



**St Andrew's**  
Roundhay

Loving God  
Following Jesus  
Serving Community



**April 2025**



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Hello Readers!

April is here! I know I say this often but this really is a bumper issue of news and articles to get your teeth into. 36 pages to be exact!

As you will read on page 32 the closing date for submissions to the magazine is changing to the 15th of the month so don't get caught out! Get your items in early.

Happy reading!

*Claire xx*

Magazine Editor

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of St Andrew's magazine. Articles and items are welcome anytime but the deadline for contributions to the May magazine is **15 April** please. Articles may be emailed to [magazine@standrews.cc](mailto:magazine@standrews.cc).

For handwritten or typed articles please contact the Editor (Claire Westgarth) - details in the directory.

**All information correct at time of publication**



As I write this we have just reached the third Sunday in Lent, and we have held two Lent course sessions based on Pete Greig's book: *'God on mute – engaging the silence of unanswered prayer'*. There is no doubt that the material we have encountered so far has been engaging and soul searching, and possibly suitably uncomfortable as well.

On this page I do not have space to take you through the rest of Lent, not to mention the entire anguish of Holy Week, other than to say that it is a week vital to everyone's faith journey! Skip it at your peril. But I do just want to stop and pause on a day which often gets overlooked: Holy Saturday – or, as I sometimes call it, Tomb Day. Ideally, for me, this is a significant day for personal reflection – time taken to explore the silence.

Pete Greig thinks that Holy Saturday is where most of us spend most of our lives, in the wilderness between questions and answers, prayers uttered and miracles yet to come: *"It's where we wait – with a peculiar measure of faith and despair – whenever God is silent or life doesn't make sense."* That space, between the pain of the cross on Good Friday and the momentous stone rolling dawn of Easter Day, contains the moments when we contemplate God not there! Dead.

And we need to contemplate that if we are ever to grasp anything of the awesome wonder and glorious nature of Easter! So don't skip or fast forward to the end. Enter the tomb on Good Friday. Stay there and wait in the darkness on Holy Saturday. Then truly appreciate walking out into the sunrise of Easter Day! You can't rush the Resurrection!

Psalm 23 verse 4 always gives me the courage that God wants us to journey beyond the darkness of our most difficult trials. But we do need to recognise and acknowledge the darkness if we are to see the dawn. If we hide in the darkness, we will not find the light. If we close our eyes, we will stumble and fall. Jesus has been in the darkest darkness, but here's the thing, he knows the way out! He fell to show us the way to get up again!

May you be blessed by the journey to and beyond Easter!

## News of our Church Family

### *Congratulations to:*

Martha and Ashley, who became engaged last week after Ashley proposed by the lake in Roundhay Park. Martha is Jane Dixon's daughter

Lisa Large, who voluntarily took a driving competency test this week and received a Certificate of Completion

Melanie and Graham Burgess on the baptism of their daughter, Bella, on 16 March in St Andrew's

### *Unwell in recent weeks / recovering at home*

Veronica Hood, Carol Parfitt and Claire Westgarth

### *Sadly missed:*

Rosie Blackmore's father, David, and Stephen Clough

*Dear Lord,*

*We wonder at the beauty of your creation as Spring flowers appear,  
despite the frosty nights.*

*We particularly remember those people whose lack of sight means  
they are unable to enjoy these blessings.*

*May they instead smell their fragrance.*

*Thank you for all your goodness shown to us every day.*

*Amen*

News correct as at 20 March

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**MON**

14th April 7.30pm  
Holy Week Reflection

**TUES**

15th April 7.30pm  
Holy Week Reflection

**WED**

16th April 7.30pm  
Holy Week Reflection

**THURS**

17th April 7.30pm  
Maundy Thursday  
Holy Communion Service

**FRI**

18th April 7.30pm  
Good Friday Service

**SUNDAY**

20th April 10.30am  
Easter Day Holy Communion Service



## Michael Brown



Michael, known as Mick to those close to him, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was a hardworking, gentle, and caring man who loved others deeply.

Born to Edith (a seamstress) and Cyril (a cobbler) on 23 January 1945, Mick was brought up in a caring home where he was taught right from wrong. He attended Bentley Lane Primary School and later Harehills High School. At fifteen he became an apprentice platemaker in the printing trade and he remained in printing all his working life.

As a teenager Mick played rugby and was also a competitive member of a local ten-pin bowling team in Headingley, where he first caught the attention of Margaret in 1966. The couple were married in 1969 and celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in spring 2024.

