

Hello Readers!

May is upon us so that means your shiny new issue of our magazine is here! There is a new feature on page 10, Youth and Children @ St Andrew's. Here each month we will tell you about something our younger friends have been doing. This time you can read all about the March Family Fun Day.

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 June magazine is 15 May please. Articles may be emailed to 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

Empty Tomb

What happened today on earth? There is a great silence. A great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps. Ancient homily for Holy Saturday

As many of you will know who have ever heard me go on about the importance of our journey through Lent – and especially the rollercoaster ride from Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, to Easter Sunday - I have a strange attraction to Holy Saturday. I have even been known to refer to it as 'Tomb Saturday', on occasion. Obviously the whole of Holy Week is centrally important to Christians, especially Maundy Thursday and, crucially, Good Friday. I know I have spoken about how folk who leapfrog naively from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday are sadly likely to miss the point of Easter entirely. I don't mean this to sound condescending, as we all have different ways we engage with all that happened in Holy Week other than being present in church. But, in some ways it's a bit like Christmas (and in so many ways not!), that if you don't know what or why you are celebrating on the big day, well then, what is the point – what is it that you are celebrating? And, at a different level, it is equally easy to jump from Good Friday to Easter Day, whilst forgetting that over the space of three days Christ was in the grave. Hence, Holy Saturday.

"No one really talks about Holy Saturday, yet if we stop to think about it, it's where we spend most of our lives. Holy Saturday is the no-man's land between questions and answers, prayers uttered and miracles to come. It's where we wait – with a peculiar mix of faith and despair – whenever God is silent or life doesn't make sense." (quote: Pete Greig in 'God on Mute')

Perhaps no part of Holy Week gets more overlooked than Holy Saturday. Pete Greig, author of both the Lent course we have been using across our Leeds URC Partnership this year and the very readable book 'God on mute - engaging the silence of unanswered prayer', is also fascinated with Holy Saturday. The Bible tells us very little about this mysterious day when God was silent. Those from the higher traditions of the Christian faith strip their altars bare. But, generally, the Church has nothing to say about Holy Saturday – it is silent. And maybe that is not a bad thing!



Personally, I need that silence. After the emotional exhaustion of a week that culminates with a day staring at the Son of Man nailed to a cross, I need that space! I need to think about the tomb. I need to think about Jesus' dead body. If I am to truly grasp that Jesus died for me on Friday, if am to truly live in hope of the miracle of Sunday, then I need that space on Saturday in a cold dark tomb to wonder where God is!

They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him. John 20.13 ESV

Then, because of the darkness of Saturday, on Easter morning the sun rising seems so much brighter and more colourful and more full of meaning for me. For it is only then that the Easter adventure can truly begin! Lent ends with the silence of Holy Saturday, and the breaking open of the tomb, the grave, on Easter Day. It is then that God speaks to the world once again!

It is only after death by crucifixion, it is only after the dark silence of the tomb, that Jesus breaks free of the grave, having experienced its darkness. Christ is risen! He comes again to breathe life into us all, to speak to us, to answer our prayers and our hopes and our dreams. This is the brightness of Easter Day! But, I come to know it through the darkness of what came before. Knowing that he was in the tomb is the only way to truly appreciate that he broke free from it! And so we celebrate Easter's empty tomb!

I wish you every hopeful blessing in this season of Easter!





News of our Church Family

Congratulations to:

Lois and Mervyn Manning on their Golden Wedding anniversary on 29 March

Group Scout Leader Stephen Welburn, on his marriage to Evie on 5 April at the Merchant Taylor's Hall in York. Stephen is Anna Sweeney's grandson.

Unwell in recent weeks/ recovering at home:

Carol Parfitt, Mike Rowe, Diana Sutherland and Judith Wilson

Good wishes:

St Andrew's offers its good wishes to Alex Walker, Elder in Lay Leadership at the Church in South Leeds as he starts on a 6-month sabbatical. May this time be a time of renewal, both physically and spiritually.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for your blessings to us. We give thanks for the happy celebrations which have taken place in recent weeks.

Grant us a spirit of sympathy towards others less fortunate than ourselves; particularly we think about those people with ongoing health concerns.

Help us to be generous in our actions and in our words to those we meet today, tomorrow and in the days ahead.

Amen

News correct as at 14 April 2025





celebrate

Brenda Casey

I was born in May 1935 in South Leeds to Roland and Sarah Shepherd and was baptised as a baby into Dewsbury Road Congregational Church. My parents were both active church members - my father a deacon and Church Secretary. In 1951 I attended the Young People's Easter Conference at Cottingham which had a huge impact on me. I remember learning the anthems "God is a Spirit" and "God so loved the world" – songs that have stuck with me. I still treasure my first Bible in which

two German girls I met there wrote from the gospel of John "I am the good shepherd" (Gerda) and "my peace I leave with you" (Helvig). I became a member of Dewsbury Road CC soon after, at the age of 16. Sadly, my father died the following year at the age of 52.

