

ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25

November & December 2022



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CALENDAR for November and December 2022

Wed	2 Nov	7 pm	Elders meeting
Sun	6 Nov	10.45 am	Rev Canon Adrian Alker
Mon	7 Nov	3 pm	Asylum Seekers meeting
Tues	8 Nov	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	13 Nov	10.45 am	Rev Dr David Stec - Remembrance
Tues	15 Nov	10 am	Community Choir
Thurs	17 Nov	10 am	Management Team
Sun	20 Nov	10.45 am	Rev Helena Roulston
Mon	21 Nov	3 pm	Asylum Seekers meeting
Tues	22 Nov	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	27 Nov	10.45 am	Rev Margaret Herbert - Advent and St Andrew's service
Mon	28 Nov	7 pm	Elders meeting
Tues	29 Nov	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	4 Dec	10.45 am	Rev Fleur Houston - Communion
Mon	5 Dec	3 pm	Asylum seekers meeting
Tues	6 Dec	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	11 Dec	10.45 am	Rev Canon Adrian Alker
Tues	13 Dec	10 am	Community Choir Open Day
Thurs	15 Dec	10 am	Management Team
Sun	18 Dec	10.45 am	Carol Service
Mon	19 Dec	3 pm	Asylum Seekers Christmas meeting
Sun	25 Dec	10.45 am	Mrs Jenny Carpenter
Sun	1 st Jan 2023		NO service for St Andrew's



Happy Christmas !

We wish you all love and joy
at Christmas
and a peaceful and healthy
New Year

መልክም ገና (Melkam Gena)

Feliz Navidad

عيد ميلاد سعي eid milad saeid

Joyeux Noël

聖誕快樂



LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

This issue covers two months from the traditions and remembering of 5th November and Remembrance Day through the expectation and preparation of Advent to the celebration of Christmas.

November always has two significant dates in it. The first is **Remembrance Sunday** on 13 November. St Andrew's marked this in our usual way, with trumpeter Gordon Truman to enhance the solemnity of the occasion. The service was led by Rev Dr David Stec who spoke about his father who was born in Lvov, which was then in Poland and now is the city of Lviv in Ukraine.

St Andrew's Day is the 30th November and we remembered our patron saint in the service on the nearest Sunday, 27 November, which was led by the Revd Margaret Herbert. The Caledonian Society did not take part this year. but several members belong to both church and Society.



And when the guns fell silent

Everyone Sang

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on - on - and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless;
the singing will never be done.

Siegfried Sassoon

LEGACIES AND RECONCILIATION

For his sermon on 16th October, Professor Binfield took two themes which he illustrated with three short and contrasting biographies. As October was Black History month, it is significant that his narratives concerned slavery and shed light on the complexities of the Legacies of Slavery.

Outside St Thomas's Hospital in London stands a massive bronze statue with the inscription "Nurse of the Crimean War". It is not Florence Nightingale, but another nurse of the Crimean War: Mary Seacole. Today the Crimea is a war zone; as it was 170 years ago, which is why Mary Seacole was there, always dressed in a yellow dress, with a blue bonnet, and red ribbons, the colours of Ukraine. She had been forgotten until a group of Jamaican nurses had her grave restored because she had been one of them. A four-square woman, more remarkable than lovely, she was born in Jamaica and was proud to be a creole. Even now the facts of her life are in some doubt: she may have been married several times and had an illegitimate child, but a nurse she was not. She did go to the Crimea, but as a trader and not as a nurse.

She was, rather, an entrepreneuse, a business woman, and an extremely impressive one. She sold Jamaican pickles and guava jelly in London, she ran a comfortable boarding house in Kingston, Jamaica, she went to the Bahamas to buy shells, to Panama to provision the navvies building the Panama railway. She even briefly tried gold mining.

In the Crimea she set up a general store, which she grandly and misleadingly called the British Hotel (it had no bedrooms). She overcharged the officers for their brandy, champagne, and cigars but their men revered her. Florence Nightingale all but called her British Hotel a brothel and was dismissive as only a Victorian lady could be about a woman who was manifestly no lady. "She was", said Florence of Mary, "very kind to the men and, what is more, to the officers – and did some good – and made many drunk". An officer called her establishment "the most disorderly and conducive to crime of all the shops between Balaclava and the camp".

Her British Hotel acted as a sort of walk-in clinic; she dispensed Jamaican herbal powders and tonics for diarrhoea and cholera, and made no charge for that. She gave out herbal tea and pain-relieving tinctures. She was not one for the emetics and opiates which the military medics handed out, and her boys trusted her for that. She was as she was described, "suffering and good, but also loud, tough, competitive and resourceful", looking out at you from that portrait, her hair greying, three medals always on her chest, though she never claimed to have been awarded them: Mary Seacole, that product of slavery and empire, who found her place and in her way did good, like those better known ladies with the lamp.