Mick was the epitome of a family man. He and Margaret were blessed with 2 children: Nicola and Victoria. Mick was a supportive, attentive and dedicated father, a welcoming father-in-law to Andi and Anthony and in time a beloved grandfather to Anna, Bessie and Reuben. He was also a good friend to many, and attracted a wide circle of people to him from across his many different interests (for example bowling, golf, work, Probus and church to name but a few).

Mick's post-war make-do-and-mend upbringing remained with him throughout his life: nothing could be thrown away without him trying to fix it first. A skilled handyman, he thoroughly enjoyed pottering in his garage, taking things apart to see how they worked, and finding ways to repair things others had given up on.



Mick loved the outdoors, and was in his element during family days out walking or to the seaside. Retirement facilitated regular holidays around Britain, exploring the coastline, national parks and historic houses and gardens. Not working also allowed him to fully indulge in his passion for bowling, and Mick spent countless happy hours at the bowling club, playing, socialising and helping to maintain the green for other players to enjoy. Always willing to go the extra mile for others, Mick was a helping hand to neighbours and friends and a tremendous asset to the local community. As a regular blood and plasma donor he helped countless people he never met. He volunteered for years at the local Scout group, painted the primary school classrooms when needed, and helped RoCo (Roundhay's amateur dramatic society) create scenery for their productions.

Mick died on 7 February 2025. He will be remembered as a lovely, kind, compassionate and loving man who was always willing to help and to give advice, the first to show up and last to leave.

Abridged from Eulogy written by the Brown family

### **Weekly Prayer Times**


### **Microsoft Teams**

**Link for Tuesday Prayer Time: 7pm for 7.15pm**

<https://bit.ly/3DKdEEs>

**Link for Thursday Time with God: 9.15am for 9.30am**

<https://bit.ly/4kRCf11>



please see article  
on page 33

LET'S  
*celebrate*



I was born in Michigan into a Christian family with deep Welsh Congregational roots. My great grandfather's great uncle David Griffith had been Missionary to Madagascar, and my great grandfather's great Aunt went with her husband Griffith John to China - where they were among the first missionaries there. My great grandfather was Congregational Minister and Moderator for Wales and serviced three churches in mid Wales into his 90s.

Up until the age of 9 I lived a very rural life in the US - swimming in the huge lake near the house, fishing, and attending our local school. It was not to last. My father worked for Kelloggs, and when he was transferred to Cheshire I found myself attending a Church of England girl's school, wearing an itchy uniform and being shouted at by the Religious Education teacher for not knowing it had been Septuagesima the week before. I got over this rocky start and he went on to be a mentor for me, teaching me theology at A' level. I was also a member of Wilmslow Congregational Church which became Wilmslow URC. Under the inspiration of a charismatic minister I developed a huge interest in the bible. David Robinson (my husband) was a fellow member of the large and very active Wilmslow CC youth group.

Having become fascinated by theology through my brilliant A' level theology teachers, I decided to study it at Hull University. I chose Hull as I believed it would allow me to indulge my other passions for singing and drama, but I dropped out in my second year, finally getting my BA from the Open University many years later. I also gained qualifications in personnel development, teaching and in teaching dance exercise along the way.



My working life has largely focused on helping people to learn. An early example of this was working with Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, to develop the training manual for the University helpline service 'Nightline'. Later I focused on adult education and was particularly interested in assisting women and people from deprived communities to access opportunities. When in the late 1980s the mining communities were forced to grapple with widespread unemployment and pit closures, I was Tertiary Education Officer at East Leeds. We had to do all that we could to stretch our extremely limited resources to help people find ways back into employment, which required us to think very creatively about the best ways to engage people. Increasingly I was developing models to support people to engage with educational resources.

This focus on learning development in deprived areas led to a fascinating 2 years as the UK's consultant on Second Chance Learning to the European Commission.

I became more and more interested in the role of technology to assist people to learn. I designed and worked on an adult guidance service for Leeds ('Gateway to Learning') that focused on empowering people without opportunities to find ways into employment. I have also helped develop award winning technologies that found new ways to help people learn about things at their own pace. These have varied from web based platforms to help nurses undertake and record their continuing professional development to location based technology allowing visitors to the battlefield of Culloden to learn about its history.

David and I married at Wilmslow URC in 1974, and our children were born while he was working for Sheffield University: Andrew in 1978, Claire in 1980 and Nicola in 1982. Later a job opportunity at Leeds University brought us to Roundhay where we have remained ever since. We had been planning to try out lots of churches but our neighbours attended St Andrew's and encouraged us to come so we did. We arrived in 1984, a few months before Rev Eric Allen left. I remember Eric Allen always telling me not to worry about our kids running around in the church. This advice was

tested to its limit during the Ecumenical Service for Good Friday at St Edmunds. The cross was brought in, followed by a solemn procession of people from the three churches. At the end came our two year old daughter Nicola singing Postman Pat!