I got married in Dewsbury Road CC in 1960 but shortly afterwards my husband Terry and I moved to Mount Preston. This was a restless time for me. Terry was not a regular church goer – he did not see the need to attend church to believe in God - and although we tried a few churches in the area none of them were what we were looking for. Then in 1962, we moved to Stainbeck Road and I joined Stainbeck CC and attended the ladies group there. In 1968 we were joined by our son Martin who was baptised at Stainbeck CC and enjoyed meeting other children at the Tufty Club.

I was very happy at Stainbeck CC, but we felt we needed to live closer to my mother-in-law who was unwell, so in 1973 we moved again, this time to Lidgett Park Grove. Rev Michael Taylor – the minister at Stainbeck CC – said he thought St Andrew's Roundhay would suit me, and so I began attending in the time of Rev Eric Allen and his wife Joan. I joined the Andreas Ladies Group, and the choir. Morning worship then was quite formal and the choir sang the introits, chants and anthems which we would learn at choir practice on Friday. We also had more informal evening services and I took my turn in leading them.

My life at St Andrew's has been very full. I was a founding member and convenor of the Pastoral Care Group and remain a member now. I was also involved in the Toddlers Group and the group that Rev Julie Martin developed from that specifically for new mums. I was ordained as an Elder in June 1980 and stood down permanently from serving in June 1997. I also acted as the Treasurer to the Andreas Group several times, was the Self-Assessment Secretary and helped count the Christian Aid collection. I was also involved over the years with the Flower Group and with catering.

I have also enjoyed opportunities for wider fellowship. In David Miller's time we had church weekends away, for example in Scarborough and at Wydale Hall, which were very useful to get to know people better. I got a lot out of spending a few days in Holy Island with a group of 17 from Leeds District URC under Rev Ruth Crofton and I am still in touch with friends from that time. I have also enjoyed sharing faith with Christians from different denominations during ecumenical gatherings put on by the local churches.

After Martin became settled at school my first voluntary job was at the Women's Hospital, Jackson Ave. changing flowers. Then followed helping with the Stroke Group which met in St. Andrew's Hall, and then I began volunteering at St James' Hospital. In the late 70s I became a 'hostess' in the Chancellor Wing and would help direct people to their clinics. After about 10 years I switched to driving families to and from appointments at the Child Development Centre which I did for about 5 years. It was good to be able to help people going through difficult times. Following this I helped with filing in the C.A.R.E. office at St Andrew's and in the late 80's /90's trained to become a Chaplaincy Ward Visitor and worked for several years on Ward 4 at Chapel Allerton Hospital chatting and listening to patients.

Following spinal surgery in 1993 I wanted to do something that would stimulate my mind. I decided to join the pilot scheme of the URC course 'Starting to Lead Worship', not because I wanted to be a lay preacher but



for my own interest as I was part of a Thursday Prayer Group and I believed it would help me lead some of the sessions. The course continues to be useful with the Bible Reflections Group of which I am a member and helped when the B.R Group led morning worship on 14 August 2022 and 11 June 2023. While I was not myself called to lay preaching, I was very privileged to be part of Geoff Ellis' support group as he trained for ministry, and I very much enjoyed working closely with brothers and sisters from Beeston Hill.

The other course I did that has been very useful was the 'Bereavement Befriending' course. This was an ecumenical course that was hosted by St Andrew's and led by Dr Robin Carmichael, and was really helpful in relation to pastoral care. So many people feel trapped and alone in their grief and offering that listening ear and friendship is so important.

My husband Terry died in 2016. Although he only went with me to church every so often, he was always tremendously supportive of everything I did and helped me whenever he could.

Now, as I am coming up to my 90th birthday, I still enjoy coming to church for Sunday morning worship and to attend Bible Reflections, Knit and Natter, the Clocktower Cafe, the Forget Me Not Cafe and church events. One of my greatest challenges is being able to get to church when I want to go, and I am so fortunate in having so many generous friends who offer me lifts

I enjoy our style of worship at St Andrew's, and the way in which different preachers are free to lead the service as they feel called, rather than being stuck with a rigid format of worship and prayer. My prayer is that there will always be some form of Christian worship in this area to help people come to know Jesus and share his love and care in the local community.

Brenda Casey







Long summer reads for the long summer months!

