallam Towers, has got rid of nearly all the boxes now, and is enjoying it. We hope she will be very happy there. Steady news about Fraser McVittie, Lillemor Macdonald and Dorothy Adam. We send them all our good wishes. Janet Brown visits John Price regularly and takes him to visit Jean; it is good to know she is quite happy and settled in her care home. And we are travelling again: Elizabeth Draper had a lovely week in Umbria looking at churches, frescoes and mosaics; Barbara Macmillan is off to visit her son in the USA; Sadie Jones is about to welcome family visits from New York and Florida.

SAD NEWS

We have just received the sad news of the death of our former member **Rev Dr David Hill**. David's health had been failing for some time and he had recently moved to a care home, where he died on 14 October. David was a key member of St Andrew's for many years as well as a biblical scholar at the University. He was an elder, organised the elders' retreat every year, led worship and study groups, and lent a most sympathetic ear to people in trouble. It was a great pity when he felt he could no longer stay with the URC. We missed him and I am sure he missed St Andrew's. There will be an appreciation of him in the next issue.

HARVEST

We celebrated Harvest on Sunday 9th October and collected goods for the Food Bank. The service was led by the Worship Group on the theme of Nature



ST MICHAEL'S ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH celebrated their New Year on 11 September. As well as their white robes, the women wore big yellow flowers and elaborate patterned borders on their clothes, and looked truly festive. This Ethiopian New Year is 2015, so (Kessis Tesfa Teferi says) it was a day when they feel younger! - one of the best things about being in two worlds!

URC JUBILEE EVENTS POSTPONED

Because of the national rail strikes planned for October 1 and 5, the URC decided with great regret to postpone the jubilee events planned for Saturday 1st October in London. This postponement is deeply disappointing, but the URC wants to celebrate its jubilee properly, with all who want to take part. The new date will be announced as soon as possible.

YORKSHIRE SYNOD

Zoom continues to be useful. This October's Synod meeting is in two parts: in-person on Saturday 8th October at Bilton Grange URC in Harrogate and interactively online on Thursday 13th October at 6.30pm. This Synod is open not only to the churches' Synod representatives but to any member. There will be a report in the next Messenger.

REFORM

This is the time to re-order your copy of Reform. Go online or see the information in your copy. If you would like to try Reform, which is an interesting read, please see Barbara Macmillan.

A special issue celebrating its 50th anniversary has also been produced. If you would like to receive a copy, please tell Barbara.

URC JUBILEE October 2022

Jenny Carpenter led our worship on 2 October, the Jubilee day, and gave a most appreciative and comprehensive review of the URC's 50 years. The readings were Ezekiel 37:15-23, Colossians 3:12-17, and John 13: 1-15.

Come, let us all unite and sing - God is love

This weekend URC celebrated its 50th Birthday. Most unfortunately, thanks to the rail strike, the celebrations planned in London for yesterday have had to be postponed – and we don't know when to. At a grand service at Westminster Central Hall in October 1972 the Presbyterian Church of England and the majority of Churches in the Congregational Union came together under God to form the United Reformed Church. It was the first union of Protestant Churches of distinct traditions in these islands. It was inspired by Christ's prayer that his followers should be one, with the same unity of loving relationship and of loving purpose that is found in the Trinity.

The Bible passages that I have chosen are all about unity

Ezekiel, in Babylonian exile, dreams of the restoration of his people in their own land – with the two kingdoms of Israel (Ephraim) and Judah united under God. This is illustrated by holding two sticks together in one hand so you can't see the join – it looks like a conjuring trick!

The **Colossians** are urged to "bear with one another and forgive one another" and above all "clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Note – in harmony, not necessarily in unison. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you indeed were called in the one body." Note the one body.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" – the passion for Holy Scripture is a particular mark of churches of the Reformed tradition, and is certainly true of St. Andrew's where you expect OT lesson, psalm, Epistle and Gospel!

"With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God" – I have tried to pick hymns by writers from the Reformed Tradition: the incomparable Isaac Watts (When I survey the wondrous cross is better than anything Charles Wesley wrote – and I say that as a Methodist!); Scottish Psalter (except there is no setting in Rejoice and Sing of the unity psalm 133); John Bell and Graham Maule of the Iona Community; Colin Thompson, Brian Wren and Fred Kaan – all exceptionally effective hymn writers post URC formation. These are a gift to the whole Church. Then there is prayer. Donald Hilton and Geoffrey Duncan have compiled anthologies of prayers largely drawn from URC sources.

