

ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25

January and February 2023



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CALENDAR for January and February 2023

Sun	1 Jan		NO Service
Tues	3 Jan	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	8 Jan	10.45am	Rev Dr Walter Houston
Tues	10 Jan	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	15 Jan	10.45am	Mrs Fiona Walton (Christians and Sheffield Schools)
Mon	16 Jan	2.30pm	Elders meeting
Tues	17 Jan	10 am	Community Choir
Wed	18 Jan	7 pm	Trustees meeting
Thurs	19 Jan	10 am	Management Team meeting
Sun	22 Jan	10.45am	Rev Margaret Herbert
Tues	24 Jan	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	29 Jan	10.45am	Professor Clyde Binfield
Tues	31 Jan	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	5 Feb	10.45am	Rev Dr David Stec COMMUNION
Mon	6 Feb	2.30pm	Elders meeting
Tues	7 Feb	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	12 Feb	10.45am	Mrs Jenny Carpenter
Mon	13 Feb	2.30pm	Elders meeting
Tues	14 Feb		NO Community Choir
Thurs	15 Feb	10 am	Management Team meeting
Sun	19 Feb	10 am	Rev Graham Wassell
Tues	21 Feb	10 am	Community Choir
Wed	22 Feb	12 noon	Church lunch
Sun	26 Feb	10.45am	Mr Chris Limb
Tues	28 Feb	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	5 Mar	10.45am	Mr Ian Wilman (Salvation Army)

COFFEE

Sheila Cooke is keeping the rota for coffee after service on Sundays.
 Please tell Sheila if you would like to help.

FLOWERS

Instead of a weekly rota of people who donate flowers for our Sunday service, we now have a beautiful arrangement of artificial flowers in place.

If anyone wishes to provide fresh flowers to commemorate some special date or memorial, please do so, and then write your name on the list on the back of the vestry door.

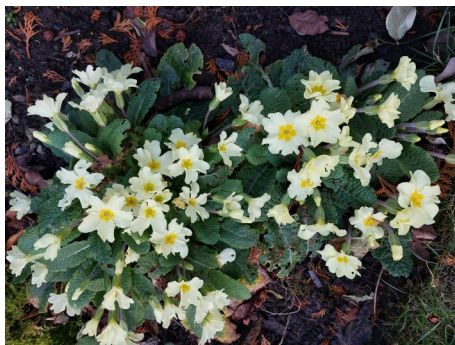
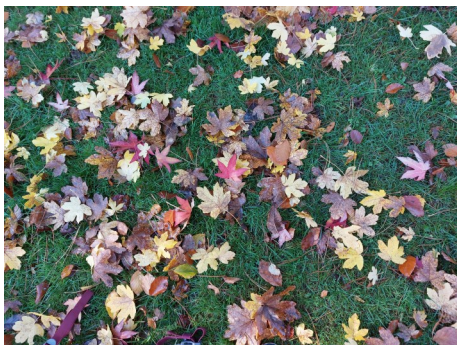
There is also the opportunity to bring a small fresh bunch to give to the visiting preacher; again, if you do this, please sign in the relevant column on the list.

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. The rota now is:

Judith Adam:	January, May and September
Sheila Cooke:	February, June and October
Jean Dickson:	March, July and November
Julie Bevan:	April, August and December

Many thanks to Monica Hanna for her previous service on this.



“If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind.”

COME & SEE!

Fiona Walton, Christians & Sheffield Schools

A few weeks ago I visited my 95 year old uncle on his farm. While I was talking to him his daughter-in-law popped in from next door and said to me 'Come & see.' She took me to her house and showed me four 3-week-old Jack Russell puppies. I got to hold them. They were tiny & gorgeous!

