

ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25

December 2023 and January 2024



CALENDAR for December 2023 & January 2024

DECEMBER

Sun	3	10.45 am	Rev Dr Walter Houston – Communion
Tues	5	10 am	Community Choir
Fri	8	7.30 pm	Carol Concert of local carols
Sun	10	10.45 am	Mr Chris Limb
Tues	12	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	17	10.45 am	Carol Service
Sun	24	10.45 am	Rev Dr David Stec
Mon	25	10.45 am	Rev Dr Michael Bayley - CHRISTMAS
Sun	31	10.45 am	Songs of Praise – Favourite carols

JANUARY

Sun	7	10.45 am	Rev Fleur Houston
Mon	9	2.30 pm	Elders meeting
Tues	9	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	14	10.45 am	Rev Canon Adrian Alker
Tues	16	10 am	Community Choir
Thurs	18	10 am	Management Team meeting
Sun	21	10.45 am	Prof Clyde Binfield
Sun	28	10.45 am	Worship Group

FEBRUARY

Sun	4	10.45 am	Rev Jamie Kissack, Synod Moderator - COMMUNION
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FLOWERS

We now have a beautiful arrangement of artificial flowers in place for Sunday services but 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

Douglas Jones: August, December and April

COFFEE

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

We wish you all a Joyful Christmas and Peace, Health and Happiness in the New Year

Charles Wesley's Advent hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.



A NEW YEAR MESSAGE

from Father Tesfa Teferi

of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church of St Michael

With the Ethiopian New Year that started in September, our people are hoping for more stability within the country and for an end to human suffering there. The ongoing civil war results in attacks on Christians and churches, which is a form of ethnic cleansing. The rest of the world has ignored our suffering, and it doesn't even rate a mention in the news.

Over the last 3 years we have lost nearly 2.6 million citizens through conflict arising from the ethnically based policies, and neither the UK, nor the EU nor the USA will speak out against the genocide occurring there. We witness concentration camps, arbitrary imprisonment, killings with civic crime and disorder. Inflation contributes to food shortages, which lead to famine. All these evils are man-made, yet no government will speak out.

Prime Minister Abiy, a Nobel prize winner, has suffered the same fate as the Burmese leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. The church is powerless to oppose him, or even to speak out for fear of reprisals and the whole political system is fuelling the conflict by supporting fanatical religious and ethnic groups. Record numbers of the country's population entire have been internally displaced, and the country is facing a huge crisis as serious as the Rwandan genocide.

So we welcome the coming Ethiopian New year with great anxiety and a heavy heart but, as Christians, with undiminished hope.

We all hope and pray for a New Year of peace and justice, joy and hope and health, for everyone.

FAMILY NEWS

Sad news:

We regret to report that **Mrs Barbara Blakey** (Dr Barbara Sloan) died on 23 November, at home after a short illness. Our deepest sympathy to Barbara's sisters Linda, Marion and Deborah, and to all the family. The Sloan family have been a mainstay of St Andrew's over many years. The funeral will be held on Friday 22 December at St John's Church, Ranmoor at 2 pm.

Mrs Isabel Winning, whose 100th birthday we noted in the last issue, has died in her care home in Nottingham. Our condolences to Arroll and Isabel's daughter Rhoda and family.

Mrs Dorothy Adam's funeral was held at Bents Green Methodist Church on Friday 24 November, conducted by the Revd Fleur Houston. There is an appreciation of Dorothy on page 12.

We have received condolences and memories from several former members after hearing of this sad time, including Robert Beard, Sarah Hall, Fleur Houston and Alec Kelly, and we are in their thoughts and prayers.

Christina Stark and David Riley were married on 22 November. The ceremony at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow was a loving and joyful occasion with all the members of both families present, but it was tinged with sadness as Dave is very ill.

A debilitating cold virus is going the rounds and has variously laid low Margaret Fall, Eizabeth Cousley, Sheila Cooke and Monica Hanna among others. All good wishes for a healthy new year.

Happier news: Barbara Macmillan had a lovely time with her son and family in the USA. She is a keen cyclist, even in Washington DC.



We are sorry to say goodbye to several of the Indonesian graduate students whose presence we have greatly enjoyed this year. **Matias and Indri** brought their new son Alfie to church before they returned home. **Esti** has generously presented us with a beautiful batik cloth, hand made in the traditional way, which we shall cherish. **Billy** has given invaluable help on the audio system and will be with us for a while longer but we shall sadly lose **Jocelyn** in the new year. They have been a pleasure to know.



RECENT SERVICES

The Remembrance service on 12 November was enhanced by the playing of Gordon Truman on trumpet and Billy Ayanto on flute. They will also play with Douglas' arrangements for the Carol Service on 17 December.

Family worship on Christmas Day will be led by Rev Dr Michael Bayley, and Sunday 31st December will be a Songs of Praise service with the favourite carols which people have requested.