Why not try detective fiction?

The 'Dales Detective' Series by Julia Chapman follows two sleuths from a sleepy Yorkshire village as they investigate murders and discover the secrets behind the twitching curtains!





The 'Three Pines' series by Louise Penny explores the best and worst of complex and multi-layered humanity as Inspector Gamache and his team solve crimes in an idvllic small town in Canada.

If historical fiction is more up your street:

The 'Cousin's War' series by Philippa Gregory is set during the Wars of the Roses and chronicles the fortunes of key women involved in the long running and bloody struggle for the throne.





The 'Jacobite Trilogy' by DK Broster covers the events of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. Part love story and part adventure story, the trilogy tells the story of a close-knit community embroiled in a civil war.

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



Youth and Children @ St Andrew's



March Family Fun Day!

On Saturday 29th March, over 60 children and their families attended our Family Fun session. It was lovely to see so many families inside the Sanctuary.

The afternoon started at 1pm, and as the children and families arrived they were set the challenge of finding various knitted chickens which were hidden around the Sanctuary. The reward for finding them all was a sticker.

During the afternoon we had several activities on offer including table tennis, table football, pool, Connect 4, Giant Jenga, dressing up wigs and animal heads, netball stand and ball, lego and duplo, a toddler area with toys, and various box games. We also had some craft activities including making Easter baskets, rabbits and chicks on lollipop sticks, a rocking rabbit, and paper tube rabbits and chickens. The children could also decorate biscuits with icing to make rabbits or chickens.



A café was available throughout the afternoon offering refreshments until approximately 4pm. At 4pm we showed a film: 'Basil, The Great Mouse Detective', and pizza slices were served at the start of the film. The afternoon finished around 5.30pm.



Our Family Fun Days are free events and all are welcome. Donations are accepted for refreshments. Our aim is to welcome the local community into our beautiful Sanctuary and provide them with an enjoyable experience in a relaxed setting. We hope that families will be encouraged to

join us for worship at some point in the future and we gave them an invitation to café style worship on the next day.

It involves a big team effort to put on a Family Fun Day. Before the event we need to sort out publicity and distribute leaflets, reorganise the layout of the Sanctuary to accommodate all the activities, prepare crafts and ask people to bake cakes. On the day itself there are various tasks to be done – welcoming our visitors, serving refreshments, showing the film, delivering the craft and food activities, and having a first aider on hand. Finally, there is the tidying up after the event and setting up the Sanctuary for worship next day. There were so many people who helped with March's Family Fun Day, and I want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way. It felt special to be part of such a wonderful team.

Our next Family Fun Day is on Saturday 28 June.

Shona Parker

Cover photograph taken by Megan Westgarth in her Grandparent's garden



...These are a few of my... FAVORITE THINGS

To distract myself during a very long MRI scan I was thinking of all my favourite things, and then I thought 'there's a song there'... So whilst recuperating from my hospital admission, with too much time on my hands, I have written my version of 'My Favourite Things' from The Sound of Music.

Tied in with this, at a recent Forget-Me-Not Cafe Heather asked our guests to bring in something that was a 'favourite thing' and use it to tell the group something about themselves. I thought this would be a good item for the magazine. Why not tell us about your favourite thing and something about why it means so much to you? We could then feature it alongside a photo of the item and you.

Good friends and family, those dearly departed: Feeling so blessed that they're all so big hearted, My grandson Myles and they joy that he brings, These are a few of my favourite things.

Far away travel, the further the better, The places I go to I don't need a sweater, But also to London, watch out for the king! These are a few of my favourite things.

The Church magazine keeps me well out of trouble But sometimes there is so much I'm left seeing double. Pandora Jewellery, the charms and the rings. These are a few of my favourite things.

> When I'm not well. When the pain's bad, When I'm feeling sad, I simply remember my favourite things And then I don't feel so bad.

Nicely iced cakes and some fancy pants cup cakes -Some of my best ones have given me a headache! Of course I like nothing more than to sing, These are a few of my favourite things.

Maisie with one ear and Lucy the black cat. Pizza and chocolate are not to be sniffed at. Everything Christmas, gifts tied up with strings, These are a few of my favourite things.

When I'm not well. When the pain's bad, When I'm feeling sad, I simply remember my favourite things And then I don't feel so bad!