About a decade ago I was at the meal table at a Scripture Union conference. I overheard a couple of people talking about something called Open the Book. It is basically a team of volunteers going as storytellers into a school in simple costumes and acting out a Bible story in an assembly. Their vision is to bring the Bible to life for children in their primary years. I arranged to go to a school in Deepcar and watch a session. It was Noah's Ark. I loved it! - seeing about 200 children really enjoying a Bible story. Open the Book is now part of the Bible Society.

Prayer Spaces in Schools help children and young people to reflect and pray. They enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life's questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. I went to a school in Rotherham – I saw & experienced a prayer space in a school. It was wonderful. I could see the children were really engaged.

My daughter asked me a big question when she was very little. She said, who taught you to be a grown up? I tried to explain that my parents, her grandparents, had taught me by spending time with me, talking to me, letting me question them, and I'd watched them. Now I was teaching her.

So, with these examples of 'Come & See' stories, let's come to our bible readings:

In John 1 we meet John the Baptist. He *sees* Jesus. Second, he *shows* Jesus and *shares* his own experience of Jesus with others - openly declaring: "Here comes the Lamb of God, the One who takes away the sin of the entire world!" That's quite a statement!

But John had experienced something his disciples apparently had not, and he was eager to tell them about that experience. *He wanted them to see it, too.* When John's disciples went after Jesus, he asks them, "What are you looking for?" These are the very first words Jesus speaks in John's gospel. Jesus asked questions – 339 are recorded in the gospels.

We then get to our Gospel passage (John 1: 29-42) for today where Jesus invites two men to "come and see" where he was staying. This was an invitation not to see his soft furnishings etc. but rather to spend the day with him where he lived, time in his presence, talking to him, listening to him, watching him. At least one of these men (Andrew) left this encounter really excited about Jesus.

He immediately says to his brother, 'Come and See! We have found the Messiah.' When Simon meets Jesus in person, he is changed. He becomes Simon Peter, the rock on which Christ will build his church. There's a pattern: Later in John 1, Philip tells Nathanael he had found the Messiah. When Nathanael is sceptical, Philip says, "Come and see". (v.46).

Remember the Samaritan woman in John 4:29 who runs back to her town, fresh off an encounter with Jesus. With breathless gasps, she tells everyone she can about her conversation with Jesus. "A man who told me everything I ever did," she exclaimed. "Come and see." She invites others.

The message is if you want to know the word made flesh, come and see Jesus. If you want to know what love is like, come and see Jesus. If you want to experience God's glory, to be filled with bread that never perishes, to quench your thirst with living water, to be born again, to abide in love, to behold the light of the world, to experience the way, the truth, and the life, to enter into life everlasting, . . . if you want to know God, come and see Jesus.

This 'come and see' invitational model of evangelism or spreading the gospel is one I find comforting and challenging at the same time. I am not required to argue theologically, to explain a thoughtfully prepared mission statement, or preach using complicated words or to moralize. That is a relief. I love getting invitations, most people do. What a great model for evangelism.

But – it is still challenging for it may involve allowing people to walk alongside us as we do life and as we walk alongside them. The message is not, "You must believe this" but rather our involvement with them says without words, "Come and see. Let's walk together, and I'll show you Jesus in the way I live my life."

If we say 'come and see' to a person in regard to our faith, what is it they will see? What will we show them?

One theologian writes, 'At its heart, evangelism is noticing what God is doing in our lives, sharing that with others, and inviting them to come and see for themselves.' We are being called to take enquirers to see the difference Jesus makes to our everyday lives. To show the how & why we live the way we do.

Would others notice the difference Jesus makes to our everyday lives? It's hard to share an experience you haven't had. It's hard to show someone something you haven't actually seen for yourself.

When Jesus said, 'come and see' to Andrew, Jesus didn't take them to a ceremony in the Temple or synagogue, but he took them to where he was staying – to his home, to his everyday life. He introduced himself. He spent time with them. He must have talked to them and explained who he was. So perhaps we should be offering hospitality – allowing others to spend time with us, see where and how we live and why.