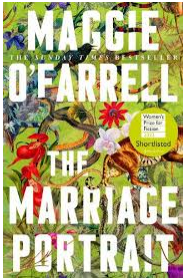
When I became a member of St Andrew's there were a large number of young people worshipping at the church and I became very involved in youthwork which was fulfilling and inspiring. We need find creative ways to help rebuild that sense of adventure, energy and enthusiasm for God amongst young people.

I retired in 2016 but remain very busy. I am a member of the Yorkshire Synod Elders Development Group which has a good reputation within the national URC body - so much so that Church House asked us to look at creating country wide learning materials for Elder Development. This project began just as lockdown started, so we spent a great deal of time writing materials using Zoom! The resource we developed is called 'Exploring Eldership' and is available within the URC online learning hub: <https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=15>

I am an Elder myself, Convenor of the Festivals Group, a member of the Worship group, a member of the Social Group and I have 7 grandchildren who live in Australia, Canada and the US. I enjoy walking and relish the spiritual dimension of being in nature. I love singing and creativity. I am also a member of the St Andrew's Leading Your Church into Growth group.

I believe in bringing God's love to people through relationships, fun, adventure and talking. We need to start where people are in their lives and create ways for them to engage with God at their own speed and in their own way. It is God's role to carry out the conversion. My work has always focused on making structured connections - we create the pathways that people can walk down in the way they choose. Our role is to create those pathways and put them into the journey of faith in whatever ways we can.

Bronwen Robinson

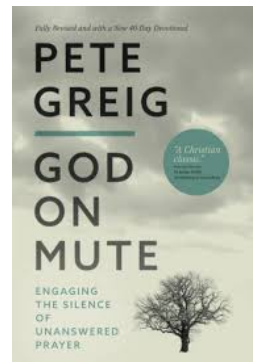


### **The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell**

We discussed this book at our most recent meeting and all of us thought it was a compelling, moving and beautifully written account of court life in Renaissance Italy. At times a shocking and painful read, the book follows the fortunes of Lucrezia de' Medici, a girl from a noble family forced into a dynastic marriage she does not want, but is powerless to resist.

### **God on Mute: Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer**

We join the Leeds URC Partnership and the Local Ecumenical Partnership in recommending this excellent book. Drawing on his own life experience and struggles with prayer, the author draws strength, comfort and new hope from the knowledge that Jesus also experienced the desolation of unanswered prayer in his darkest hours. We are not alone, the agony is real but so is the resurrection. This is a book well suited not only for Lent, but also for anyone who is struggling with prayer and feeling unheard by God.



Bookclub meets again at 2pm on Monday 12th May 2025 to discuss 'The Dutch House' by Ann Patchett. For further information or to join us, please contact Sheila Hartley or Anna Sweeney - details in the directory.

# World Day of Prayer 2025

Written by the women of WDP Cook Islands

## “I Made You Wonderful”

Psalm 139:14



On Friday 7th March the world was encircled in prayer as over 2 million Christian men and women in 99 different countries followed the same service in their own language, written by the women of THE COOK ISLANDS.

St Andrew's hosted a service at 6.30 pm. As usual the three covenanting churches in Roundhay took part with ladies from Lidgett Park, St Edmund's and St Andrew's all involved. Thank you to them.

“I made you wonderful” was the theme of the service. Flowers – real and artificial - featured in our displays, and Karen Lamb made floral paper headbands for all the ladies taking part.

We heard the stories of 3 women from the Cook Islands. They had each experienced anxiety and feelings of being unvalued, but also, in the case of Dawn, of being blessed that having trained as a doctor she was able to use her skill to improve the health of children. They pride themselves on being the only Pacific island to have had no maternal deaths since 1995.



The symbol of the World Day of Prayer was designed by an Irish nun in 1982 and adapted as the international logo.

The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

A **huge** thank you is due to Pat Walkden for once again sharing her creative craft skills in decorating the cloth for the table and for producing a canoe! It is still on display on the side table as you enter the sanctuary near the lectern.

Following the service, refreshments were served in our clocktower area. It is usual to have some food typical of the writing country, but having made (and tasted) Poké, a banana-based sort of cake, we decided to serve more familiar cakes which everyone enjoyed.