The second of Professor Binfield's examples is a prominent Congregationalist, William Alers Hankey. (His grandson, Maurice, was to become cabinet secretary, trusted by six prime ministers). William held positions in respected charitable societies, one of which was as trustee of the London Missionary Society. The paradox was that his great wealth derived from slave trading. When in 1833 slavery was abolished he received compensation for 286 slaves in Jamaica and claimed also for 966 slaves (though he did not receive any). His son made similar claims. His justification was that he had received this property and slaves as an inheritance. He himself had never been to the West Indies and had voted to end slavery. His main motivation was to enrich his descendants and there is no mention of charitable donations in his will. We may see only double standards, but perhaps he has simply a man of his time?

In the year that Hankey became treasurer of LMS, John Smith was ordained as a congregational minister in London. One year later, with his wife, Jane, he sailed for Demerara in present day Guyana. They had worked there for 6 years when there was a slave revolt, in which 10,000 slaves were involved. The revolt was put down and 70 slaves were hanged. John and Jane Smith were also arrested. He was charged with refusing to bear arms when commanded by the Captain of Militia to do so. For nearly two months he was held in prison and then he was subjected to court martial on a charge of conspiracy. After a travesty of a trial, he was found guilty of conspiracy and sentenced to death, but the sentence had first to be referred to England to receive the royal warrant. The sentence was remitted on condition that Smith left Demerara. Meanwhile, however, Smith died in prison. His wife returned to England and died four years later. They must be considered among the first of the LMS martyrs. Seven years ago, the Government was asked to pardon the slaves who revolted, but the justice secretary maintained that it was for the Government of Guyana to grant any pardon.

We in Britain have tended to pigeon hole people with reference to external features, such as colour, and this can be seen in official attitudes. A recent report on the historical roots of the Windrush scandal concluded that "every single piece of immigration or citizenship legislation was designed at least in part to reduce the number of people with black or brown skins who were permitted to live and work in the UK."

What has been done cannot easily be undone. Caribbean countries have been shaped by the slave trade and by colonialism. Professor Binfield asks if they have been redeemed by Christianity and how has the human spirit shown itself positively in these nation states. Hard questions, he concludes, but there must be answers, and we must answer them, by God's Grace, in God's good time, with the root and branch clarity demonstrated by St Paul in such letters as that to the Romans.

FAMILY NEWS

SAD NEWS

We send our condolences to **Dorothy Adam** whose only sister has died after a long period of failing health. Covid restrictions and health issues have meant that the sisters had not been able to see each other for some time.

We are sorry to report the death of **Alistair Love, Wilma's husband**, in 14 November in hospital. Alistair was not a church-goer but he supported Wilma and came to social events with her, and was very interesting company. His health had been failing for some time and deafness made communication difficult, but his end came quickly and peacefully. His funeral was held at Hutcliffe Wood on Wednesday 7 December. Wilma, Andrew, Gillian and all the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

The funeral of **Rev Dr David Hill** was held at Hutcliffe Wood on Monday 14 November, led by the Rev Fleur Houston. There is an appreciation of David's life on page 12.

HARVEST

Thank you to everyone who contributed in cash or kind for the S6 Food Bank. As you can see from the photograph Martha Fall and Tesfa Teferi pushed and pulled a laden trolley round to the Broomspring Centre. The Centre was very grateful for the donation.

Thank you all and keep up the donations.

I am very grateful to Martha who has taken our donations round to the Centre every week while I am unable to carry things.

Jean Dickson



UPDATE

Commiserations to Jean Dickson who had a fall in the church on 11th December and broke her hip. She is at present in the Northern General orthopaedic ward and wonders if she will get home for Christmas. Our sympathy and every good wish to Jean.

Please note: **Jean** is not having a landline phone in her new apartment and will rely solely on her mobile phone. T: 0776 8082 573

A sociable **church lunch** was enjoyed by 15 members and friends on Thursday 10 November at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow.

The **URC calendar for 2023** is illustrated with photos of the interiors of URC churches across the country and our St Andrew window is featured in June !

Welcome to baby **Lewis Collins**, Elizabeth Cousley's latest grandchild.



CHRISTMAS

The church is beautifully decorated with wreaths on the pillars, the Christmas tree and the creche scene. The board for our cards is up inside and baubles with greetings have been hung on the railings outside for passers by to take.