Or maybe we are called to take enquirers to see where Christians are running food banks, lunch clubs for seniors, toddler groups, to Christians giving debt advice to those in poverty, mentoring teenagers who are suicidal. Perhaps that is not where people expected to be invited to meet Jesus – like the wise men who followed a star to a stable, not a palace, or like those who observed Jesus as he ate with tax collectors and sinners.

For Jesus still asks us his penetrating question "What are you looking for? Where are you looking for it?" Still good questions – we need to ask those questions of ourselves, of our friends, of others. If we find Jesus to be our answer, we need to show others and say to them, 'Come & You Will See.' Spend a moment thinking and thanking God for those who said, 'Come & See' to us and brought us to faith.

Fiona Walton

FAMILY NEWS

Belated new year wishes to everyone and we hope that 2023 has started well for you all. The days are growing longer, flowers are coming through and the birds can be heard. This year marks St Andrew's 170th anniversary.

Jean Dickson is making an excellent recovery from her broken hip and will get back to driving at the beginning of March. **Lillemor Macdonald** had all three sons with her at Christmas, from Sheffield, Lancashire and California, the first Christmas since Bill died. **Wilma Love** also had the family including two grown up grandchildren; it was just six weeks since Alistair died.

Less happy news about **Dorothy Adam** who is back in hospital having tests. **John Price** is having investigations into his back pain. **Claire Brooks** had major surgery on 2 January to rebuild her ankle and is still in pot, unable to put weight on it yet, which is frustrating. We send all good wishes to **John Fall** for his hip surgery, scheduled for this month, and trust that nothing will delay it again.

A lot of infections, chesty colds as well as Covid, have been going around, which have recently laid low some of our members and friends including the Fall family, Janet Brown, Alan Sandland . . .

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of **Linsey Taylor Auad** on 1st January at her home in Morocco. Linsey was a good friend to St Andrew's Church and a dear friend of several members. There is an appreciation of her on page 17. Her family are organising a celebration of her life at the Broomhall Centre (in the heart of where Linsey lived in Sheffield) on Saturday 11 March at 1.30 pm.

Christina Stark was at her second home in Florida when the most powerful hurricane struck in January. Thankfully, their home and the surrounding area on Florida's west coast was safe. Christina says some people say it's just luck each time but she likes the story of the Native American Paleo people. They asked the gods for a safe place to build their home, and the gods led them to an area now known as Heritage Pines where they settled and made their camp.

They were always safe. Their artifacts have been found around a pond now known as Paleo Park which is kept with only native plants and trees. Over the years many hurricanes and storms have been heading straight for that community but always swerve off just before they hit, only leaving a tropical storm causing little or no damage.



Robert Beard's Christmas letter described 2022 as a very satisfactory year. He saw his son Philip graduate in Music in Florida and son Joe visited from Vietnam. His work with NHS 111 is interesting and fulfilling, and he supports as best he can organisations working with vulnerable people. Unfortunately, early in January, his bike skidded and he had a nasty fall and broke his femur. He was lucky, however, in the speed with which he was treated and he is recovering well from a complete hip replacement.

LOOKING BACK

Christmas Day: It was delightful to see so many families and young children at the service, led by Jenny Carpenter. They all took part in lighting the candles and displayed one of their new presents.

Margaret Fall had cleverly used some redundant odd cups from our kitchen to plant hyacinth bulbs and these were given out to all the ladies present on the day.

Auld acquaintance:

As usual, one of the pleasures at year end is hearing from old friends. We received greetings from Marion Hood and her brother, Richard Austin; Sheila and Jim Sharp (Marion Howdle's sister); and Linda Sadler (Nora Ferrie's daughter). Linda's message is 'Enjoy yourself, keep smiling and remember laughter is the best medicine.' She doesn't like grumpy people around her!