Thank you to Kyla and Aries for their help serving the refreshments.

As we sang several times during the service:

*"God who knows us, God who is with us,  
God who made us, to you we pray."*

And finally, **KIA ORANA!** (*May you live long! May you live well!*) – a phrase in the Maori language that Cook Islanders use to greet each other.

Sheana Dudley



## Charity Mount Kilimanjaro climb update! How I reached the rooftop of Africa and got back down again for disadvantaged children in Tanzania and Uganda – Part 2

In February 2025, I climbed the world's highest freestanding mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, in Africa, with a group of forty odd people from all walks of life, sharing our commitment to helping to improve the lives of the children in the projects we were supporting through the charities Last Night a DJ Saved My Life and The Tribe Experience.



In the days before I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, I visited two of the projects I have been raising money for. These were the Feathers Tale Village for children with special needs, and Angels Gate Home for street involved boys. Both are run by the Creator Share Foundation, and are based near the town of Moshi, which is very near to Mount Kilimanjaro National Park.

These projects bring children into safety who have been abandoned by their families and are living on the streets, and, as a consequence, are severely malnourished due to starvation and have been abused and exploited. The projects provide the children with a place to live, education and emotional support, often using music and art to help them express themselves, learn, grow and connect with other people.

In a future magazine, I will share more about these two projects as well as the third project I raised money for, which provides education to children in Uganda, and how the money you donated is now being used.



This month, though, I will return to the story of my epic climb up the mountain!

In March's magazine, I wrote about my experience of the first three days of the climb, where I got to a height of 4600 metres. From then on, most of us in the group began to feel the effects of being at high altitude, where the air becomes thinner with oxygen and everything (sleeping, eating, walking, talking) feels more difficult to do. The weather had got a lot colder too by that stage, so we were wrapping up warm, especially at night in our tents on the mountainside.

The fourth day of the climb involved scaling the side of the mountain on a platform of rock! It was definitely a case of don't look down!! And our fifth day was walking in the morning and resting in the afternoon at base camp ready for summit night at midnight. There was a quiet and nervous energy in the camp that afternoon as we all contemplated the challenge ahead of us.

When it came to midnight, we all gathered to begin the long walk ahead. We were advised to not chat to others on the way up as a way of preserving our energy and I think, as a result, I just went into myself, into a kind of determined trance! I remember feeling the love and support of everyone who had wished me well, and the group I was with all the way up, which gave me strength, as did knowing that I was doing this for the children I have been raising money for.

It was dark, extremely cold (I had four layers of clothing on and I still couldn't feel my fingers or my toes), and we walked constantly uphill for six gruelling hours over rocks and shale. I didn't wear a watch or look at



my phone. I just focused on putting one foot in front of the other. And I kept digging deep, digging deep inside of myself.

Then, eventually, I heard one of the guides say to me 'Jo – look up – you are nearly there!' and to my utter surprise, I could see the top of the steep, six hour climb that we had just done, which is called Stella Point at 5756 metres, in the snow. I started crying at that point! I think most of us who made it, men and women alike, cried when they got to Stella Point.



Once at Stella Point, however, I stopped feeling any tiredness or inner struggle that I had been feeling and I just felt full of energy! And then I saw a porter carrying the large music speaker, which we had arranged would come with us on the climb so that we could play a music track that the children at Angels Gate had composed at the summit. He was walking across the snow from Stella Point towards the summit, which was a thirty-minute walk away and I ran after him!! As I ran, the sun was rising slowly. The landscape was white and the sky was a range of deep reds and oranges, and when the sun rose I could see far-reaching views of Africa below me which was breathtaking.

Reaching the summit, Uhuru Peak at 5895 metres, was a joyous moment, and I shared more hugs and smiles and love with people in my group who made it around the same time as I did.



Coming down the mountain back to base camp, which took about four / five hours, was hard going. By that stage, I was feeling the effects of the altitude and I was very light-headed, so I had to be helped by the guides to get down the slippery shale and rocks.



That afternoon, we walked further down from base camp back to Millenium camp at 3801 metres for our last night on Kilimanjaro. We all felt so much better with there being more oxygen in the air. We had the best night's sleep before our final day of walking back through the rainforest to the gate of the national park.

Although the music speaker made it up to the summit too, unfortunately the cold temperatures drained its battery. However, when we were back down at the gate and the speaker had been re-charged, we played the music that the boys at Angels Gate had composed, and all of us (our group, other groups, the guides and porters, local people) danced and danced!! It was a very special moment.

