

ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ

MESSENGER

Price £1.25

September and October 2024



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CALENDAR for June, July and August 2024

Our Elders and Management Team met regularly over the summer; our preachers were:

JUNE

Sun	2	10.45 am	Mrs Jenny Carpenter
Sun	9	10.45 am	Worship Group and Mr Chris Hardy (S6 Food Bank)
Sun	16	10.45 am	Rev Dr Walter Houston
Fri	21	7 pm	I Am Mark - performed by Stefan Smart
Sun	23	10.45 am	Worship Group – Sayings of Jesus
Sun	30	1-.45 am	Mr Chris Limb

JULY

Sun	7	10.45 am	Rev Dr Michael Bayley - Communion
Sun	14	10.45 am	Rev Canon Adrian Alker
Sun	21	10.45 am	Worship Group
Sun	28	10.45 am	Rev Fleur Houston

AUGUST

Sun	4	10.45 am	Rev Dr Walter Houston
Sun	11	10.45 am	Worship Group
Sun	18	10.45 am	Rev Dr Michael Bayley
Sun	25	10.45 am	Worship Group

SEPT

Sun	1	10.45 am	Worship Group and Ms Bev Kershaw (St Wilfrid's)
Sun	8	10.45 am	Rev Canon Adrian Alker: Theme WATER
Mon	9	2 pm	Elders' meeting
Tue	10	10 am	Community Choir
Thu	12	10 am	Management Team
Fri	13	2 – 5 pm	Heritage Open Days: Church open
Sat	14	11am-4pm	Heritage Open Days: Church open and archive displays, talks and refreshments
Sun	15	10.45 am	Jenny Carpenter
Tue	17	10 am	Community Choir
Thu	19	5.30 pm	Broomhall Group of Groups
Sun	22	10.45 am	Worship Group and Lucy Hurd (Roundabout)
Tue	24	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	29		NO service because of Sheffield 10K Run

OCT

Tue	1	10 am	Community Choir
Sun	6	10.45 am	Rev Dr Walter Houston COMMUNION
Mon	7	2 pm	Elders meeting
Tue	8	10 am	Community Choir
Sat	12	9.30 – 3.30	Yorkshire Synod at Christchurch, Ilkley
Sun	13	10.45 am	Mrs Jenny Carpenter - HARVEST followed by a church lunch
Tue	15	10 am	Community Choir
Thu	17	10 am	Management Team meeting
Sat	19	9 am	C A P Pilgrimage service
Sun	20	10.45 am	Steel City Choristers
Tue	22		NO Community Choir
Sun	27	10.45 am	Worship Group
Tue	29	10 am	Community Choir

NOV

Sun	3	10.45 am	Mr Ian Wileman
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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.

COFFEE

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

SERVICE SHEET ROTA

Jan, May, September	Judith Adam
Feb, June, Oct	Sheila Cooke
March, July, Nov	Margaret Fall
April, Aug, Dec	Douglas Jones

Please tell the person for that month if you have any notices.

MANY TRADITIONS, MANY CULTURES

Rev Canon Adrian Alker on 14 July 2024

This morning we take the opportunity to celebrate and to reflect upon many cultures and many traditions which make up the human family. First we reflect upon two passages from scripture and then we hear and share first hand experiences from those gathered here today.

Bible readings: Isaiah 52, vv 7-10 Luke 10. vv 25- 37

Let us be clear, the bible is full of dreams and nightmares. It begins and ends with the Dream of God for God's world. In the opening book of Genesis there is a paradise with a Tree of Life in its midst, alongside the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And in the final book of the bible, Revelation, another Tree stands – another Tree of Life, with its leaves serving as the healing of the nations. But the nightmare of evil, of destructive wars and tribal fighting also fills the pages of Scripture between these opening and closing books. Our Old Testament reading from Isaiah offers the dream that all the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of God. 'How beautiful are the feet of the messenger who announces peace.'