Pat Hale is still managing in her own house in Castledearg. She has help getting up each morning, but manages the rest of the day herself. To her great regret, she can no longer do the gardening. She sends greetings to friends at St Andrew's. Greetings also from Margaret and Ian Baxter in Berkhamsted. They managed to have a holiday in France last summer, organized by Susie.

Greetings were also relayed from Israel and Peace Chinedu in Nigeria. Israel says: We are thankful for God's mercies this year especially for our new son, Daniel. We are looking forward to a general election in year 2023, and we are not left out of inflation due to change in energy prices.

Asylum seekers: The asylum seekers' were introduced to Scottish customs at one Monday gathering and on 19th December they were given a typical Christmas party with children's games and Christmas pudding. The lads looked somewhat bemused but joined in with Tesfa's and Selam's children and Connor Fall. They were given some woolly hats and other clothing and another bike. See Barbara's story on page 12.



This project is run jointly between St Michael's and St Andrew's and has been going for over six months. However, it has been put on hold while Selam Yihun is in Ethiopia; he is the main person to liaise between the church and the asylum seekers to organise the fortnightly events. There is also a shortage of volunteers from both churches. We will rethink it when Selam returns; the Home Office may move the asylum seekers on.

The service on 5 February was our communion service, led by Rev Dr David Stec. We have returned to proper serving of the elements, which was forgone during the pandemic. At this service there was a special collection for Care4Calais, the charity which provides warm clothing, bedding, food and medical assistance to people in the refugee camps there, who are in desperate need. South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group makes periodic visits to Calais and will take our donation of £175.



St Andrews
Community
Choir practicing

LOOKING AHEAD

Judith Adam has arranged a most interesting series of worship leaders for the first six months of the year including some new voices - Ian Wilman of the Salvation Army and Pauline Ratcliffe of the Leprosy Mission - and some we have not heard for a while including Fiona Walton (CaSS), Inderjit Bhogal, Kirsty Massey and Michael Bayley.

Lunch: We are having another group lunch at the Norfolk Arms on Wednesday 22 February. All welcome.

THE WIDER WORLD

The **World Day of Prayer service** in town is on Friday 3 March at Central URC at 11 am. (There will be other services in other parts of the city.) The service this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan; the theme is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter Paul sent to a faith community to express gratitude.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The URC 50th anniversary:

The Anniversary service which had to be postponed last October because of rail strikes will now be held on Saturday 15 April at Methodist Central Hall in London at 2 pm. It will be preceded by an Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, from 10am-12 noon.

The Rev Dr David Cornick has co-edited and contributed to a book on the history and theology of the United Reformed Church. *Traditions And Transitions: Studies In The History And Theology Of The URC* marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Church, a milestone—as Rev'd Dr Cornick explains—"which no one originally involved expected." This volume of essays brings together scholarly voices from across the church to explore the ways in which traditions, institutional transitions, political context and an ever-changing pattern of religious behaviour and 'secularisation' have interacted over the past fifty years. The Rev Fleur Houston is one of the contributors. *Traditions and Transitions* is available to purchase online, [from the United Reformed Church Bookshop](#).

Warm Spaces: A number of URC churches, like other denominations, are opening up Winter Warmer hubs to help those in fuel poverty in the cold weather. Yorkshire Synod's Mission Fund is making grants available for such initiatives, up to £2,000. Money is also set aside to help churches with the challenges of their own energy costs.

MUSICAL CITY

Sterndale Singers will give a 'A Venetian Celebration' on Saturday February 25th at 7.30pm in St Marie's Cathedral, Norfolk Row. The music for choir, organs and brass will include works by Monteverdi, Gabrieli and Schutz. Sterndale Singers are directed by Robert Webb.

Tickets £15; students £6; under16s free

Available in advance from www.sterndalesingers.org

Classical Weekend: Sheffield will be ringing with music when Classical Sheffield holds its 10th anniversary Classical Weekend 17-19 March at venues all over the city. This biennial musical feast presents concerts by major established groups alongside concerts to showcase the smaller ensembles and singing groups making music in the city. There are some 25 events in all, many just 45 minutes or an hour long.