Getting my first shower in seven days back at the hotel was glorious, but when we left the national park, I did actually begin to miss being completely immersed in nature. It was a place where I could completely strip away all of the layers of my personality and get back to being just me. My mind was clear and it had been a time and a place to feel more spiritual and closer to God and the things that matter in life. It was, I suppose, a bit like a kind of pilgrimage.

I would like to thank you again for all your very generous donations towards my fundraising. I am still accepting donations, which can be made by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/watchvyewsn-lkcem#supportersList>

Or you can just scan the following QR code with your phone to be taken to the link:



Who knows what challenge I will take up next for charity! All I can say is watch this space because I think I have got the bug for it now!

Jo Mary



2 April	African Children's Choir at St Edmund's
3 April	Online Pfalz meeting
13 April	Palm Sunday
18 April	Good Friday Walk of Witness 10am start at Lidgett Park, finish at St Andrew's for refreshments
20 April	Easter Day Sunrise Service Roundhay Park Easter Sunday - time to be announced  Easter breakfast before the Easter Sunday Worship Service at St Andrew's - time to be announced
27 April	Church Parade
30 April	Church Meeting
17 May	Big Day Out
28 May	Church AGM
28 June	Family Fun Day
July	Leeds Youth Opera (to be confirmed)

For more information on any of these events please email [info@standrews.cc](mailto:info@standrews.cc)

# Worship Dates

## April

Sunday	6	10.30am	Family Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Saturday	12	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday	13	10.30am	Palm Sunday Family Worship	Mark Grant
		6.30pm	Evening Service	Rev Tim Lowe
Monday	14	7.30pm	Holy Week Reflection	
Tuesday	15	7.30pm	Holy Week Reflection	
Wednes	16	7.30pm	Holy Week Reflection	
Thurs	17	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Communion Service	at St Andrew's
Friday	18	7.30pm	Good Friday Service	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	20	10.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	27	10.30am	Cafe Style Worship and Parade	The Worship Group



I am the artist who produced the 'empty tomb' image that is on the front cover of this magazine as one of my Easter meditations. I hope you enjoy it. It began as a charcoal drawing (done during a sermon), and morphed into an acrylic painting and a digitally drawn piece too. I like the idea that it references the underlying strangeness, power and joy of Jesus' resurrection.

I'm a full time artist from Sunderland, living with my wife, Ann, in Northallerton. My background is in youth and social work, but art has always been something that I've done (and a long time ago I got a BA Hons in Fine Art from Sunderland Poly).

Currently I'm working on images of shipyards and industrial riverside scenes (my Dad and Grandad built ships on the Wear, Tyne and Tees).

I've always loved drawing people on the move (and cartoons too), and I'm also exploring abstract images in paint as a medium for meditation and prayer. Every 3-4 weeks I can be found at the front of our church, New Life Baptist, drawing my interpretation of the sermon!

If you're interested in finding out more about my art, I'm on Instagram (@chrisbambrough) or on email [chris-art@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris-art@hotmail.co.uk).

I hope you enjoy my work and have a blessed Easter.

Chris Bambrough





## The Donkey

by G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

Submitted by Jeremy Freeman



## Sandy Sutherland

Alexander Sutherland, known as Sandy throughout his life, was born in Nairn in September 1936, the only child of Alexander (Alex) and Elizabeth Sutherland. Early in Sandy's life Alex, a bank manager, was transferred to Banff and so Sandy was educated at Banff Academy. As a child, Sandy was interested in science and was a keen swimmer, particularly enjoying swimming in the sea.

Sandy read physics at Aberdeen University. During his deferred National Service he served as a Sergeant Instructor in the Education Corps and helped his teams to victory in swimming and water polo competitions. His certificate of National Service described him as "pleasant" "thoughtful", "industrious", "persevering", "reliable" and as having "a good understanding of human nature".

Employment at the UK Atomic Energy Authority in Harwell followed, where he met Diana who was also employed there. The couple married in 1965. 2 sons soon followed: James in 1966 and Iain in 1967. Child care was shared and Sandy very much enjoyed the responsibilities of being a father. He was also a supportive, attentive and protective husband to Diana.

In 1971 Sandy changed jobs to work at the Radiological Protection Service in Manchester, the family moving again when Sandy was transferred to Cookridge in Leeds. He was able to retire early at 58 and become house husband to Diana who was still working.

Sandy very much enjoyed spending time with family. Aside from being Diana's 'Guardian Angel', he remained close to and very proud of his sons and their families. James had married Lesley and had 2 boys: David and Andrew, while Iain had married Chris and had 2 girls: Ellie and Jessica. Sandy adored his grandchildren and was adored by them.