Christians saw that messenger of peace in the person of Jesus. Jesus knew well of the dreams and nightmares of his world. Brought up in an occupied land, he saw the might of the Roman army and its cruelty and saw too the divisions amongst people in his own land and culture, where Jew and Samaritan mistrusted each other. He could see how the Romans could exploit such divisions for their own aims of conquest. And so he told one of the most famous parables known to humankind, the Good Samaritan. In answer to the question about the Law, Jesus invokes the Shema - Love the Lord your God with all your soul, mind and strength - and Jesus adds : 'and your neighbour as you love yourself.'

But the question then about who is my neighbour receives a reply which broke all conventions, all customs and traditions, and was unwelcome, even distasteful, to the questioner. For praise is given to the Samaritan outcast who bandaged the wounds of the man left half dead by his attacker. The Levite scribe didn't help, neither did the priest – it was the Samaritan, the kind of half breed, half caste, the Jew, the 'northerner', who worshipped at the wrong shrine.

This parable is far more than a nice story about being good. It is a radical call to cross over the road, to pull down the barrier and give help to those in need, to refuse to see those who cross the Channel in small boats simply as illegal migrants, rather than people. Jesus's call is clear: to those who feel their communities will be changed for the worse by arrivals from far away countries, Jesus says be compassionate as your Father in heaven is compassionate.

See in the face of every human being the face of Christ. The Dream of God for God's world is that we are all, every one of us, created in love for love, a dream where the drones of war, reigning down on Ukraine or Gaza or Israel or the Sudan or anywhere else in our world will be no more, for we are all children of God, whatever our faith, our creed, our nationality, our culture.

Prayer:

God and Father of all human beings

In your love you have made all the nations of the world to be one family.

Help those of different races and religions to love and understand one another better.

Take away hatred, jealousy and prejudice,

So that loving you more deeply

we may work together for the coming of your kingdom of righteousness and peace.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(Evelyn Underhill)

What happens in this Church, in this City of Sanctuary can be part of the Dream of God, and we are now to hear more about the possibilities of that Dream from those amongst us who have travelled far to be here in Sheffield.

We then heard from a panel of four people who had come as immigrants fleeing from danger: Tesfa Teferi from Ethiopia, Firas Jabar from Iran, Bijou Yamabo from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sylvia Chen from Taiwan. They are all well settled here now. Firas and Sylvia run the Open Kitchen Social Club which provides a meal here every Monday for asylum seekers; Bijou is a nurse and a leading figure with her husband in the Congolese church JFAN, which meets here every Sunday afternoon; the DRC is French-speaking and their services are bi-lingual. Tesfa we have known the longest, as he is a priest in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church of St Michael, based in St Andrew's, and is now our church administrator

We heard from all of them about they came to be here, and gained valuable insights into what they found similar to their own cultures and what was most different; how people reacted to them at first, and how this changed over time; whether language was a problem - Yes, Bijou spoke no English when she arrived. They spoke kindly on the whole about their reception in the UK, probably concealing a great deal of distress en route, and Sheffield as a City of Sanctuary is a more welcoming place than some others.

The final question was: would they wish to return to live in their own country again, if that were possible, and what they might take back from the UK. They all said they would feel like a visitor there now.

We could have listened much longer to their articulate and thoughtful replies.

From the Editor

The summer arrived at last and we hope you enjoyed the weather, gardens, outings, visits, travel. . . . Some of us were very busy with family during the school holidays, and those of us with gardens know what a never-ending task the weeds present. This has been a wonderful season for growth of everything.

Apologies for the gap in production of the Messenger; in this issue there is much catching up. Thank you to all the contributors. We are grateful for all your ideas, so to maintain variety of interest, please send us your articles - memories, reviews, photos, poems, jokes, news . . .

We send out the Messenger on email but if you would like to receive a paper copy, please let us know.

FAMILY NEWS

Jean Dickson celebrated her 90th birthday with the family at the time-share at Loch Melfort and had a small tea-party in Sheffield on the day itself, 31 August. It is good to see Jean regaining her strength and mobility, and she is delighted to be driving again. **Elizabeth Draper**, whose 90th is not until October, had a lovely family gathering in July at Filey to celebrate with three other family members who also have 'significant' birthdays this year. **John Price** also reached the 90 milestone. Janet Brown kindly looks after **John and Jean Price**, who are ticking over much the same.