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We prayed a prayer of adoration by Rev. Stephen Brown and a prayer of confession by Rev. Kate Compston this morning.

On the URC website under "Who we are" it announces "God loves you, and as Christians we do too." It goes on to point out some distinctive things about the URC. There is a lack of hierarchy and a respect for individual principles – local churches are encouraged to develop their own emphases. We have the Congregational strand to thank for pioneering women's ministry in 1917. The URC has produced some outstanding women ministers – not least Fleur Houston and Sarah Hall!

URC invented a distinct form of ministry 30 years ago, "Church Related Community Workers", who are often employed ecumenically as in the Manor. URC came up with a memorable way of remembering the "Five Marks of Mission" which have been widely adopted across the denominations: Teach, Tell, Tend, Treasure, Transform. URC is a key member of the Joint Public Issues Team which researches and pronounces on social, economic and environmental issues on behalf of a cortium of churches – Baptist, Methodist, URC and Church of Scotland. URC's magazine "Reform" is of outstanding quality. URC has demonstrated that it is possible to hold together two different understandings and practices of baptism – the Churches of Christ, who became part of URC a few years later practise only adult baptism, not infant baptism.

URC has provided wider ecumenical leadership – especially in Bernard Thorogood who was General Secretary in the exciting 1980s while Philip Morgan was Secretary of the British Council of Churches. Philip came from the Churches of Christ. Both possessed great administrative gifts as well as very wide sympathies. It was my privilege to work with them both. John Reardon was the first General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Elizabeth Welch served in Milton Keynes before becoming Moderator of West Midlands Synod. All of these were bitterly disappointed that the vision of a wider union of churches in UK heralded by the formation of URC was not realised.

We return, inevitably, to the importance of love which binds all things together. John the evangelist has no account of the institution of Holy Communion, as the other gospel writers do. Instead, he tells how Jesus took the role of a servant, or even a slave, and washed his disciples' feet. "You also should wash one another's feet."

Let us recommit ourselves, as we celebrate Holy Communion together, to remain United, in the Reformed tradition, but seeking constantly to be Reformed in the image of the God who is love.

The hymns Jenny chose (from Rejoice and Sing) are 382, 180, 101, 447 and 463.

JUBILEE MEMORIES

Our recent commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the union that brought the United Reformed Church into being has brought back a few memories for me.

In the year before the union, I remember going to a Congregational County Union meeting at which John Huxtable, the Minster Secretary of the Congregational Church in England and Wales spoke about the proposed new church, describing its structure and explaining how it would work. I sat taking meticulous notes, and later gave a report to the Church Meeting of the small church to which I belonged. At the formation of the URC, John Huxtable and Arthur Macarthur of the Presbyterian Church of England became joint General Secretaries for the first three years, and John Huxtable also became the first Moderator of the General Assembly.

I was a university student at the time when the union took place. It was inaugurated at a service which took place at Westminster Abbey on 5th October 1972, and which was televised live on BBC 2. I remember watching it in the Students' Union building. In those days there were only three television channels, and the Students' Union had a separate television room for each of those channels. For much of the time, I sat alone watching that service, but at various times others wandered in, to see what was being shown, and stayed for a while before moving on. Some stayed longer than others. I am not sure what any of them made of it.

I commenced my training for the ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge, just two years after the union, and was ordained three years later. This means that the time of my ministry has coincided with the lifespan of the URC by all but five years. My time at Westminster College gave me an appreciation of Presbyterianism, which together with my Congregational background means that throughout my ministry I have always felt a genuine sense of belonging to both of the traditions which made up the URC at the time of the union.

David Stec

I'VE BEEN TO LONDON TO VISIT THE QUEEN

After the sad death of the Queen on 8th September, I decided that I would go to London to pay my respects. Having recently retired, I was free to go and take part in a little bit of history. My son Chris is a Londoner these days, so I was able to stay with him for a few days. This was very lucky, as London was full to the brim with people from near and far, hotels were booked to capacity and prices were sky-high.

I travelled down with a large bunch of lilies, which I was able to lay in Green Park. There was also a card that I had made in my embroidery class. Despite all the crowds, I was able to mill around in London under the kindly guidance of many cheerful and friendly marshals. Sources of food and drink were plentiful and there were literally hundreds of Portaloos distributed around the Royal Parks.