Retirement also gave him time to follow other pursuits; playing bridge and tennis and learning German to a high standard. Sandy was hugely supportive of Diana's roles at St Andrew's and ready to lend a hand, assisting with Toddlers and joining the German Partnership (forming a close friendship with Neil Parfitt in the process).

Sandy died on 14 December 2024. He will be remembered as a kind, quiet, generous, principled, meticulous, loyal and loving man who touched many lives. As his National Service record put it all those years ago: "He is determined and can be depended on to do his best". Those qualities never left him. He is much missed.

Abridged conversation with Diana Sutherland

## Supporting the Sylvia Wright Trust

I have been the liaison between the Sylvia Wright Trust (SWT) and St Andrew's for many years. As St Andrew's considers which charities to help with our money and prayers at Christmas, I am appealing for us to continue our support for SWT.

SWT is a registered charity supporting children with disabilities and the education of student nurses in a remote and rural part of India. Founded in 1982 by Sylvia Wright, a Leeds nurse who responded to a calling from God, the charity now has three projects: a residential school for 200 children who have hearing impairments; a day centre for 80 children with disabilities; and a nursing college for 120 students. Further information is here: <https://www.sylviawright.org>

In 2022 careful plans were set out for a 5 year handover of the charity to Indian control. We are now half way through that handover period which will last until the end of 2027. The nursing college is self-financing. Currently, 50% of the running costs of the deaf school and disabled centre are funded by SWT (the Indian government and local reserves cover the remainder) and no charges are made to deaf and disabled children. We cannot simply assume that the Indian government will cover any funding shortfall during the transfer – they are focused on new roads and infrastructure with children with disabilities low on the list of priorities. This is clearly an important and sensitive time for SWT and I feel very strongly that we should commit ourselves to supporting them throughout the handover period.





SWT has been very grateful for our support over many years. We know the good work that SWT does and the way in which the charity uniquely benefits the community. Take nursing training. Yes, there are other nursing colleges in India, but, unlike the others, SWT charges tuition and boarding fees that are lower than most nursing colleges, and bursaries allow even the poorest students the opportunity to study. The college has a fantastic success rate and students who qualify are quickly employed. In addition, the college teaches not just nursing skills but also compassion, making their nurses greatly valued.

We know the money we donate to SWT goes directly where it is needed. The Trustees are tremendously dedicated local people who have been scrupulous in funding their expenses themselves (including their airfares to and from India). 97 pence of every £1 received goes to India. So every penny really does matter.

I believe the charity to be exceptional – it continues to change the health and life outcomes of countless poor, disabled and vulnerable children and change the mindset of whole communities. They still need our support. I ask that we vote to give it to them.

In summary, we have 3 options:

1. Continue to support SWT until the end of 2027 when local fundraising will replace the running costs.
2. Continue to support with a token amount until 2027.
3. Discontinue financial support immediately.

This decision is for all of St Andrew's to consider.

[Lisa Large](#)

(former teacher of deaf children)



This month 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT' is The Festivals Group

## The Festivals Group

The Festivals Group was set up to help St Andrew's celebrate special occasions and to reach out to the local community and invite them to join with us. Inspired by a Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) course in Autumn 2018, a small group of us began exploring new ways to encourage people to come into the church, meet us, look around and feel welcomed and at home. We organise celebrations 4 times a year, typically at Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas.

The first festival we arranged was for Christmas 2019. We had left it far too late to launch a full-scale Christmas Tree Festival, so instead we asked church groups to decorate wreaths for the church. We ended up with 67! It was so encouraging that people were willing to use their skills and talents to help us create something different.

In 2020 we had just got up and running with Feb Fest (a music festival) followed by an event for International Women's Day when the pandemic closed church buildings. This forced us to focus on what could be done outside. Working within the constraints of lockdown we managed to create the first Easter Garden: a series of physical displays representing the main events of Holy Week were accompanied by QR Codes allowing people to use their smartphones to hear the story for themselves. Our garden served to remind people that we were still here and still caring for our community, and I know it was a comfort to many.



We tried to do something similar for Pentecost, but that was less popular, perhaps because the story of the birth of the church is not widely known outside the church community. More successful was the 7 days of Creation display - a story beautifully suited to the garden environment. On the sixth day we included a mirror so that you saw yourself as part of Creation. Children loved it, and I often watched them guiding their parents around each exhibit explaining what was going on.