Barbara Macmillan amazingly has turned 80 and held a wonderful ceilidh; people from all her groups and their partners were invited including everyone from St Andrew's and we all had a great time with the music, dancing (or watching!) and lovely food. All Barbara's family were there, of course, including her son and family from the US. She asked for donations for Roundabout instead of gifts and was very happy and grateful to everyone for the grand total of £668.40.

Sheila and Ian Cooke have had a very busy time with visitors but have managed a couple of refreshing breaks. **Douglas Jones** took his two weeks leave during which he visited his son in Bangor, Wales; Sam is now Liturgical Coordinator at Bangor Cathedral and a lay clerk (bass) in the choir. (His role includes producing a glossy service sheet for every service, daily and three on Sundays, with all the words in English and Welsh.) **Stuart Haxton** turns 66 in October and plans to retire from his job at IKEA. He has loved his work there, and was Employee of the Month, but has had enough; he is going to volunteer at the S6 Foodbank.

Sheila and Martin Dunstan keep on the go and have had some pleasant catch-ups with family, despite recurring health problems which lead to a lot of appointments. We hope that the Falls Clinic and other interventions will help. **Fraser McVittie** spent four weeks in hospital but is home now; his body may be weaker but his mind and spirit are as lively as ever. We send our love and all good wishes to all those members who cannot get to church; we remember the part they used to play.

We are sorry to say goodbye to **Billy Aryanto** who has returned to Indonesia, having completed his Ph.D. Billy has been a great asset to us ever since he first came in 2016 - singing in the choir and helping with the audio - but he has also been a valuable window into a part of the world we



don't know much about, and he has encouraged other students from there to attend St Andrew's. We have recently welcomed **Halvina**, who also sings! We had a buffet lunch after the service on 8 September, Billy's last day with us. He will be back in ⁸January for his graduation.

Good news from **Matias and Indri** who worshipped with us last year. They were enjoying a holiday in Sydney where Matias is now studying at the University of Sydney. Indri is currently a teacher in a preschool in Jakarta. Baby Alfie was born while they were in Sheffield.

Sad news

Because of the delayed issue, we have unfortunately omitted to report some sad news. Mrs Lillemor Macdonald died on 11 June. Bill and Lillemor were regular and active members for many years until health and mobility problems prevented them from coming to church. They remained interested in hearing about the people and events here, through their Elder Ian and the Messenger. Bill sadly died in 2022 and Lillemor, after years of valiant and positive caring, succumbed to cancer. They had the loving support of their three sons, Roderick, Craig and Neil, to whom we sent our sincere sympathy. Lillemor's very well-attended funeral was on 1st July at Hutcliffe Wood. There will be an appreciation of Lillemor in the next issue.

A former member, Mrs Marion Butcher, has also died recently. Marion came mainly to communion services; she was the cousin of Mrs Pat Thomas, who now lives in Reading. Her funeral took place on 26 June, also at Hutcliffe Wood, and Pat was there, and sent her best wishes to those who remember her.



ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Visitors from Texas

Jana and Jerry Burch (see page 20) visited the church on 28 August to see the records of her great-great-great-grandfather's brother, Dr Hugh Wood, who was a founder member of St Andrew's in the 1850s.

Linda Callear Elizabeth Draper, and Margaret Fall met them for a very interesting 2-hour visit. Jana had done a great deal of research about her ancestor (and now lives in the house which he built for his family after arriving in Texas in 1851). She has subsequently

sent a number of archive documents for us. We are unable to locate the foundation stone which Dr Wood laid "in the north-west corner of the church".

A Prize

Matt Smith (art group leader) has passed to the church a Bible which was given to someone in St Andrew's in 1863, for learning by heart the whole of the Shorter Catechism. It was noticed in a box of books bound for the charity shop. We are delighted to have such an early addition to our archives.

A Face from the past

One of the visitors to our Heritage Open Day was the son of the Rev Charles McCurdy, the long-serving and well-remembered minister who retired in 1973. His son, also Charles, has recently returned to live in Sheffield, and several members at the H O D enjoyed catching up with him.