Entry to many events is free or just £5, keeping costs low so that as many people as possible can experience amazing live music during the three days.

Tickets to all events can be purchased via the Classical Sheffield website, alongside all information about the concerts and venues: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events/2023/classical-sheffield-weekend-2023>



BIKES

As was mentioned in December's Messenger, with Margaret Fall at the helm, some of us have been providing a safe and friendly fortnightly gathering place in the hall for asylum seekers based in South Yorkshire. Most of these people are young males from Ethiopia and Eritrea currently housed in outlying hotels. Selam and friends of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church based here in St Andrews have kindly helped coordinate and assist our gatherings thus adding to their (and our) enjoyment. I have learned a great deal myself and have eaten the VERY spicy food they grew up with!

Being a bit of an outdoor enthusiast my thoughts went to their physical well being. I found out that there was a local organisation - Comac bike project Sheffield, run by volunteers who "provide working bikes to people seeking asylum who live in Sheffield, so that they have a way of getting around." They collect and fix up donated bikes and keep a stock of used and new bike parts so that they can build good roadworthy bikes. These volunteers rely on "periodic grants and occasional donations to keep the bike project going."

Although our lads live on the outskirts of Sheffield I decided to contact Comac. After the initial disappointment of being advised that the asylum seekers should really be living in Sheffield to qualify, I was delighted to hear that there were some funds to buy some cheap refurbished bikes before Christmas. On December 19th, the party day, a young Comac volunteer very kindly arrived at the church with three magnificently refurbished bikes plus locks, lights, hi-vis jackets and helmets. Harry was welcomed with open arms and happily shared in the party spirit while providing useful information and advice regarding the bikes. (Luck of the draw for three very happy, young men!)

It is worth mentioning that the bikes were bought from "A Different Gear" - a not for profit bike shop on Thirwell Road, Heeley, who sell refurbished bikes as well as brand new bikes and accessories. They also provide a lot of support to the Comac project through training and sharing of equipment. Incidentally 'comac' is the Farsi/Persian word for 'help' and was chosen by an Iranian volunteer when the project took off several years ago.

It is sad to see bikes thrown away to landfill when they could be put to good use. Should you or someone you know like to donate a bike, Comac's home page is: comac.org.uk/. From there you will find a link to the donation form.

For a variety of reasons we have been unable to meet up for a few weeks but hopefully will restart on February 20th. Happy New Year to all!

A SHEFFIELD HERO - William Marsden

In 2019 a (second) bronze plaque was unveiled at Watson's Walk, off in Angel Street, to commemorate William Marsden, one of Sheffield's most influential sons. He was born near Hartshead in 1796, the youngest of eight children. When he left school he was apprenticed to a wholesale druggist in Sheffield. In 1816, he moved to London where he took up an apprenticeship to a surgeon-apothecary before setting up on his own. At the end of 1824 he enrolled as a student of surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital and was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1827.

After seeing the poverty on the streets and discovering the difficulties the poor had in obtaining medical treatment, Marsden sought to establish a free hospital in London for which "poverty and sickness are the only claims for admission". In 1828 he set up a small dispensary near Hatton Garden, Holborn, which was named the London General Institution for the Gratuitous Cure of Malignant Diseases. The name was changed by Queen Victoria to The Royal Free Hospital, and moved to the Gray's Inn Road in the 1840s. It was the country's first free hospital.

His first wife died of cancer which led him to turn his attention to cancer sufferers and, in 1851, he set up another small establishment in Cannon Row, Westminster which grew into the Brompton Cancer Hospital (now the Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road).

He married twice and had four children but only one of them survived into adulthood. He died in Richmond, Surrey, in 1867 and is buried in West Norwood Cemetery, South London.

His first plaque in Sheffield was put up in 2000 and stolen in 2009; the new one is high up on the wall.