In December 2021 we launched our first Christmas Tree Festival. This was, and is, a huge event involving every aspect of St Andrew's: worship, music, drama, family fun days, and catering on a huge scale. The community responded with tremendous warmth, curiosity and enthusiasm and the Tree Festival has grown year on year. In 2024 it perhaps became too ambitious, sapping our energy and resources for other events. We have learned from this - the 2025 Charity Christmas Tree Festival will be a week earlier and 2 days shorter than the 2024 one. Hopefully that will make it feel more manageable for us without depriving our local community of an event they have taken to their hearts.

So, what is planned for this year? We have the Christmas Tree festival for December. We also have a Scarecrow Festival planned for Harvest weekend to give thanks to God for His abundance. During the Open Gardens weekend we will have a display of Pat Walkden's knitted Bible Story figures in the church. We will be giving out details closer to each event.

Easter this year presents some specific challenges. Our Easter Egg tree has grown too tall to have Easter Eggs hung on it, so Easter Eggs will be elsewhere in the garden. The late Easter date also means the daffodil cascade will need to be rethought as the daffodils will be long over. But there will be flowers inside the church and out, we will decorate the garden,

we will have the amazing displays and the QR Codes telling the story of Holy Week, and we will do all we can to bring people into the mystery, glory and celebration of new life that is Easter. There will also be food: Easter breakfast will be offered at St Andrew's before the service on Easter Day, and everyone is invited. We hope you can join us!

The Festival Group could not function without a large number of willing volunteers, and we are always looking for people who can help us. All talents are needed, from ideas and event planning to constructions and decorations, and for catered events we need people making food, serving drinks, greeting people, helping with logistics, setting up at the start and clearing up at the end. Everyone has something to offer that the Festival Group could use! Please contact me if you feel inspired to find out more. My email is in the Church Directory.

The festivals are a huge amount of work (and sometimes disruption) for St Andrew's, but I think they are such an important form of outreach. Large numbers of people are drawn to us by the festivals, they come and explore the gardens, visit the church, meet us, eat with us and celebrate with us. Some members of our church family first came to us during a festival. The Tree Festival raises a lot of extra money for the Christmas Appeal Charities. Most importantly, the festivals show our local community that St Andrew's is open, active, engaged and reaching out, and that we want to share our celebration of God's redeeming love for us all.

Loving God. Following Jesus. Serving Community.

Bronwen Robinson



As many people know, our church flowers are given by people who wish to remember family members or friends. The flowers on the dates below have been donated by the following people.

Jan 5 Sheana Dudley - Remembering my parents

Jan 19 Joy Weightman - In loving memory of those we have loved and still love

Jan 26 Margaret Weston

Feb 9 Jane Bunyan - In memory of my mum Diana

Feb 16 Anna Sweeney - In loving memory of my son Ian

Feb 23 Michael Payne - In loving memory of my parents

March 2 Pat Walkden - In loving memory of my husband Peter

March 9 Karen Lamb - To mark the birthday of Keith Lamb from Karen and all his family

March 30 Lewis Murray - Remembering Eveline and Lewis Murray on their wedding anniversary, also my brother Stephen



## Eldership Election

The annual election of Elders will take place in April this year.

There is 1 vacancy held over from last year to be filled. 2 Elders are standing down in accordance with Church Rules. This means we will have 3 vacancies to fill this year. Finally, we also need a Church Treasurer, although this person does not need to be a serving Elder.

Please prayerfully consider whether you could stand as an Elder, either for the first time, or again if you have been an Elder in the past. To be an Elder you need to be on the formal Members Roll of St Andrew's United Reformed Church, and to have been so for a minimum of 12 months.

If you come to St Andrew's regularly or are a supporter of the church in any way, we would ask you to prayerfully consider who might be encouraged to consider or be nominated into the role of Elder and Trustee of the church.

For any further information about the election process, or if you wish to have an informal discussion about the role, please speak to Rev Tim Lowe, Jane Bunyan or any of the current serving Elders who will be happy to assist you.

On the first Sunday in April, full details of the election process will be posted on the noticeboard by the red post box, between the hall doors. They will also be sent to church members by email. Voting papers will be issued in accordance with the Church Rules after Easter.

Thank you.

Jane Bunyan (Church Secretary)



**SATURDAY 17 MAY**



# **YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK**

**BIG**  
DAY OUT



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From next month (May) the closing date for submissions to the magazine will be changing to the 15th from the 20th. This gives the editorial team a few extra days to put it together before it is sent off for printing. This will ensure the printed copies are available at the same time as the digital ones.

As always items and articles can be sent in at any time, but the cut off will be the 15th of the month before. So things for the May magazine will need to be with me by 15th April and so on.