NEWS of our PARTNER GROUPS in the church

Weddings

The other churches which worship in our building all seem to be thriving, with several meetings during the week and an enviable number of children attending. St Michael's, the Ethiopian Orthodox church, celebrated their new year in August, as well as the weddings of Deacon Samson Taye to Mrs Hana Behailu and of Senior Deacon Kifle Yohanes and Mrs Helen Abebe. Sami and Hana had a reception for over 400 people and they gave another reception at the church and kindly invited all our members. We wish every blessing and happiness to both couples.

Congratulations to Jack Kasongo and Bijou Yamabo of JFAN who recently celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary. Bijou took part in the discussion panel about immigrants in our service on 14 July (See page 6).

BUZZ

The Family Support services run by Buzz are spreading. They now have a staff of 27 and have taken a lease of a new building for a second Child Contact Centre on Saturdays. The new building will enable them to reduce their waiting list by 30% initially and hopefully, eventually, completely. (This new building is rent free through Avire who match charities to buildings not in use).

OPEN KITCHEN

O K is also getting more diners, about 60 every Monday. They also are doing more catering for events, and we have enjoyed several buffet lunches presented by them in the church after our service. Firas and Sylvia from O K took part in the discussion in the 14 July service.

Cambodia Update

Bird Lovegod, who works for a charity for Cambodia as well as supporting local needs, lists the projects they have done in his magazine Ethical Much. The total now is 195 good deeds in Cambodia and over 800 in Sheffield. The sums of money allotted in Sheffield range from £12 to £75 but in Cambodia most are about \$20 - which obviously goes further there. Bird seems to have recovered well from the cancer; his fiancée Muyen, who was with him in our service last year, came over in September and they both went on a restorative retreat.

LOOKING AHEAD

October 6th is our next **Communion** service, to be led by Rev Dr Walter Houston.

October 13th is the **Harvest** celebration, led by Mrs Jenny Carpenter. There will be a buffet lunch after it, catered by Open Kitchen. We hope you will all be able to stay for that.

On **October 20th** the service will feature **Steel City Choristers**, who are deep in planning with Douglas. They delighted us last year, and the Juniors then, including Ahatty Teferi, are now full Treble members.

SHOEBOXES

Christmas begins to seem near when we are asked to fill shoeboxes! The charity Link for Hope sends them to Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria, and you can fill a box for either a family or an elderly person. Details from Sheila Dunstan. The deadline for collection is 3 November.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's the chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are free to explore. St Andrew's took part this year, opening the church on Friday 13th September 2-5pm and on Saturday 14th from 11am -4pm.

We can say that it was quite a success. We had 22 visitors in all, just four on the Friday afternoon but on Saturday there was nearly always someone in the church. What was noticeable was how long they stayed - some for an hour or more, looking round and listening to what we had to tell them. The visitors were really interested - many with a strong church connection themselves - and some interesting conversations developed during our guided tours.

It was an excellent cooperative effort and thanks to everyone who helped in any way. Monica Hanna did the liaison and Margaret Fall, Martha, Niall and Tesfa brought information out of our archives about all our previous ministers, and put notices explaining all the significant items in the church. It made quite a display. Margaret also gave a short talk about the history several times, and refreshments were served throughout. Overall, it was an enjoyable and encouraging experience, and we shall hope to repeat it next year - perhaps with our partner churches joining in.

I AM MARK

On 21st June at 7pm, the phenomenon which is Stephan Smart and 'I am Mark', came to St Andrews.

The whole of Mark's Gospel was presented verbatim by a story-teller par excellence. It was familiar and comfortable territory, but at the same time the enthusiastic and theatrical performance made it exhilarating and spell-binding. We started with John the Baptist and a demonstration of what locusts are like to eat [crunchy but not very tasty] and romped through teachings, miracles and travel stories to the quiet, sombre morning when the women visited Jesus' empty tomb in fear and trepidation.