Our Christmas Day service will be at the usual time of 10.45 am and will be taken by Jenny Carpenter.

There will be **No service** on Sunday 1st January 2023.

The Carol Service on Sunday 18 December was a feast of music and readings arranged by Douglas Jones and enhanced by Gordon Truman on trumpet, Billy Aryanto on flute and Steve Vickers at the piano.

Our donations this year for our cards and for the special collection on Christmas Day will be for Save the Children's appeal for the Somalia famine.

Unfortunately, the Community Choir's planned mini concert of local carols with coffee on 13 December had to be called off because of icy road conditions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I took 10 shoeboxes to the handover for Operation Christmas Child on Monday 14 November plus one I did online for an older boy. These are going to children in Ukraine who have lost everything as they had to flee. We had a Thank you from Operation Christmas Child a day later.

The asylum seekers support group gave the lads a typical British Christmas party on 19 December, thanks to Margaret Fall. We played games like Pass the Parcel and Musical Chairs; they were a bit bemused but joined in with the children (Tesfa's and Selam's) and proved they were all just big kids at heart. A lovely spread of food was provided and the tables looked very festive, thanks to Martha and Connor. Months ago, Margaret had shown the lads how a Christmas pudding was made and now they saw it cooked and tasted it with custard or cream. Barbara Macmillan had organised a donation of three bikes, helmets and lights (lots were drawn to see who got those) and Sheila Dunstan had collected woolly hats (which were very well received after last week, they realise how cold it can be). Selam Yusif produced clothes which were pounced on. The event can be counted a great success; thanks to everyone who helped to make it so.



Sheffield Cathedral has a Christmas Tree Festival running from 30 November to 2 January. Entrance free.

Millhouses Methodist Church also has a Christmas Tree Festival:

Thursday 1 st December - Launch event -	5.15 – 6.15 pm
Saturday 10 th and Sunday 11 th December	2 – 5 pm
Saturday 17 th and Sunday 18 th December	2 – 5 pm
Christmas Eve Saturday 24 th December	2 – 5 pm

with free hot fruit punch and mince pies

Admission free but donations shared between church funds and Weston Park Cancer Charity.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE ANSWERS

A group of children were asked questions about the Bible. Here are their responses as written by them, including their incorrect spelling to keeps things authentic.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
19. Christians have only one spouse.⁹This is called monotony.

DISABLED ACCESS

At the Church Meeting on Sunday 6 November, a Resolution was passed to apply for Synod approval to go ahead and begin work on building a ramp for disabled access.

This is necessary because, following the sale of the house next door to the church (no. 82), the gate in the wall, which was constructed many years ago to allow us access for wheelchair use, has been closed. We have a legal obligation to provide alternative wheelchair access. After a number of alternatives were proposed, it was decided to construct a ramp from street level adjacent to the wall between the church and no. 82. Sheffield City Council Planning Permission has been obtained. Three quotes have been obtained for the construction which must be submitted to the Yorkshire Synod Trust and Property Committee who will also seek advice from their Listed Buildings Advisory Committee as the church is a Grade II Listed Building.

We must obtain a Church Meeting Resolution of agreement for the work. Once Synod has approved, we can arrange the construction. The three quotes were compared at the C M and questions answered about siting, surface material, railings, etc. The final Resolution, passed unanimously, was:

“Having considered alternative options to recreate access for the disabled to St Andrew’s, we propose to construct a ramp from street level adjacent to the boundary wall to provide appropriate access to the building. Having reviewed the three quotations we prefer the Quotation from D&R Builders.”

It is hoped that the building work will go ahead as expeditiously as possible but builders are all very busy at present.

CAN YOU HELP THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS?

Here is one specific suggestion:

The South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF) has set up a **Cost of Living Fund**, which gives grants to community groups that help to reduce food and fuel poverty e.g. food banks and debt advice services. These groups are often led by church people.

They need to build up this Cost of Living Fund through generous donations from across South Yorkshire. People who can afford to do so are asked to consider donating to the Fund (or some other comparable charity).

Here are some ways of helping:

Those who can afford it, can donate the £400 energy bill discount which all households are receiving. Households in bands A to D could donate the £150 Council Tax rebate. Pensioners could donate the £300 Cost of Living Payment alongside their Winter Fuel Payment.