Claire Westgarth

10 May

22 June



14 May	Alternative Mid-Week Worship
17 May	Big Day Out
18 May	Elders Election voting closes

Church AGM

Leeds URC Partnership Away Day

28 May

28 June Family Fun Day

29 June Church Parade (Cafe Style Worship)

Roundhay Open Gardens

July Leeds Youth Opera (to be confirmed)

For more information on any of these events please email info@standrews.cc

Worship Dates

May

Sunday	4	10.30am	Family Worship & Ho	oly Communion
				Rev Tim Lowe
Saturday	10	3.30-5.30	Messy Church	
Sunday	11	10.30am	Family Worship	Joy Weightman
Wednesday	14	7.30pm	Alternative Style Wo	rship
Sunday	18	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Tim Lowe
Sunday	25	10.30am	Cafe Style Worship	
		6.30pm	Ecumenical Evening	Service
				at St Edmund's

June

Sunday	1	10.30pm	Family Worship & Holy Communion		
				Rev Tim Lowe	
Sunday	8	10.30am	Family Worship	Sheila Telfer	
Wednesday	11	7.30pm	Alternative Style Worship		
Saturday	14	3.30-5.30	Messy Church		
Sunday	15	10.30am	Family Worship	Joy Weightman	
Sunday	22	10.30am	Family Worship		
			Rev Dı	r Rosalind Selby	
Sunday	29	10.30am	Cafe Style Worship a	and Parade	
		6.30pm	Ecumenical Evening	Service	
				at Lidgett Park	



Cruising: Part 1





If you're thinking of going on a cruise you may wish to ponder a list of the 'aspects of cruising' which I have thoughtfully compiled for you:

NOx and SOx
CO2 and Particulate Matter
LNG and Methane
Bunker Fuel and Black Carbon
Scrubbers
Port pollution
Sewage
Grey water
Noise Pollution

Of course there are the good bits that I don't need to tell you about: rest and relaxation, entertainment, all meals prepared, on shore trips, etc

First, let's look at fuel. All of it is fossil fuel:

HFO - heavy fuel oil or bunker fuel is thick, black, tar-like and very very dirty. It is generally diluted with MDO - marine diesel oil - to comply with the many requests for pollution reduction. This fuel is still used by the majority of cruise ships.

LNG - liquified natural gas. This is mostly methane and burns clean so lowers the environmental impact. Cruise companies and newer ships are moving toward LNG and claim to be more environmentally friendly. However, there is the problem of 'methane slip' - the leakage of methane from ships' engines. This is unfortunate as methane is a powerful global warming agent that is more than 80 times more effective than CO2 over an 80 year period.

NOx and SOx - nitric and sulphur oxides are both formed when fossil (diesel and bunker) fuels are burned. They are injurious to both humans and the environment, causing, for example, cancer, respiratory and heart disease, acid rain and disruption to soil chemistry.

CO2 and PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) - again both are produced when fossil fuel is burned. It is well known that CO2 is a major cause of global warming. PM and black carbon are respiratory irritants and contribute to conditions such as asthma. When sitting on the upper deck of a cruise ship, it is possible to breathe air as polluted as that in Delhi. Black carbon from cruise ships visiting Polar regions speeds up the melting of snow and glaciers as heat is absorbed by the darkened colour.

So, a few things to ponder on. In June I will be looking in more detail about the rest of the list, and giving some observations from Greenmatch and Friends of the Earth on the environmental effects of cruising. Stay tuned...

Anne Hardiman



This month 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT' is The Clocktower Community Cafe



It's been a long time since I wrote about the café in the magazine – so long that even our name has changed! It is now the Clocktower Community Café because that is very much what it is – a resource for our local community. And thanks to it not being a terribly cold winter we have been able to continue having the café in the Sanctuary and not in the Memorial Hall.

What else is new? Well, having a "proper" serving counter and a dishwasher in the clocktower entrance has made the café so much easier to manage, AND even more good news is having the tables permanently up in the Sanctuary which is a huge bonus for all the helpers. Whilst we like to keep our "steps total" up, it's actually so much easier for everyone that the equipment is in situ.

Of course, the café would not be possible if it were not for the team of ladies who give up their time to come and run the café and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to them. The other BIG thank you goes to the ladies who bake cakes and donate treats on a regular basis.

Maybe you are reading this and thinking, "it's a pity I can't bake any more and can't donate a cake" – well, I have a solution to that dilemma! You can donate some money, and I have someone who is willing to bake for the café. She is then reimbursed for her outlay. This is a real help to the café so please consider doing this.



The weekly donations from the café go towards church funds but every year we have a couple of Wednesday cafes when all the money donated goes towards a charity. Last year we raised £1,377 for Christian Aid (including Gift Aid), and proceeds on the Wednesday of the Christmas Tree Festival week go towards the Christmas Charity Appeal.