On Saturday I went to view 'THE QUEUE' for the lying in state, but it was 16 hours long and I did not think that I could cope with that. I went instead to see Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace, ending up at Hyde Park to plan a good place to see the TV coverage of the funeral. The weather was fine and there was a great feeling of people coming together in mutual support.

Monday was the funeral and Chris, Sharon his partner, and I found a good spot to view the big screen. It was clear that every moment of the day had been carefully planned and rehearsed, resulting in a magnificent occasion. The service was solemn and uplifting, moving me to shed a few tears. At the 2 minute silence everyone was totally quiet and the planes stopped flying over London.

A little later the funeral cortege came to Wellington Arch where the coffin was transferred to a hearse for the journey to Windsor. The procession came past the edge of Hyde Park on the South Carriage Drive, which gave us one last chance to say goodbye.

Linda Callear

Christina Stark in Florida reported that the interest there was unbelievable. Even their gardeners who speak very little English were very reverent about our late queen.



Barbara's beloved Dexter

A SURPRISE MEETING

Sheila's father in Ballater was always invited to the Ghillies' Ball in Balmoral and Sheila had been going to them for some years. As we were holidaying there in the summer of 1971, we were both invited. After the dancing when we moved to a small dining room for drinks and delicious "nibbles", the Queen came over and asked what we were doing. She was interested to hear that I was working at the Welsh National School of Medicine at The Heath Hospital in Cardiff. She mentioned that she would be officially opening the new hospital later that year and would look forward to seeing us there.

As the Opening Day of 19 November 1971 approached, we were initially told by the Medical School administration that we were to meet the Queen outside the building as she arrived. We were pleased that she had remembered our conversation and wanted to meet us again. We were surprised to learn later that the Medical School had been told that that was not a suitable place for our meeting and they should arrange another, much to the obvious irritation of The Provost, the Head of the Medical School.

On the day, we were escorted to a specially prepared "room", which was a space in a concrete corridor which had been set up with silk curtains on four sides to create a "room". When we arrived, there were several other people there, including James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, and George Thomas, the Welsh Speaker of the House of Commons. It became obvious that others were wondering who on earth we were. Callaghan came over, shook our hands and we introduced ourselves, as Sheila and lan Cooke, which obviously meant nothing to him. When the Queen and the Duke came in, she saw us and immediately came over. She had recently returned from a trip to Brazil and she told us about some of her experiences there. We moved on to discuss computing in the new hospital and how it would change activities in the health service. Others in the room were wondering why she was spending so much time talking to us and we overheard the Duke explain, "Her father's our doctor in Balmoral".

After about 10 minutes the Duke touched the Queen's arm and suggested that they should be moving on. At that point we left and walked on ahead, toward the main hall where lunch was about to be served. It was packed with everyone standing and waiting expectantly-they were certainly not expecting to see us! It must have seemed that we were late, surprisingly for such a special occasion.

Ian Cooke

ROYAL OCCASIONS

There is something extraordinary about a Royal Occasion. For members of the royal family, it is part of everyday life. That is not at all how it is for the rest of us.

There is a generational aspect to how we view such things. For many of my generation it was the bearing of the royal family during the Second World War which commanded genuine respect, and it was "Crawfie", Marian Crawford, the princesses' nanny, whose writings made the family human. The Palace, it seems, never forgave "Crawfie", but I think it owed her a great deal. The sadness felt at the death of George VI owed much to her account of the royal family as a family and that image was carefully nurtured. Our Christmas Day, for example, was focussed on the King's Speech at 3.00 p.m; only then could the opening of presents begin, with turkey and Christmas pudding to come in the evening.

Occasions like this came home to me years later when I was Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of YMCA England. The Queen was the movement's patron and royal visits were par for the course as well as cause for administrative headaches. Princess Anne was value for money. She came well primed, her questions were sharp and to the point, and she followed them up. One felt that she would not mind returning to see that all was still ship shape. Princess Diana came at the height of her fame. Her voice and her eyes were unforgettable—and did she wear stockings? If she did, they were seamless. And the Queen? Let me recall two occasions.

The first was her visit to London Central YMCA. I was detailed to stand guard over a display of YMCA fathers and founders, a bearded array of splendid but off-putting stalwarts. The Queen came, I explained. "Eoh", said her distinctive, plangent voice, and that was that. At her next stop a friend told her of his visit to China where the YMCA was resuming operations. That interested the Queen – it seemed that it did not quite tally with what her Prime Minister had told her. That Prime Minister was Mrs Thatcher. Finally she came to some real youth, and at that point her face lit up. Her Lady-in-Waiting had been carefully drafted for the occasion: she was a direct descendant of the founder of the YMCA – and she left her fur wrap behind; it had to be dispatched to her later.

