



St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church
An Anglican Methodist Partnership

NEXUS

Christ in Nether Edge & Us

Celebrating the church in
our diverse community



UK
ROCHA
Caring for God's Earth

St Andrew's
Music Festival



August – September 2017

www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk

Correspondence should be addressed to the Church Office, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL

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Who's Who

Minister	Rev'd Gareth Jones	Garethjones11@gmail.com	250 8251
Local	Mary Kenward	jandm.kenward@blueyonder.co.uk	281 1284
Preachers	John Harding	John.harding13@virginmedia.com	201 3516
Readers	Judith Roberts	Robertsjm4@gmail.com	236 1531
	<i>Pastoral worker</i>		
	Imogen Clout	Imogen.clout@btinternet.com	268 6645
	<i>Children's Minister</i>		
Children & Family Worker	Melissa Simmonds	Melissa@standrewspalterlane.org.uk	07818 727811
	<i>Children's Minister</i>		

Ecumenical Church Council

Wardens	Muriel Roberts	h.mcrowcafe@btinternet.com	255 1473
	Rodney Godber	rodney.godber@btinternet.com	266 3893
Stewards	Judith Loveman	jpl@lovemans.me.uk	255 1125
	Anne Hollows	anne.hollows@gmail.com	2493411
Chair	David Body	body.david@btinternet.com	268 6645
Treasurer	Joseph Dey	joseph@dey.co.uk	255 0953
Property Steward	John Cripps	cripps@uwclub.net	258 8932
Giving	Rodney Godber	rodney.godber@btinternet.com	266 3893
Secretary	Janet Loughridge	j.loughridge@sheffield.ac.uk	258 4164

CHURCH BOOKING

Caretaker Debbie Thirtle 255 3787

CHURCH ARRANGEMENTS

Flowers	Barbara Booler	john.booler@btconnect.com	258 7697
Music	Simon Dumpleton	simondumpleton@gmail.com	07734527449
St Andrew's	John Fieldsend	nicrite@btopenworld.com	258 2631
Hall bookings			

BADEN POWELL ORGANISATIONS – which meet in St Andrew's Hall

Brownies (Mon)	Chris Venables	chris.venables@blueyonder.co.uk	255 0805
Brownies (Fri)	Kay Smith	Kayelaine19@gmail.com	235 9741
Guides (Mon)	Jacqui Ford	jaxtimford@gmail.com	230 8040
Beavers	Karen	Beavers.72ndstandrews@gmail.com	07976601323
Cubs	Rich Wain	richardcwain@gmail.com.com	07990528783
Scouts	Tim Major	tmajor@hotmail.co.uk	07914450882
Explorers	See www.hallamscouts.org.uk/explorers.html		

(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow)

Welcome & Cover Illustration

Welcome to all readers of NEXUS. There are links to further information contained within the text and readers may find it easier to access the links by accessing Nexus on the web page of St Andrew Psalter Lane <http://www.standrewspalterlane.org.uk/>
 Nexus is curated by Anne Hollows 07723407054, anne.hollows@gmail.com

This edition of Nexus focuses on our links with the diverse community in and around Nether Edge and on some of the forthcoming events in which the church is involved. The next three months will see our participation in Sheffield's Pride festival, our involvement with the Nether Edge Festival and the ten day long St Andrew's Music Festival, as well as a conference for Eco Churches. We are also looking at the ways in which the church is involved in closer links with the community and the work we are doing as a church through the Eco Church movement and our Interfaith centre. Items for the autumn edition of Nexus should be with Anne Hollows by 11th September.

Letter from Gareth

Dear friends,

The last few months have seen a number of traumatic events in the UK. There have been the violent attacks in Manchester, Westminster, London Bridge and Finsbury Park. We have been shocked and saddened by the horrendous Grenfell Tower fire. Throughout this time there has also been a deep sense of political uncertainty both internally and with respect to our international relationships.