There have been 2 fund-raising Wednesdays so far in 2025. In January, we supported Jo Mary when she was climbing Kilimanjaro: nearly £400 was raised to help three projects that provide safety, education and support to disadvantaged children in Tanzania and Uganda. In February we had a Soup Lunch for Christian Aid which again was very successful. raising a few hundred pounds for that charity.

We are looking for suggestions for a third charity to support later this year. Ideas so far are:

- St Andrew's Disabled Toilet
- West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project (WYCCP)
- Wren Bakerv

If you have a local charity which you feel we could support please let me know.

It is so good to welcome people into our church space and share fellowship. Having our church doors open (in itself a good thing) gives people passing by the opportunity to pop in and see what the Sanctuary looks like. You might be surprised at how many people do!

I cannot write about the café without mentioning the most popular item - toasted tea cakes! Even in the summertime, people still want a toasted tea cake. We try to mix it up sometimes with hot cross buns (near Easter) and even the occasional bagel, but nothing else seems to be quite as popular as the tea cakes. However, the homebaked cakes are always really appreciated.



Who can resist a slice of yummy chocolate or carrot cake at 10.30am (some of us make it a lunch substitute)?



The pictures show our advertising board which was beautifully decorated by Emily Clarke (Sarah Clarke's daughter) and one of the blue aprons embroidered with "St Andrew's" by the talented Pat Walkden.

We are also very grateful to Hilary Owens, our Catering Convenor who makes sure there is always plenty of coffee, tea bags, filter papers, etc., etc. for the café (as well as for the church as a whole).



I must also mention our very own Palm Court pianist, David Owens. It gives a lovely ambiance having the piano being played and every few weeks, David comes along and tickles the ivories. In recent months, another talented pianist has emerged to entertain us — the lovely Gwenda Rudkin.

A question for you, Dear Reader: have you mentioned the café to any of your friends or neighbours? It is a wonderful way to carry out mission, serve the local community as well as share God's love. Recently, we were the coffee stop for some young mums with their babies and young tots. We hope they will come again.



In 2024, we raised just over £5,000 in donations. How much in 2025 I wonder?

Look forward to seeing you at the Café!

Sheana Dudley





Election of Elders

The nomination form for the annual Election of Elders is to be found on the notice board opposite the disabled toilet and church.

There is one vacancy held over from last year. Two Elders are standing down in accordance with Church Rules. One Elder has resigned. The Elders' nomination for Church Treasurer is Heather Thompson, creating an additional Elder vacancy. This makes a total of 5 vacancies.

Nominations close at 6pm on Sunday 27 April. Election papers will be issued by Church Meeting on 30 April, and the final date for returning them is 6pm on Sunday 18 May.

Other details about the election process can be found in the April magazine.

Jane Bunyan (Church Secretary)









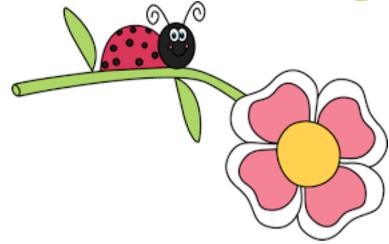
A musical celebration of Simon Lindley's life will be held on 18 October in Leeds Minster - full details will be announced on the St Peter's Singers' website and on their social media. Many people will know of Simon's contribution to Leeds cultural life and remember working with him on our organ restoration project.

Midweek Worship

The first midweek worship will be held on 14 May at 7.30pm in the Sanctuary. This will be a service of prayers for healing led by Rev Tim Lowe, and will include the laying on of hands for those who wish it.

Future services on the second Wednesday of each month will be varied in style and leadership. More details will be available in due course.







St Andrew's is once again taking part in the Roundhay Open Gardens on 22 June. We are also a refreshment stop. Please let Alex Jowitt know if you can offer an hour (or more) of your time to help in the garden welcoming people or in the cafe.

Electronic Weekly Notices

Each Friday St Andrew's Roundhay emails out our electronic weekly notices. If you are not getting these notices and would like to receive them, please contact Heather Thomson or email notices@standrews.cc.

If you want to include something in the Friday weekly notices, please email the item to notices@standrews.cc no later than Wednesday at 9pm.

Thank you!



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Regular Worship

Sunday Worship Sunday 10.30

Messy Church
Evening Service
Communion
Prayer Time
Time with God

2nd Saturday of the month 15.30
2nd Sunday of the month 18.30
1st Sunday of the month 10.30
Tuesday 19.00 for 19.15 (zoom)
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

Girlquiding

Brownies (age 7-10) Guides (age 10-14)

Rainbows (age 4-7) Monday 18.15; Tuesday 17.00;

Wednesday 17.00 and Thursday 17.00 Tuesday 18.15 and Thursday 18.10 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.