The **URC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY** was adopted by General Assembly in 2022 to be implemented from January 2023. They stated:

It is our intent, as a body of people committed by our faith to caring for God's Creation, and who recognise the urgency of the climate emergency, to:

- integrate our concern for environmental issues into the whole of our church life
 - act urgently to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of church life in order to reach net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030
 - use the earth's resources wisely
 - enjoy, protect and where possible renew the natural environment
- protect and increase biodiversity. ¹³

Because of the urgency of the climate emergency, the focus for this policy is on reducing carbon emissions across the whole of church life. The most significant contributors to the URC's carbon footprint are travel, buildings, energy use, and how investments are used.

Their advice includes:

set targets and monitor usage;

hold fewer meetings or video-conference instead;

avoid flying where possible and prefer trains;

improve the levels of energy efficiency and environmental performance of buildings, including insulation, glazing, ventilation and heating and cooling systems, through refurbishment or replacement;

support renewable energy generation and green energy suppliers;

reduce use of unsustainable resources, reuse and recycle, dispose of waste carefully;

support church members to reduce their environmental footprint;

advocate for action to government and industry.

Leisure

By W.H. Davies, pub, 1911

What is this life, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time stand and stare.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

New Year thoughts from the Yorkshire Synod Moderator.

For as long as I can remember, within the life of the church we have talked about the contrast between 'maintenance' and 'mission'. In brief, we tend to think that maintenance is what we often find ourselves spending time doing in the church, whilst mission is what we feel we really ought to be putting our energies into.

I'll explain a bit more about what I think mission is in a moment. But it is understandable that maintenance can hold such a big pull on us. Life in the church often throws up challenges we can't avoid, as we try to run things in an organised and efficient way, and as we look after our buildings. We could also include under the 'maintenance' heading softer things like pastoral care of the 'flock', and ensuring that our worship continues to offer the spiritual nourishment that we are used to. Under such a broad heading, it is easy to see how maintenance is not just necessary, but also sometimes quite an attractive option.

Mission also covers a broad spectrum of activities - and perhaps the easiest way to describe it is just to see it as the opposite of maintenance. Mission is whatever valuable things the church is doing which involve looking beyond the church-as-it-is, to the world in its need. If historically 'mission' has tended to conjure up images of far-off lands and brave missionaries, I think today we are likely to see mission much closer to home.

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church. In our Yorkshire Synod (one of the 13 areas into which our UK-wide denomination is divided), we have decided to mark the year by putting time and energy into considering what it means to be a 'Missional Synod'. We are using the word 'Mission' not because it is new - but because the desire to 'do mission' is a common thread that has run through our history, and which goes back to our very origins in the New Testament.

It is no great surprise that we are discovering the variety of ways in which the work 'mission' is used in the Yorkshire churches. For some, the most obvious meaning is to describe those things the church does which are like 'living parables' - putting into practice the kind of loving care that we would understand Jesus himself to be calling us to. For others, 'mission' is not really mission unless we are sharing our own experiences of faith, and indeed 'talking about Jesus'.

Between these two understandings of mission, I think there is a really interesting space which is more about allowing God's spirit to be at work, allowing honest and open questions to be asked, and inviting

good conversations about what really matters - without either having to apologise for the faith we have in Jesus, nor to insist that only Jesus-talk matters. Whatever else it is, a missional Synod is, I believe, a place of delight and joy; a welcoming and accepting community; a body that is outward-looking and engaged with the 'real' world; a place where we honour each other's wisdom and insight, and where what we are about sits happily and easily with the Gospel of Jesus.

Rev Jamie Kissack

STANNINGTON GAS INCIDENT

Janet Brown lives in Stannington and endured the problems we all heard about in the local media.

On Friday the 2nd of December a water pipe burst and flooded into a gas main in Stannington. Residents reported water was pouring out of their gas appliances and gas meters. The leak was stopped, but water left in the pipes meant many people were without a gas supply. Sheffield City Council declared it a 'major incident'.