On 3 December, unfortunately, we had to cancel the service, which was a communion service, as so many members were trapped by the snow and could not get to church. Rev Dr Walter Houston had come over from Macclesfield the day before but at least he was staying in comfort with his daughter and family.

Our next celebration of Holy Communion should be on 4 February with Rev Jamie Kissack, Yorkshire Synod Moderator.

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR

We have received CHRISTMAS GREETINGS and good wishes from Wilma Love, John Price, Robert Beard.

The Carol Concert given by the Broomhall Community Choir and some of the Steel City Choristers on 8 December was a most enjoyable evening. Steve Vickers led us through some of the local Sheffield carols, unique to this region, with their lilting tunes and slightly different words, and we all joined in with gusto. After an hour's singing, people lingered over delicious refreshments and it was quite a party.



Sterndale Singers are performing Britten's '**Ceremony of Carols**' on Friday 22 December at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church in Grove Road. Tickets £12, students £6, under 16 free and you can pay on the door.

Springs Dance Company presented '**The Journey of the Magi**' at Dore & Totley URC on 10 December. It was an imaginative and thought-provoking interpretation of T S Eliot's poem for our own times, by four accomplished dancers who fully understood the impact of movement, costume and facial expression in putting the message across. They achieved an amazing number of costume and character changes in the time, and it was a very watchable show.

The Food Bank: We received a lovely card from the food bank in October. They said we are their best donor! They are always so grateful for any donations, For Christmas they want tins, long life milk, baby food, toiletries, sanitary products and treats. Treats are always welcome.

Many thanks for all you give to the food bank.

However, please note our food bank will not be open for two weeks over Christmas. This means we do not want contributions after Sunday 17th December and we will start again on Sunday January 7th.

Jean Dickson

Shoebox Appeal '23

A very big thank you to everyone who donated money and items for the shoe boxes, to those who worked hard to fill them and everyone who unloaded and loaded the vans. Thank you to The Michael for offering the storage space.

We can report that we have had another successful year and over two thousand and forty-four boxes have been sent on their journey to Eastern Europe.

Once again, thank you so much for all your efforts and hard work, it has been appreciated.

With blessings

Zaidie (Rev Zaidie Orr)

UPDATE on Victor and Aimee Li and young Luke

Life has been busy since the Christening and their celebration of marriage held earlier this year in St Andrew's. They went to China in August for the big Chinese wedding ceremony they had missed out on in 2019. During 2023 Victor completed his first four years of anaesthetic training which was based in the North Yorkshire area. St Andrew's benefited from this placement because, as part of the requirements for this application, he had to do some voluntary work and so he designed the system which I use to record our archives. And it is absolutely marvellous.

Victor then chose to take a year out, mainly for Luke but also to pursue an MSc in machine learning at the University of York. He designed an algorithm that predicts the hospital length of stay for patients undertaking elective surgeries. He handed in his dissertation in early November. To keep his clinical skills, he has been doing some locum anaesthetic shifts at York, Scarborough, Grimsby, Doncaster, and Oldham.

And they both worked hard on producing the excellent "Story of the Stained Glass in St Andrew's".

They are now off to Canada for 6 weeks over Christmas and the New Year. When he comes back, he needs to submit his application for a job for the next three years, the last leg of training before the consultancy.

Again, we are going to benefit. In early January Victor, working with Father Tesfa and JFAN, are planning two sessions for those who are new to this country to inform them how the NHS works and how it can be accessed, followed by a basic First Aid Session. The two dates for this are Friday January 12th 6-8pm and Saturday January 13th 10-12am. This will sit nicely before a third training session which is being set up for everyone at St Andrew's and will cover training for the new defibrillator which is expected to arrive in late spring.

Margaret Fall



REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS IN THE 1940'S.

We always seemed to have a white Christmas in Ballater.

The Postie delivered mail on Christmas morning.

I remember, snuggled up in my parents' bed, listening to Cliff Michelmore in Germany on the British Forces Network on the radio on Christmas morning, sending messages from our soldiers in Germany to their wives and children, while Jean Metcalfe in London with Family Favourites sent music requests from wives to their husbands. The two subsequently met up and married.

I knew Christmas was near when Old Geordie, the noisy cockerel, was selected for the roasting pot. Smells of boiling water on feathers, looking with interest in the gizzard to see what he had been eating, plucking horrid damp feathers. But finally the wonderful golden bird and then the pulling of the wishbone and making a wish for the future. .

I was a terrible child and would go searching the house for parcels (Martin would say I haven't changed !). I went looking in our back bedroom and there was a beautiful blue and cream pram. I came down stairs on Christmas Morning very early. I looked in our dining room and saw to my shock he hadn't been, so shot back to bed till proper morning. There was the pram !