The second was the occasion of the World Assembly of YMCAs, meeting at Warwick University. There was a London dimension to this Assembly, a service in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen and

the Duke, followed by a garden party at Lambeth Palace, also attended by the Queen and the Duke. That was carefully timed and choreographed.

The President of YMCA England was to accompany the Queen through a sequence of groups embracing the international movement and I, as Chairman, was to accompany the Duke. I was told that I had drawn the short straw.

For an awful moment I felt that that was so. I had read a lesson at the service in the Abbey and had left all my briefing notes in the pulpit. I had no option but to confess this to the Duke, who grunted and took command. We strode impeccably to where we were supposed to go. At each group he paused, speaking French to the French (his accent, I thought, was decidedly good) and German to the Germans, whom he wowed, and then we came to a group of young women and men in national costume. "Where are you from?" he asked. "We are Basques", they replied. "My! You are worse than the Irish!" he said. They took that as a tremendous compliment and there were beaming faces everywhere – but if a tabloid journalist had been present, just imagine the headline that might have followed such a royal "gaffe". We passed a Japanese delegate, head buried in a newspaper: "Racing results?" asked the Duke; more beams all round. We arrived at the Royal Tent for well-earned sandwiches three-quarters of an hour behind schedule. The Queen gave the Duke a look, and I, in my haste to get out of the way, almost stood on her toes.

There is a postscript. It is another visit to the Palace. I had been appointed O.B.E.; the woman in the line ahead of me, a genuinely useful citizen, was nervously practising her curtsey. I don't think that I helped matters by saying that it was like the French Revolution, waiting to mount the tumbrils. There was a power cut during the proceedings. "Surely somebody is here for services to the electrical industry?" sighed a loyal wag. My turn came. The Queen asked why I was there. "The YMCA, of which you are Patron, Ma'am". "Yes, indeed!" spoken in that distinctive voice and accompanied by a transforming smile.

Royal occasions really are extraordinary, but one remembers them. Clyde Binfield.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Twenty five members and friends travelled with Sheffield Arts Society to the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield, Staffordshire, We were welcomed by a member of staff and guided inside for a welcome coffee and biscuit. We then gathered at the start of the little train which was to take us round a large part of the site. There was a commentary at each memorial we stopped at. The one I found most moving was 'Shot at Dawn', a little exhibition telling about the soldiers shot for cowardice during the first World War. These poor men were most probably suffering from shell shock. Thankfully they have all been pardoned, which must be a wonderful relief to their families.





After the train ride we had time to wander until one o'clock when we had an excellent lunch and tea or coffee. We had more time to walk round and I particularly wanted to see the Shiny Sheff memorial. Many years ago we were fortunate to be on the Isle of Wight when the fleet was in including HMS Sheffield. We went out in a boat round all the ships including Sheffield and Britannia. HMS Sheffield went to the Falklands and was heavily damaged by an Exocet missile. She was eventually towed to Faslane where she was broken up.

I went to the largest memorial, on a hill resembling a barrow, where the names of all service personnel lost since WWII was

engraved. This memorial is gradually being filled up, 16,000 names already and room for 15,000 more. There is a space between two of the concrete name boards where the sun shines through on Armistice Day on the wreath in the centre. It is moving to see the number of names being added – so many young women and men. This memorial represents more than 50 conflicts.

Another memorial was a very large polar bear. This was one of the first memorials to go up in 1998 in memory of the 49 West Riding Infantry Division.

There are plans for a 25 acre woodland site in memory of those who lost their life in the pandemic.

Commander David Childs, supported by group captain Leonard Cheshire VC, was instrumental in the plans for the memorial. The National lottery gave 40 per cent of the cost and the rest was made up of thousands of donations. This site is well worth a visit if you have not been.

Sheila Dunstan



TWO CONCERTS TO NOTE

<u>Friday 4 November</u>, 7.30pm at St Mark's Church, Broomhill A concert of Music by Bach and Vivaldi to raise funds for Phaseworldwide's work in Nepal

Sheffield Sinfonietta directed by Gordon Busbridge, harpsichord. Harpsichord violin soloists - Hannah Thompson-Smith and Charlotte Pinder

Programme:

'Spring' and "Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons,

Bach's oboe & violin concerto in D minor

Bach's Harpsichord concerto in A major.