Thank you for helping me to help you.

Claire

Editor



Dear friends

Thank you so much for all the kindness shown to me and my family at this sad time, we cannot thank you all enough. Thank you also for all the cards and flowers that we have received.

Margaret Brown, Nicola and Victoria



## Goodbye Zoom



## Hello Teams

During lockdown the church subscribed to Zoom at a yearly cost of around £70. Zoom is now primarily used for our weekly online prayer times, as other meetings have returned to face to face or use Teams. To save money it was decided not to renew Zoom this year and instead to use Teams on Microsoft 365 for all online meetings.

This means there is another change this month! I know a lot of people are worried about using Teams, but once you have set up the programme there's very little difference for those attending.

The links for the meetings are on page 7 of this magazine.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Grant if you need help getting onto Teams. We can do this folks!

Claire Westgarth

Something to look forward to .....

In our May Edition you can look forward to hearing all about the plans that Community Clocktower Cafe have for the year ahead.

Magazine printing supported by Detailed Care Ltd.

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# Useful Contacts

<b>MINISTER</b> - Rev Tim Lowe	07749 840653
<b>CHURCH SECRETARY</b> - Jane Bunyan	churchsecretary@standrews.cc
<b>TREASURER</b>	treasurer@standrews.cc
<b>MAGAZINE EDITOR</b> - Claire Westgarth	magazine@standrews.cc
<b>PASTORAL CARE GROUP</b> - Sheana Dudley	pastoral@standrews.cc
<b>NOTICE SHEET</b> - Mark Grant	notices@standrews.cc
<b>WORSHIP GROUP</b> - Rev Tim Lowe	tim.lowe@standrews.cc
<b>JUNIOR CHURCH</b> - Celly Rowe	m.rowe103@ntlworld.com
<b>MESSY CHURCH</b> - Shona Parker	shona.parker@standrews.cc
<b>SCOUTING</b> - Stephen Welburn	07954 184 521
<b>GUIDING</b> - Jane Bunyan	0113 212 0279
<b>TODDLERS GROUP</b> - Sheila Hartley	sheila.hartley@ntlworld.com
<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILY WORK</b>	<u>info@standrews.cc</u>
<b>FORGET-ME-NOT COMMUNITY CAFE</b> - Heather Thomson	heather.thomson@standrews.cc
<b>CHURCH FLOWERS</b> - Jeanette Payne	0113 266 3363
<b>CATERING CONTACT</b> - Hilary Owens	0113 266 4551
<b>RoCo</b> - Mary Shalvey	m.shalvey@btopenworld.com
<b>SELF ASSESSMENT SECRETARY</b> - Pam Clark	0113 293 7441
<b>ROOM BOOKINGS</b>	07584 269535 / bookings@standrews.cc
<b>ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES</b>	info@standrews.cc

## **Regular Worship**

Sunday Worship	Sunday 10.30
Messy Church	2nd Saturday of the month 15.30
Evening Service	2nd Sunday of the month 18.30
Communion	1st Sunday of the month 10.30
Prayer Time	Tuesday 19.00 for 19.15 (zoom)
Time with God	Thursday 9.15 for 9.30 (zoom)
Bible Reflections	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 14.00

## **Other Church Activities**

Badminton	Monday 9.30 and Thursday 19.30
Stage Crew	Monday 13.30
RoCo	Monday 19.30 and Thursday 19.30
Junior RoCo	Monday 18.00
Toddlers	Tuesday 10.00
Forget-Me-Not Cafe	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 12.30
Clocktower	
Community Cafe	Wednesday 10.00
Table Tennis	Wednesday 13.30
Twins and Multiples	1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 10.00
Indoor Bowls	Thursday 13.00
Roundhay Singers	Thursday 19.30
Knit and Natter	2nd Saturday of the month 15.00

### **Girlguiding**

Rainbows (age 4-7)	Monday 18.15; Tuesday 17.00; Wednesday 17.00 and Thursday 17.00
Brownies (age 7-10)	Tuesday 18.15 and Thursday 18.10
Guides (age 10-14)	Monday 19.30 and Tuesday 19.30
Rangers (age 14-18)	Tuesday 19.30

### **Scouting**

Beavers (age 6-8)	Tuesday 18.00
Cubs (age 8-10)	Tuesday 19.15
Scouts (age 10-14)	Friday 19.15
Explorers (age 14-18)	Thursday 19.30

Views expressed by groups and individuals in this magazine are personal and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the United Reformed Church, St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, or any member of the editorial team.