My Aunt and Uncle were tenant farmers in Reffham, Norfolk and each year sent us a turkey from the farm. Then on Christmas morning a very battered and damaged parcel appeared. Great relief when the bird was found to be intact, and though dinner was late that year it seemed to taste even better.

Presents arranged on the settee in the front room including a wonderful china doll which must have belonged to an Aunt, (which I called Florence, I wonder why?) and a mysterious box. Great disappointment on opening it.....6 white round fluffy balls.... Christmas crackers that you couldn't pull.

Growing up in Australia in the 1940s-50s, Christmas was a summer event with temperatures 90-100°F (32-38°C). Nevertheless, Christmas Day was a formal event with roast chook (chicken,) and stuffing and plum pudding with silver threepences. After 3pm dinner, I retired to my bedroom to read one of the many books usually given as presents. The house was filled with Christmas cards displaying snow and reindeer, neither of which we had ever seen. Picnics on the beach were for the future.

Who do you recognise here?



The Caledonian Society Hogmanay party some years ago

WAYSIDE PULPIT at Christmas

Give Jesus a present - wrap up your kids and take them to church.

There are some questions that can't be answered by Google.

Daily devotions are better than yearly resolutions.

Tweet others as you wish to be tweeted.

What does God want for Christmas? Look in a mirror.

You need not think alike to love alike.

Carpenter needs joiners.

Mary Dorothy Adam, 01.09.1927 – 22.09.2023

Dorothy was born in 1927 in Embleton, a village in what was Cumberland, but now Cumbria, the middle of three children; her father worked as a granite quarry engineman. She started school after the family moved to Braithwaite, west of Keswick, a village with lovely views over Bassenthwaite Lake and the surrounding Lakeland fells, and later, as a senior, went on to Keswick co-educational school. When she was twelve, just before the war, evacuated children were billeted in the village; one of those girls, a longstanding friend, was present at Dorothy's 90th birthday party.

After the war, she took a newly created, 2 year course in Institutional Management at Elizabeth Gaskell College in Manchester, later absorbed into what became Manchester Metropolitan University. This prepared students for careers in hotels, hospitals, restaurants and schools. The course included high class cookery and many other skills, such as choosing furnishings, curtain making and furniture re-upholstering: she was often top of her year. She went on to become a School Meals service Supervisor in Cumberland, producing more than a thousand meals a day for several sites.

On a visit back home to the Lake District her brother brought along a golfing partner, Alexander Robertson, which led to romance and frequent trips back to Scotland with Alex. He was a law graduate from Aberdeen University, working in a law firm there, but not enjoying it, so he left, taking a job with United Steel in Workington, west of the Lake District. He also worked in Sheffield at the time of its heaviest bombing raids, and although technically exempt from war service because of the nature of his job, he enlisted, ultimately working in bomb disposal in Palestine.

Dorothy married Alex in 1951 In Thornthwaite, a village south of Lake Bassenthwaite. They initially lived near Keswick, but later that year Alex was transferred to Sheffield, to the United Steel offices in Broomhill. Dorothy long remembered the smoke on first coming through Tinsley. Initially, they rented accommodation. At one of the housing auctions they went to, they met John and Sheila Carter. The Scottish connection encouraged them to come to St Andrew's church, whose congregation was still meeting in the hall while the bomb damage to the church was being repaired. In 1952 they moved to Bents Road and that year Anne was born, and three years later, Philip. In 1962 they moved to Dobcroft Road.

Dorothy took up swimming and attended a lifesaver's course; she joined art classes and later the Caledonian Society Bridge group, Sheffield Flower Club, FOBS and NADFAS, now called the Arts Society. Being something of a golf widow, she became very involved with church activities, the Young Wives Group and later the Women's Home Church. Knowing her background in catering, a neighbour encouraged her to be involved at the Cathedral running a Christmas dinner for homeless people, especially young drug addicts, which she did for several years. She helped at Bethlehem House, at that time on the south side of the church, again with homeless people. She became one of Patsy Johnson's volunteers after the SASH lunches began in 1979 and played a major role for over 20 years until it left the Hanover Methodist site. She was a volunteer at the Contact Centre for a long time, she ran the Free Will Offering scheme and became an Elder in Ernest Marvin's time. Dorothy was always most hospitable especially to any single people attending St Andrew's. Through Contact the Elderly, she helped provide monthly afternoon teas to lonely, elderly people. She was a school governor for a number of years.

In November 1979 Alex, who had recently retired prematurely, died of a massive heart attack. Dorothy soldiered on; she maintained her season tickets for the Sheffield Philharmonic concerts and went to ballet performances. She travelled around the country to concerts as a member of a U3A classical music group. She modelled hats in St Andrew's for a charity event; she sang in the church choir.