We were fortunate not having water coming through our gas appliances. But having no gas we certainly felt the cold. Cadent Gas did supply fan heaters and electric blankets to anyone needing them.

Engineers had to pump more than one million litres of water out of the gas pipes before reconnecting all the affected properties. Many were reconnected within a few days but some were weeks before they had a gas supply. Cadent Gas have been very good in helping households manage while facing such a difficult time. Local MP Olivia Blake helped to organise a "Warm Place" with some cooking facilities that people could go to.

Although you can still see repair work being done in the village we have more or less returned to normal.

Janet Brown

Did you see the headline about the Royal Navy nuclear submarine that had been "repaired with glue" ? It was claimed that broken bolts had been stuck back on instead of replaced. Robert Beard suggests a modification to a well-known hymn:

Oh hear us when we cry to Thee
For those who come unstuck at sea.

REMEMBERING LINSEY TAYLOR AUAD

Linsey was a great friend to St Andrew's and it is hard to know where to start a description of her many talents, her lovely smile, her colourful dresses, and her amazing knowledge of who was who and what went on in our area.

Linsey started to work in Broomhall in 1997, when she set up a Credit Union. She spent 8 years as a volunteer in this area and created an organisation called Changing Rooms in Broomhall, working mostly with tenants on the Hanover Estate. New tenants were often allocated flats in a very poor state of repair and Linsey acquired the paint and materials free or cheap to redecorate with tenants' help. The plan was that once one flat was refurbished, those people would help other tenants to refurbish their flats. However, this proved to be hard to achieve, as on this estate the tenants have mental health, disability and dependency issues. For Linsey it meant she learned a lot about decorating but she also fell in love with Broomhall.

It took a while for Linsey to find a job based in Broomhall but eventually she joined the Broomhall Forum as a community worker and 2 years later, manager. By now she had actually moved from Sharrow to live in Broomhall. During her period at the Forum, she was instrumental in pushing forward many different ventures. She was particularly proud of the Forum's achievement in helping over 200 individuals to achieve goals, find employment, access training courses and learn to speak English. For the young, play schemes were set up and young people taken abroad. The Forum assisted in balancing various communities in the area and was instrumental in setting up the Group of Groups, a place for groups to meet and discuss local issues. During this time, Ian Cooke has been an exceptionally effective Chair of the Forum. The Forum ran for 13 years and Linsey worked in it for 8 years.

St Andrews enjoyed having Linsey as friend, helper and adviser. Her many talents meant that her help came in many forms: curtains made for the hall and the church balcony, help with choosing colour schemes for paint work around the church; help with project managing the new toilets. In the early days of the Management Team her advice and clear thinking enabled the team to soon start functioning effectively. By living and working in Broomhall she helped St Andrews to understand the area around the church and we were grateful to her. In a room full of folk and she moved easily around, with a friendly word for everyone and her delightful smile ever present. She can be proud of her achievements in Broomhall where she will not be forgotten. She did not go away empty handed from St Andrew's as she took the towel rail from the old ladies' toilet with her as a memento!

On April 7th 2015 she left Broomhall to live in Morocco with a plan to build a tourist eco village which would be run as a social enterprise, offering 10-12 holidays a year, where participants can learn about local crafts, Moroccan food and how to build sustainable dwellings. The courses would be taught by local people and generate an income for the local community. The remarkable Assilah Eco village soon started to appear, built by traditional methods and using local cob, straw bales, wood and bamboo. Young helpers came from all over the world to assist in the development. Linsey fitted in to life in Morocco and it is sad this has come to such a premature end.

To Linsey's family we send our love, our gratitude for all she did for St Andrew's and Broomhall, and admiration for what she achieved in Assilah. There will be a memorial celebration of her life later in the year.