Faith communities have rightly reflected deeply on what has happened, and have recognised the importance of their own role in responding to events. The Sheffield Faith Leaders' Group, to which I belong as Methodist representative, and its executive arm, Sheffield Faiths Together, were involved with other civic and community representatives in organising a "Stronger Together" vigil on 23rd June to remember the victims of the recent tragic events, to honour the emergency services, and to stand in unity and solidarity with one another. Since then, there have been further initiatives involving members of Sheffield's faith communities, exploring what we can continue to do together to make our city a place of wellbeing and mutual support and flourishing.

It is right that faith communities should have a role in such matters. From a Christian point of view, this reflects the theme of incarnation, which is not simply the doctrine that God was seen with a human face in Christ, but also a broader conviction that the divine is not just an abstract reality, but is fully discovered in the nitty-gritty of human experience. Other faiths are equally committed, if by means of different doctrinal emphases, to responding to and engaging with the often tragic circumstances of the world.

However, religious faith also takes us beyond present realities. It reminds us of an eternal dimension of existence, beyond time and space, and invites us to see all human experience in the light of this dimension. In the episode in Luke's Gospel of Christ at the home of Martha and Mary, Jesus commends Mary as doing "the one thing needful" when she sits and contemplates his words. This has always been a rather controversial passage, because so many people identify themselves with the very practical Martha and understandably feel that she is being

unfairly criticised. The point, however, is not that Martha's general approach is wrong, but that she doesn't allow herself the space to "centre" herself, to find that spiritual core that gives coherence and purpose to her many activities.

When we gather for worship, we do not leave the world behind. Our prayers of intercession, in particular, keep the needs of the world and the stories in the news fully present. But our worship also, vitally, has a dimension of the "beyond", the timeless. We are reminded that all the events of the world, both the joyful and the tragic, happen in this greater context, and we respond to them in the light of God's being and God's love.

Love and peace,
Gareth



CONTEMPLATION

MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

This meditation was written for the Wives' fellowship last year. Some of the words were taken from John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford before Steven Croft, but some of them are my own. It will be in four parts.
Marilyn

The Lord's prayer is prayed millions of times every day but, for many of us, our concentration on what we're praying isn't all it might be! We're too used to it, especially as many of us have been praying it since childhood. The Lord's own prayer is immensely rich, giving us the material to reflect on and pray with for a lifetime. It is all we really need. Jesus was giving his disciples a framework for prayer which we do well to explore thoroughly all our lives and in all our praying. In fact, one of

its greatest strengths is that, if we are going through a tough time and don't know how to pray, we know that the heart of the matter is in this prayer.

It was after Jesus had been praying, that one of his disciples said to him "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." And this is what Jesus said.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.'
Matthew 6, 8-13

So let us discover how much is contained in each phrase.

Our Father in heaven; Jesus called God his Father, and we can too. Picture the vivid scene in Luke's gospel where Jesus was crucified with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left, and he cried out "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Our Father is in heaven. In more recent times, God has become female or even genderless and that can be quite hard for some of us to grasp, though I have really grown to like this alternative version by Simon Bailey.

Father and Mother of us all,
You are love through and through,
and we bless you.
Let your new world come,
let what you long for be always done,
in everyone, everywhere - and in us.
Be near enough to reach our need every day.
Be gentle enough to forgive us
the hurt we have done to you -
as we are gentle and forgive in our turn.
Never let us fall,
but draw us away from evil and the dark.
For we know that the world that is coming is yours,
all yours, in richness and beauty and splendour.

Simon Bailey

Hallowed be your name; May your name be holy and recognised as holy all over the place. Our society regards many strange things as holy or worthy of worship - money, sex, drugs and power are just some examples. So we pray that we will understand the mystery of your holy presence. Yes, hallowed be your name.

Nether Edge Festival 2017

The third Nether Edge Festival takes place from Friday 15th to Sunday 24th September 2017, and looks set to be both bigger and better than ever! The members of the Festival Committee (including a generous sprinkling of SAPLC folk) have been beaver away to organise ten days filled with excellent events showcasing individuals and groups in the community. I can't hope to mention every Festival event in this article, but here is a taste of the delights to come, including a number of events at SAPLC and Shirley House.