In 1986, Judith Adam's mother died in Aberdeen and her father, George, retired from work as a civil engineer, came to Sheffield to see Judith and have a holiday. In character, Dorothy invited Judith and George home for lunch. The next time George came to Sheffield he took Dorothy for dinner, and romance followed; they became engaged at Easter in 1988 and married six months later in St Andrew's. George was very musical, had always sung well and was interested in choirs. He was soon coming to St Andrew's, joined the choir and began arranging concerts. In Fleur Houston's time, he became an Elder, a member of the Buildings Committee and chair of the Organ Subcommittee. Dorothy supported him in all these activities, delighted that St Andrew's had come to mean as much to him as it did to her.

Dorothy and George made many visits back to Aberdeen, visited the Holy Land and in 1990 went to Oberammergau. George got on well with Dorothy's family. Her son, Philip, introduced him to his children as their "new Grandpa".

In 1995 George was elected President of the Caledonian Society and Dorothy became an elegant Consort, revelling in the central role that she fulfilled. George started a Caledonian Choir, which Dorothy joined. He expanded her musical horizons; she went regularly to the Bradfield Festival.

When George became ill, Dorothy cared devotedly for him. He died in 2001 and Dorothy faced a second widowhood. One day she was shopping and a young lad on a bike crashed into her, breaking her femur, but after having it pinned, she was driving again quite soon. She continued her diverse activities until 2015 when she fell in the kitchen and fractured her other leg in multiple places, markedly reducing her activities. She required home nursing support with Anne providing the demanding, continuing care for some years.

Latterly, Ian Cooke became her Elder and visited for chat and coffee; she loved reminiscing. Her mobility became progressively more restricted, but she enjoyed going into Broomgrove Nursing home for respite and looked forward to conversation with other residents. Even there, Anne tried to keep up standards by ensuring that she regularly had her favourite smoked salmon sandwiches.

Dorothy slipped away at Lower Bowshaw View Nursing home on 22 September. We mourn her passing, along with her daughter, Anne, who also trained in Home Economics, and Philip, her son, an architect, who subsequently studied for the ministry and became a Vicar, with his family, together with Dorothy's extended family, Judith and Lesley. Today, we fondly remember her as a tall, elegant lady, always beautifully dressed, hair immaculate, with a ready laugh, ever ready to engage with everyone and help them.

Ian Cooke and Anne Robertson

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of St Andrew's URC for your support to me and my mother, the late Mrs Mary Dorothy Adam, in recent years, especially since 2015.

Whether it was giving us car lifts, especially when I visited my mother either in hospital or in her various nursing homes, offering a listening ear on the telephone, helping with shopping needs, or simply writing me lovely condolence letters and emails.

I will always be grateful to my mother for her passing on to me her catering skills, introducing me to ballet performances and classical music concerts, and knitting me some lovely knitwear which I still enjoy wearing today.

We enjoyed so many day trips together over the years. For example, a visit to the new Coventry Cathedral one year after Queen Elizabeth II attended its consecration. A trip to the first Egyptian Tutankhamun exhibition in London in 1972 – we queued and stood together for 5 to 6 hours – before attending a Home Economics exhibition elsewhere and seeing a film, all on one Saturday in the early 1970s. In 2010 we had a day trip to Cambridge together, including a punt trip on a river - when I had great difficulty helping her out of the punt as we both could not stop laughing!

Sadly, she ended her days often in pain which she bore very courageously.

Condolence messages I have received tell me many interesting stories of her, and paint a picture of an elegant lady who touched many people's lives for the better over many years.

Anne Robertson

LECTIONARY READINGS for December 2023 and January 2024

December 3	Isaiah 64 :1-9; Psalm 80 :1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1 : 3-9; Mark 13 : 24-37
December 10	Isaiah 40 : 1-11; Psalm 85 : 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3 : 8-15a; Mark 1 : 1-8
December 17	Isaiah 61 :1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 ; 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16-24; John 1 : 6-8, 19-28
December 24	2 Samuel 7 : 1-11,16; Psalm 89 :1-4, 19-26; Romans 16 : 25-27; Luke 1 : 26-38, 46b-55
January 7	Genesis 1 : 1-5; Psalm 29 ; Acts 19 : 1-7; Mark 1 : 4-11
January 14	1 Samuel 3 :1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139 :1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6 :12-20; John 1 : 43-51
January 21	Jonah 3 :1-5, 10; Psalm 62 : 5-12; 1 Corinthians 7 : 29-31; Mark 1 : 14-20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18 :15-20; Psalm 111 ; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1 : 21-28

From Arnold Kenneth's poem 'A Cycle of Praise'

Advent hallows our streets
In a snowfall of prayers.
From windows our fire-trees
Wink azure devotions,
Because His birth bells peal
Alarums of love at our gates,
And we wake with His innocence
In us. The year ends here,
But we begin, in the air's dance
Of bright adorations.