No tickets required, there will be a retiring collection for Phase work in Nepal.

Please contact Dilys Noble on 07817651178 for more information.

<u>Saturday 19 November</u>, 7.30pm: The Sheffield Symphony Orchestra at All Saints Parish Church, Ecclesall

Programme:

Rimsky-Korsakov: Mlada: Procession of the Nobles (Cortege)

Smith: Andante for Clarinet and Orchestra in D major

Holst: The Perfect Fool: Ballet Music

Mahler: Symphony no. 5.

Tickets are available via the website <u>www.sheffieldsymphony.org.uk</u> or on the door.

159 - Have you heard about this NEW ANTI-FRAUD SERVICE?

Last year criminal gangs stole over £470m by pretending to be your bank or other service provider. If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details...

...Stop, hang up and call 159 to speak directly to your bank.

159 is the memorable, secure number that connects you directly to your bank if you think you're being scammed. 159 works in the same way as 101 for the police or 111 for the NHS. It's the secure number you can trust to get you through to your bank, every time.

Your bank will tell you if they believe the call to be genuine.

Call 159 if:

Someone contacts you saying they're from your bank – <u>even if they are not suspicious.</u>

You receive a call asking you to transfer money or make a payment – even if it seems genuine.

You receive a call about a financial matter and it seems suspicious.

Remember, 159 will never call you. But you can rely on 159 to get you through to your bank.

159 has been set up by Stop Scams UK - banks and telephone companies who want to fight fraud. It's a year-long pilot scheme at the moment. The following **banks** are part of it:

Barclays, Co-operative Bank,

Lloyds (including Halifax and Bank of Scotland),

Nationwide Building Society,

NatWest (including Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank),

Santander, Starling Bank, TSB

That covers over 70% of UK primary current account holders. They hope more banks will join over the course of the pilot.

Almost all major consumer **telephone companies** are participating, and almost all UK mobiles and landlines are able to use 159. The telephone companies are:

BT, including EE and Plusnet, Gamma, O2, including giffgaff, TalkTalk, Three, Virgin Media, Sky, Vodafone

Calling 159 will **cost** the same as a national rate call; usually part of the included minutes in most phone tariffs.

If 159 doesn't work, for any reason, you should contact your bank in the normal way, using the number on your bank card.

159 is a pilot scheme – the idea is to collect evidence to show that calling 159 helps fight fraud. If the pilot is successful, Stop Scams UK want to make 159 a universal number – available on all phones and for all banks

'In Heaven we shall see each other as we really are'

The recent death of Queen Elizabeth II has concentrated the mind for many regarding our mortality. In an article I have kept from many years ago by Monsignor Roderick Strange, of the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, Monsignor Strange writes of those who believe in an afterlife and those who do not. I found the article very inspiring all those years ago and on re-reading it I thought others, in the light of recent events, might also find the following extract equally thought provoking. He speaks of the committed atheist, to whom Heaven means nothing, and others whose faith is firm and uncomplicated, but are in awe at the thought of the crowds in heaven since the human race began. In the extract he says,

"I think of a couple in their later middle age whom I used to visit years ago. The wife had had a stroke, and her medication had caused side-effects that disfigured her. One day her husband said to me, 'I wish you could have seen her when she was young. She was lovely.' And I in my foolishness said to him, 'I suppose you can still see glimpses of that in her.' He told me, 'That is all I see'. Love is more than a quality we possess. It is not an abstraction. It is ultimately what we are called to become.

Heaven is code for the presence of God where love is made perfect, and we are perfected in love. There we shall see each other as we really are, when all imperfection has been wiped away. Beauty will be revealed; those we love will be instantly recognisable, whatever the throng; whatever further journey there may have been, those who love will not have passed beyond each other, but will be united by love again; and those who had no hope of such a consummation, but were passionate for justice and truth, will find their deepest longings satisfied beyond their wildest dreams".

Now all that's worth thinking about!

Raymond Smyth

LECTIONARY READINGS for October 2022

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October 2 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37: 1-9; 2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

October 9 2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

October 16 Genesis 32: 22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5; Luke 18: 1-8

October 23 Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84: 1-7; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

October 30 Isaiah 1: 10-18; Psalm 32: 1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 6 Job 19: 23-27a; Psalm 17: 1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17; Luke 20: 27-38
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