Saturday 16th (timing tbc) sees the opening event at Common Ground with music, dance, and food stalls, opened by the Lord Mayor. This is one of a number of new events for this year, and promises to be very exciting. On the same evening the popular Festival Ceilidh leaps into action at St Andrew's Hall, from 7 to 10pm.

The ever-wonderful Nether Edge Farmers' Market is on Sunday 17th from 12-4pm, with lots of information about all the Festival events as well as food, music, and stalls galore.

The regular Monday Knit and Natter session takes place on the 18th in Shirley House from 10 to midday. Everyone is warmly invited to this meeting, which features a demonstration of the Japanese art of making beautiful embroidered Temari balls by local craftswoman Yoko Terashita.

Last year one of the acknowledged Festival highlights was Sounds of the Spirit, an uplifting evening of sacred music and chanting from different faiths held at SAPLC. It is back this year, with a new line-up, from 7.30-9pm on Monday 18th.

The Festival Young Artists Exhibition has a new home at SAPLC this year. Art from local schoolchildren will be displayed on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st from 3pm to 6pm.

The second annual Festival Dinner will be at Baldwin's Omega on Wednesday 20th, 7 for 7.30pm. The cost will be around £20 for a three course meal plus musical entertainment from the Ad Hoc Quintet. As I did last year, I will be organising a table for any SAPLC friends who would like to join me – please contact me to book a place. All are welcome!

The weekly Friday morning Parent and Baby Group at SAPLC will be welcoming newcomers on the 22nd from 10 to 11.30am.

On Saturday 23rd the second annual Community Art and Craft Fair will take place from 12 to 4pm. Last year's Fair was very successful, and sale of refreshments raised over £600 for Church funds. I am again appealing for lots of lovely helpers to: prepare the venue on Friday 22nd; make and serve refreshments on Saturday 23rd; put everything back in order after the Fair ends at 4pm. You don't have to do all these things, but if you are able to help for a couple of hours or more, please contact me asap and put the date(s) in your diary now!

The climax of the Festival is the fantastic Party in the Park on Sunday 24th from 1 to 4pm in Chelsea Park. Come to the park and enjoy activities including grass sledging, a petting zoo (last year I fondled a ferret named Sparkle), brass band music, and lovely food stalls.

Yarnstorming, a popular feature of last year's Festival makes a comeback in a slightly different form. Led by local textile artist Lyn Carruthers, individuals and groups will be decorating trees around the area, including some in the grounds of SAPLC. The items knitted for the Yarnstorming will be assembled in Room 1 at Shirley House on Friday 15th, 2-4pm.

A veritable smörgåsbord of other events are available, including cricket, keep fit, talks (history, RSPB), quizzes, wine tasting, a Community Curry, and free taster sessions of yoga, keep fit, bowling, and art.

For details of these and all Festival events, as well as information about buying tickets for some events, please see the Festival Brochure, which will be distributed to households in Nether Edge at the beginning of September. It will also be available from some local libraries and shops. For up to the minute news and any alterations, please go to the Festival Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/netheredgefestival> or Twitter <https://twitter.com/NEgedefestival>

Following SAPLC's lead, a number of other churches in the area are putting on events including St Oswald's, the Salvation Army, the King's

Centre, and Highfield Trinity (where Gareth will be minister from September, in addition to his work at SAPLC).

The Festival does cost money to put on and advertise, so in order to raise funds and keep as many events as possible free there will again be a Festival Raffle, with excellent prizes to be won, which enables us all to support the Festival. Tickets will be available from a number of individuals (including me) and outlets. The Raffle will be drawn at the Community Art and Craft Fair.

The whole Festival is a huge celebration of Nether Edge and its wide ranging, multicultural and multi-talented community. It is marvellous that SAPLC is so involved with it!