Margaret Fall

In 2001, when as Church Secretary I was preparing a profile of the church to advertise a vacancy (for which Rev Sarah Hall was eventually appointed), we realised that, although St Andrew's was in Broomhall, we had had little interaction and needed to be more involved. As a result, Margaret Fall began the Neighbourhood Group for social interaction for local older people and I became involved with a Community Group, chaired by the CEO of the YMCA. We interviewed for a Community Worker and Linsey was appointed. She was very effective, as she had a broad knowledge of community affairs, related very well to the local people, had lots of ideas and worked hard. From this community group the Broomhall Forum was spun off in 2003 and Linsey soon became the Manager; it was not long before I became the chair, developing a strong rapport with Linsey, who moved into Filey St., consolidating her knowledge of and extending her relations with the local community.

Linsey liaised well with the City Council and pulled in a number of grants to expand the work of the Forum. After the murder of a local lad, a case of mistaken identity by a gang from Burngreave, Linsey sat on the Council Group supervising that in conjunction with the police. She provided immense support for the relatives and the community and ran conflict resolution courses. She also managed the Broomhall News when the Editor withdrew and she arranged all the local distribution. Its 100th edition was reached in 2013.

However, by this time it was becoming more difficult to obtain community funding, both national and local, and the Forum's income dropped progressively. Linsey managed this very well, but the reserves were all used to support the activities, Linsey dropping to 1.5

hours a week, to eke out the staff support for longer. Eventually the Forum closed in 2015. Some activity was transferred to the Broomhall Centre and its Board of Directors, which I joined. The employment work was transferred to the Hanover TARA.

Linsey was a trained interior designer. In about 2010 she had spent time in a village in the northwest of Morocco, south of Tangier, and fallen in love with the people. From the village she later married her third husband, Bashir, because, she told me, he was a wonderful story teller. That marriage did not last, but she continued to return and was welcomed by the village. She decided to emigrate to the village and bought some land in partnership with a local property developer, determined to build an ecovillage and develop craft activities for the expected tourists. She advertised internationally for workers to come on holiday and help build the village of adobe brick (and wattle and daub) houses in return for their board and lodging; some stayed for months. The address of a Youtube video was published in the Messenger in 2019 and it showed the lovely imaginative designs that Linsey had used in the buildings. Bottles were embedded end-on in walls to provide light, an outside mud oven was made from 2 tyres and was in use for some years.

Linsey died peacefully on New Year's Day 2023 in Assilah, Morocco.



LECTIONARY READINGS for January and February 2023

January 1	Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-13; Psalm 8 ; Revelation 21 : 1-6a; Matthew 25 : 31-46
January 8	Isaiah 42 :1-9; Psalm 29 ; Acts 10 : 34-43 Matthew 3 : 13-17
January 15	Isaiah 49 : 1-7; Psalm 40 : 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1 : 1-9; John 1 : 29-42
January 22	Isaiah 9 : 1-4; Psalm 27 : 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1 : 10-18; Mathew 4 : 12-23
January 29	Micah 6 : 1-8; Psalm 15 ; 1 Corinthians 1 : 18-31 Matthew 5 : 1-12
February	Isaiah 58 : 1-9a, (9b-12); Psalm 112 : 1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2 : 1-12, (13-16); Matthew 5 : 13-20
February 12	Deuteronomy 30 :15-20 or Sirach 15 : 15-20; Psalm 119 :1-8; 1 Corinthians 3 : 1-9; Matthew 5 : 21-37
February 19	Exodus 24 : 12-18; Psalm 2 or 99 ; 2 Peter 1 : 16-21; Matthew 17 : 1-9
February 26	Genesis 2 : 15-1 and 3 : 1-7; Psalm 32 ; Romans 5 : 12-19; Matthew 4 : 1-11
March 5	Genesis 12 : 1-4a; Psalm 121 ; Romans 4 : 1-5, 13-17; John 3 : 1-17