If you would like to donate to the SYCF Cost of Living Fund, please look up <https://www.sycf.org.uk/southyorkshirecostoflivingfund/>

THE END OF THE LINE – 4

As everyone who keeps a finger on the pulse of modern life will surely be aware, 24-30 October was International Control Room Week. I didn't know this myself until I saw some of my colleagues festooning our call centre with balloons and bunting bearing slogans such as 'Control Room Heroes At Work', 'This Team Can' and my personal favourite, 'Heroes In Headsets'. I leave you to judge whether these entirely proper sentiments were noticed by the world beyond the walls of the call centre, but it was gratifying to feel that we were being affirmed by senior management.



photo credit: www.harrygray.co.uk

A less ephemeral affirmation has come our way in the form of the Covid Star, awarded to all frontline Herts Urgent Care staff employed on or before 30 March this year. It was designed as a not-for-profit commission for NHS employers by Cambridge-based artist Harry Gray, and inspired during his own experiences in hospital where he often heard the phrase 'they deserve a medal'. For details of the story behind the Covid Star and its design, see www.harrygray.co.uk

On 15 November, I marked my first anniversary with NHS 111. Of the fifteen people who trained together, just five of us are still working here. Interestingly, we are the five oldest members of our training group: an indication, perhaps, of the value of experience, as well as skills, in meeting the demands of the work. Certainly, I find my own background in pastoral care invaluable in taking calls from patients in distress, where the physical and psychological aspects of their conditions are often all-but-inextricably entangled, and the skills of "curing" and "caring" work in intimate partnership to alleviate suffering.

The major difference for me is that, working in the Church I was often involved in people's stories from the moment they were presented to me until they reached some kind of resolution, frequently working alongside other professionals such as teachers, social workers or police officers; while now I have only the length of a telephone call to determine how best to connect patients with the most appropriate available level of care, after which they pass beyond my ken.

Two recent cases have brought this home to me particularly clearly. The first concerned a housebound patient in her nineties who said she had been trying for several weeks to make an appointment with her GP, but never reached the front of the telephone queue before all the available appointments were booked. She had asked her carers to help, but their terms of employment allowed just fifteen minutes per visit, and they simply didn't have time to do more than provide basic care. I registered this as a safeguarding case with the local authority, on the grounds that the patient's care provision was no longer meeting her needs, but I have no idea of the outcome. The second case was that of an elderly man whose wife had collapsed and, while we were talking, appeared to stop breathing. While one of my colleagues raised an emergency ambulance, I instructed and supported him verbally in giving her CPR, in the hope that he could maintain her blood circulation and oxygen supply until the ambulance arrived. This devoted husband continued CPR for twelve minutes until the paramedics took over, but I shall never know whether or not the patient survived.

As a minister of religion, I should certainly have visited both patients and ensured that they received the continuing care they required. As an NHS 111 call handler, I can only try to provide the best possible service, and then trust colleagues in other parts of the health service to do the same.

Robert Beard

AN APPRECIATION OF REV DR DAVID HILL

14 June 1935- 14 October 2022

Extract from the obituary written by Rev Fleur Houston:

David grew up in Coleraine and attended Coleraine Academical Institution. The home where he lived with his parents and his brother Roy was near the centre of town, around 500 yards away from New Row Presbyterian Church. The significance of this church for him in his formative years should not be underrated. It was here that he was baptised, here that he was confirmed and later ordained to the ministry. The present session clerk recalls the affection and high regard in which the congregation held him.

His Biblical studies began at Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated with a BA degree in classics in July 1956. He then moved to St Andrew's University and was awarded the BD with distinction in New Testament Studies in June 1959. His next move was to Union Seminary, New York, where in preparation for doctoral work, he obtained the Master of Sacred Theology in 1961. Ordination to the ministry followed on 10th September.

His distinctive vocation began to take shape: he returned to St Mary's College at the University of St Andrew's and submitted his thesis, a study in biblical semantics, in February 1964. That same year he was appointed to the department of Biblical Studies in Sheffield University and publications soon followed. His thesis was the basis for his first book, *Greek Words and Hebrew Meanings*.

Further books followed: a *Commentary on Matthew and New Testament Theology*. His next project was to have been a commentary on 1 Peter and we can but share his profound regret that it was never written.

But scholarship and teaching go hand in hand in academic life, and David was a good teacher, clear and easy to follow. He communicated an infectious enthusiasm for the study of the New Testament. His lectures were always fun, if very solid, and his lecturing style was eccentric yet engaging. He had a habit of standing at right-angles to the class, speaking and gesturing to the window. Then, as if letting you in on a secret, he would turn to face the gathering before confiding some critical commentary or aside. Type-cast as the "lecturer at the window," he very much enjoyed impersonations of himself at departmental dinners, which soon became legendary.