Jean Allen jlallen1812@gmail.com

Talking Point : The church and the community

Looking for illustrations on the theme of the church and the community I saw a rather tantalising poster saying ‘This church has left the building and gone into the community’. I wonder what that would feel like and how our community would respond if we were to base ourselves outside the church? Much of what church members agreed as a focus for the future work of SAPLC at our recent away day concerned the ways in which we could build closer links with the community, looking both at our immediate community and the wider communities to which we variously belong. As with all such visionary events, there is a crunch point: who will sign up to work on the various projects and ideas that flowed so freely on a pleasant Sunday but are more challenging at the point of implementation?

There was a significant level of support for opening the church during the week and we have now agreed that this will happen on a daily basis during the month of September. We will need at least two people to be available during the hours of 11 – 3 and willing to make tea or coffee when required, as well as being able to talk to any visitors. If you are one of the Nexus readers who does not generally come into SAPLC, you may nevertheless appreciate the chance for a few moments of peace and tranquillity, gazing at the Creation Window. Or you may just wish to sit quietly for a short while, pondering the events of the day or issues

in your own life. For parents collecting children from Clifford School it may just provide a brief respite in the daily round of activity. For those waiting for a bus there may be a chance for 5 or 10 minutes of calm before hastening on to whatever business or meetings.

Beyond the point of welcoming passers by into the church, the next steps involve the church going out and building partnerships with the community. Whether this is through shared work in developing and running the Nether Edge Festival, through the outreach of the Interfaith centre or through a possible growing scheme on the land behind the church, it will be important that we can be known by our works, rather than by badges or t-shirts. Many members of the church are already involved in all sorts of voluntary activities in Sheffield and beyond.

Others give generously to a range of causes. We hope to 'harvest' some of the church's collective generosity in our 'harvest of the talents' at our own Harvest Festival on October 1st. The details of this will be circulated in September. Meanwhile watch this space: let us treasure and grow our engagement with the community and provide a welcome place for the community within the church.

ST ANDREW'S MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017

The festival this year continues to showcase outstanding local musicians as well as featuring a number of international stars. After a survey of local residents undertaken with the help of Nether Edge Primary school, requests included 'more children singing' and 'more world music'. So this year we have the Sheffield Young Singers on Thursday 16th November and a concert of Chinese music on Saturday 11th November. The Chinese music concert brings together Shu Jiang and Wenyi. Shu, who lives in Sheffield, would have performed in the 2016 festival but Brexit intervened. The Borders Agency was overwhelmed with applications just as she was due to return from visiting her mother in China. The delay led to the cancellation of her concert. So this year she will perform with Wenyi who will fly in from China especially to play with Shu. Wenyi is much in demand after winning the Gold Medal in one of China's leading music competition.

The Allegri String Quartet are the most famous British quartet. Performing since 1953 they have championed many British composers

including Benjamin Britten, Michael Tippett and James MacMillan. They will play be premiering the 19th quartet by the Sheffield composer, Ray Kohn. But it is their playing of Beethoven that has won them double 5 star reviews and disc of the month accolade from the BBC Music

Magazine. On Saturday 18th November they will be concluding their concert with one of Beethoven's final quartets. His opus 132 is one of the greatest classical works ever written and the Allegris are looking forward to bringing it to St Andrew's as their leader, Martyn Jackson, has already performed here two years ago and loves the hall's chamber music acoustic as well as the wonderfully appreciative audience.

The well-known singer songwriter, Neil McSweeney will perform on Sunday 12th November and the engaging Dodworth Colliery Band will appear on Tuesday 14th. As usual the festival will include performances by the young players of the Sheffield Music Academy on Friday 17th. The whole festival will kick off on Friday 10th with thenewly formed Hecla ensemble – high quality local musicians who have come together to present popular works in orchestrations for a smaller ensemble. The festival will end on Sunday 19th with the return of the attractive Gjylaci brothers who have commissioned new pieces for guitar and violin.

All the details of the concerts can be found on www.samfest.uk

from where the full festival brochure can be downloaded and from where discounted online tickets can also be purchased.