The atmosphere was electric and you could have heard a pin drop. Stephan has a background in teaching and drama and was able to bring his subject to life with the power of his personality and an obvious love for his subject. He had very little in the way of costume or props, although he did have a very versatile kitchen chair, which doubled as a sailing boat to hide in, a mountain to proclaim from and a platter to carry the severed head of John the Baptist.

After the performance there was a period of silence and then Stephan invited questions and comments from the audience. He argued his way through some knotty theological questions, shared some fun snippets from his teaching career and then described his salutary experiences presenting 'I am Mark' to a restive audience at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park.

There was a great sense of camaraderie as the audience shared the buffet and aired their views, meeting various new people who had come to join the throng.

Special thanks are due to all the people involved in the planning and organising of the event and to Tesfa and his team for their back-up roles.

Linda Callear



Preparing the Last Supper

TENNIS CLUB SUMMER

The club hosted a barbecue to welcome new members. During June three groups attended coaching sessions to encourage those who had played tennis in the past to come back to the sport. As a result over 20 players joined the club and it was great to meet some of them at the BBQ.

A great attraction of course is our unique clay court...laid by ourselves and the only one in South Yorkshire. We even had a former British No 1 coming for a knock up recently, and two veteran internationals when visiting Sheffield. We are trying to accommodate young players who need clay court experience to further their playing careers.

We ran a Tennis Camp for a week August 19 – 23 for 8-12 year olds, coached by a young member of our club. It was highly successful, everyone very keen, the weather helpful, greatly enjoyed by our 'campers' . and on the Saturday we held an Open Day for the youngsters and their parents. All the participants have been enrolled as a club member with a parent or grandparent to accompany them for the remainder of this season.

Drop by any Saturday afternoon and you might be lucky to be offered a cup of tea and you can see our lovely blue geraniums and our splendid green tennis ball.

Margaret Fall



JUST A MINUTE

As the strains of the Minute Waltz fade away, an impatient audience finds Sue Perkins in the chair with four contestants in this battle to speak for 1 minute on a given subject without hesitation, repetition or deviation. This is a well known format on radio 4 and attracts a dedicated audience, many of whom have travelled long distances to be there. Having eventually come up lucky in the ballot for tickets, Paul and I were at the recording of the show at the BBC in London and became instant members of this good humoured and jolly fan club, who meet like old friends invited specially for the event.

This popular radio programme has been running for 45 years, I learnt, with a distinguished cast list, and boasts followers in many countries thanks to the reach of the BBC World Service. *Just a Minute* has basically the flimsiest structure, which demands quick-wittedness from the teams plus a good memory and a modicum of schoolboy naughtiness. Hardly a format that would travel to other countries or cultures, I should have thought, but how wrong I was: the many countries who have copied it include Belgium, India, and Sweden.

To cope with security checks, the audience had to arrive at 5pm at which hour BBC staff were going home in droves, which made us aware of the huge number of people who work there in all kinds of roles besides the big personalities. Photographic ID was needed for admittance, but the only one I could produce was my bus pass, and that was accepted, to my surprise. When I saw the rest of the audience, the demographic seemed to be elderly middle-class Brits. Who else would recognize the references or laugh at the witticisms? I concluded that many others were using their bus pass as the identity document.

We were shown into a huge bar/café where we could buy reasonably priced tea, coffee, drinks and mingle with the very friendly audience. This area overlooked the newsroom, just as we see it on the TV news. We could hear Clive Myrie reading the 6 o'clock news, but he was just out of our sightlines. At a desk below us was Fiona Bruce in a tomato-coloured linen trouser suit. She was due to read the 10 o'clock news and my first thought was that if I 'd had to put on a linen suit four hours before an appearance, I'd have been sure to spill my coffee on it long before the cameras rolled. She didn't seem to be too busy at that hour and was relaxed with her feet up on the desk. An illusion of poise and elegance was dented!

The audience, now some 200 strong, was shepherded into the art deco BBC theatre for the very casual and highly entertaining recording. The laid back impression was misleading for the chair and producers actually kept tight control of the process and were concentrating fully on timings and accuracy of the contributions. This recording will need severe editing before it goes live, for it was much cheekier than heard on radio, and that's already bad enough. The cheers and applause from the audience are genuine and will need to be seriously toned down in the edit. The banter is persistent, innuendo expected and enjoyed as part of the show by its devoted following.