For many students David was a warm and sincere friend in the Department, a solid Christian who helped them navigate the difficult journey evangelicals had to make, exposing their views of scripture to the rigours of academic biblical criticism. He was a safe and kind pair of hands, sympathetic to their plight, enabling them to maintain intellectual integrity while holding on to a relatively conservative position. Knowing from his own experience what it was to suffer, he supported them in good times and in bad.

In St Andrew's Church he assumed a distinctive role as a senior teaching elder without a pastoral group, a role which he exercised with wisdom and foresight for the next 48 years until he found a new spiritual home with the Society of Friends. He had a strong sense of mission. Convinced that lay people would be helped in their understanding of the Gospel by concentrating on its teaching and theology, he led retreats, Sunday services and Bible Study groups, and recorded a popular Radio Sheffield Lent course over several weeks; people could phone him to ask questions, and they did. He was a valued listening ear for many and a loyal friend to a succession of ministers to whom, as I can myself testify, he would give unflinching encouragement and support.

Of course, David could be infuriating. He was meticulous; he liked routine and found change hard to deal with; he could give an impression of obstinacy. Once his mind was made up nothing would alter it. But in his austere piety he remained faithful to his calling to reveal the truths of Jesus Christ, the "prophet mighty in word and deed."

So today in the face of death, we relive the great truths of the Christian faith. We join in praise of God for the mercy of Christ's resurrection, our spiritual inheritance and the ground of new life and hope. The love that binds us to Christ cannot be broken— for he is Lord over all spiritual powers; he has triumphed over them in the Cross; Lord over life and death, for he was crucified and raised from the dead; Lord over all things present and things to come. It was in this Christ that God chose us in love and it is with him that we too shall one day enter into God's glory.

David Hill at St Andrew's

David was a significant member of St Andrew's for about 50 years and is remembered with great affection and respect. He came to the Department of Biblical Studies in 1964 and joined St Andrew's in December 1965, became an elder in 1966 and was also admitted to the roll of ministers without charge in the Presbytery of Yorkshire.

David knew every member, took an interest in their welfare and did much quiet pastoral work. He led the eldership for many years, took study groups and organised the elders' annual retreat. His years of teaching also made him known to generations of students, and he took a particular interest in the students who worshipped with us; he naturally sat on the selection committee to assess a student's suitability for ministry. The ministers in charge during those years gratefully affirm what a support David was to them. He also took services, especially communion services.

David enjoyed all the life the church offered, attended lunches and Network evenings, edited the Messenger for years and then continued to contribute to the Family News. He was a valued friend; many people have fond memories of his wit and friendship and trusted his advice. He made new friends on the island of Crete where for years he went on holiday. His scholarship was greatly admired and his learned input enjoyed in discussions; he was a man of strong convictions, enjoyed arguments, and his voice was listened to.

It was a great sadness when in 2015 David felt he could no longer stay with St Andrew's or indeed with the URC, but he found a spiritual home in the Quaker Meeting House. He faced a number of health problems with characteristic determination but now rests in peace. David was a very private man and rarely spoke about his background or family but we send our sincere condolences to his sister-in-law Pauline, nephew Malcolm and nieces Yvonne and Lesley.

Elizabeth Draper and members



St Andrew and the boy with loaves and fishes.
St. Nicholas Church, High Bradfield

LECTIONARY READINGS for November and December 2022

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
November 13	Malachi 4 : 1-2a; Psalm 98 ; 2 Thessalonians 3 : 6-13; Luke 21 : 5-19
November 20	Jeremiah 23 : 1-16; Psalm 46 ; Colossians 1 : 11-20; Luke 23 : 33-43
November 27	Isaiah 2 : 1-5; Psalm 122 ; Romans 13 : 11-14; <i>St Andrew and Advent</i> Matthew 24 : 36-44
December 4	Isaiah 11 : 1-10; Psalm 72 : 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15 : 4-13; Matthew 3 : 1-12
December 11	Isaiah 35 : 1-10; Psalm 146 : 5-10 or Luke 1 : 46b-55 James 5 : 7-10; Matthew 11 : 2-11
December 18	Isaiah 7 :10-16; Psalm 80 : 1-7, 17-19; Romans 1 : 1-7; Matthew 1 : 18-25
December 25	Isaiah 52 : 7-10; Psalm 98 <i>Christmas Day</i> Hebrews 1 : 1-4, (5-12); John 1 : 1-14
January 1	Ecclesiastes 3 : 1-13; Psalm 8 ; Revelation 21 : 1-6a; Matthew 25 : 31-46

FLOWERS

The Flower rota is now kept on the back of the vestry door. Please sign up on the new 2023 sheet when you can,

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. Monica Hanna is doing them in December and Judith Adam in January.

COFFEE

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