I wouldn't dare to give an account of the programme, only to say it was just as rumbustious as in the 6.30 slot on radio 4, or rather more so. We had had the illusion of meeting old friends at an amusing party and of having laughed at each other's jokes. Outside again, we filtered into the smart London crowds enjoying a warm evening out and reached home in time to watch Fiona Bruce read the 10 o'clock news in the red suit, unsullied and uncrumpled.

Monica Hanna

BOOK REVIEW

I recently read a very unusual book, *Cuddy*, by Benjamin Myers, having previously read *The Offing*, by the same author. That was a tale of a young lad, destined to go down the mine in Durham, who set off to walk around the countryside and ended up in Norfolk, befriended by an older woman, who taught him so much about life.

I didn't know the word, *offing*, meaning a view of the distant sea toward the horizon. It was a wonderful read.

Cuddy, his nickname, is a life of St Cuthbert, and the peregrinations of his body; again, a story about the north. The first two sections, "Books", are set in AD 995, 1346 and 1650, fragments of quotes from earlier writers, laid out spaciouly and then in short episodes. Book III is set in 1827 and Book IV in 2019. The latter two "books" are more in the style of a novel set in Durham. It is a story of the creation of Durham Cathedral as his resting place, taking a millennium from idea to fruition.

One later description is of the Sanctuary knocker on the completed Cathedral. Whoever used it to knock on that door was welcomed and allowed sanctuary, something I learnt when I visited the Cathedral years ago. However, the story was elaborated in the book. When the fugitive, often a murderer, is allowed to enter the Cathedral, he must stay and pray for forgiveness and make a confession. During that time he is looked after and secure and that may be for quite a long time, until he is judged to be contrite. The part that I did not know was that when he was ready to leave, he would be escorted to the outskirts of the city and it was not lawful for anyone to accost or arrest him. He then journeyed to Hartlepool to embark on a voyage from the country never to return.

There is an interesting description of the journeys people made over the centuries for sanctuary to Durham and to other Cathedrals, such as Beverly, on the web,

<https://legalhistorymiscellany.com/2018/07/02/mapping-durhams-medieval-sanctuary-seekers/>

Apparently, many of the fugitives felt that they killed in self-defence, so could choose to stay in the country and arrange a trial elsewhere, once tempers had cooled, to allow a just review and prospect of a better outcome. The law of sanctuary permitting this was repealed in the 16th Century.

On this website, there is a photograph of the current knocker, a reproduction, as the original is now exhibited inside the cathedral.

Ian Cooke

URC FINANCE

Letter to: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our
Local Ecumenical Partnerships. June 2024

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries & Mission Fund.

As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC (or LEP) congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a "cost of living crisis" for many, with energy costs rising to unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.

The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.

In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level, but there also was significant and generous synod support. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget at £16.3 million. It was also only 2% down on 2022's result. However, we should note that these figures include the synods' extra contributions this year which amounted to £1.9 million, an increased amount compared to 2022.

The full M&M account for 2023 in summary:

Income – £18.2m – of which 16.3m was from churches and synods contributions

Expenditure – £19.3m

Deficit – £1.1m

2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3 to 5% p.a.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination is rarely easy, but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

CONCERTS

26 October 7.30 pm Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses

Sterndale Singers JAZZ CONCERT

Programme: A Little Jazz Mass - Bob Chilcott
Music to Hear - George Shearing
Birthday Madrigals - John Rutter
and other popular jazz classics and spirituals

Saturday 9 November 7.30 pm Victoria Hall, Norfolk Street

Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra

CLARA, GUSTAV and the CHEVALIER

Programme: Joseph Bologne - Overture: L'Amant Anonime
Clara Schumann - 6 Lieder, Opus 13
Gustav Mahler - Symphony No 4

Conductor: George Morton

Soloist: Ella Taylor, soprano

The visit of Jana and
Jerry Burch