Shirley House Interfaith Centre

In addition to activities that we arrange or host at Shirley House and SAPLC, such as the excellent, sunny interfaith barbecue after Church on 2nd

July, complete with separate grills for Kosher, Halal, pork, beef and vegetarian products, we sometimes take part in other local interfaith events. On the weekend of the 17th June there was a national 'Get Together' weekend to commemorate the anniversary of the murder of Jo Cox, MP, who said; "We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us." These included a 'Bake Off' at St Mark's, Broomhill and a bring-and-share picnic with entertainment from

Roma dancers and various singers and poets at Heeley City Farm. There was a map to attach stickers to show where people came from, or had connections around the world, and it was widely covered.

Our big news is that some volunteers have been painting our room in Shirley House; it is now a nice cheerful yellow. This has been carried out by a group that use the room for (Buddhist based) meditation sessions. The paint was paid for with the money raised by the 'It Could Be Verse' entertainment provided by Ray Lawrence's Jewish performers in March. We now only have to put up on the walls the symbols of different faiths that we have produced during various 'Art and Craft' evenings, then the Centre will be fully decorated- thanks to contributions from members and visitors from a range of faiths . We hope you can join us in this welcoming space for the following.

Forthcoming events (All **7.30pm** unless otherwise stated):

- **Thursday 20th July CCI.** *'Let us Pray'. Joint presentation by Father Peter Cullen and Rabbi Golomb (at the Synagogue)*
- **Wednesday 23rd August-** *Sheffield Interfaith Food and Friendship (6.00-8.00 pm)*
- **Monday 18th September 'Sounds of the Spirit (2)'** - **Part of Nether Edge Festival** (In the Church) – featuring music or chants from Bahai, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim traditions.
- **November (date tbc) Presentation on 'Bicentenary of the birth of Baha'u'llah'**

All our events include refreshments and new people of any, all or no faith are always welcome, we do not have 'membership'.

Caroline Cripps

Christians Celebrating with Sheffield Pride

The last weekend in July sees the annual Sheffield Pride event, in which our church participates. What is Pride about and what does it mean to Christians? Sibylle Batten of St Marks, Broomhill and Broomhall writes:

Last year was my first Pride, walking with Christians at Pride at both London and Sheffield. The London Christians at Pride group was huge,



clergy with rainbow dog-collars and laity, a bishop resplendent in purple shirt dispensing blessings, young and old, humans- and a dog sporting a rainbow bandana, gay, lesbian, bi and straight, trans friends, all part of this welcoming and diverse community. With our purple Christians at Pride T-shirts

and banners we were an easily identifiable group, and as we were marching along, the crowds roared, high-fiving us, asking for prayers – who knew Christians could be so popular? It was church at its best – a place where God is Love.

Soon after it was time for Sheffield Pride, a smaller affair but an equally warm welcome. At our Christians at Pride stall we listened to heart-breaking stories of LGBT+ people rejected by families and churches, of worship leaders pulled off rotas on coming out to their church leaders, young people forbidden to work with children because they identified as gay. But we also celebrated, rejoicing with people who claimed their identity, their sexuality and gender identity as beloved by God.

Suddenly the atmosphere changed: a group of religious protesters with loudhailer were shouting about sodomy and sin, hellfire and damnation. For many this group and their hate-filled speech will have been the overriding memory of last year's Sheffield Pride.

None of it spoke of the God I believe in.

On 29th July we will be marching again, this time with a larger group and wider church representation, and the endorsement and financial support of the Diocese of Sheffield. The world has changed. The church is (slowly) changing.

“Why do you do Pride? Aren't we a bit past all that? Why is Pride even still necessary?” I'm asked sometimes. And then they remind me: “I mean, *you've won.*”

The truth is that we do Pride because of stuff like the protesters, and because of what that kind of thing represents about the world in which we all live. Because when forty-nine people living at the epicentre of the land of the free and the home of the brave can be killed for being in

a gay club, we haven't won yet. Because when there are parts of the world where people are killed for being on a Pride march, we haven't won yet. Because when being LGBT is still a criminal act in 72 countries and carries the death penalty in 13 countries, we have evidently not won yet. When same-sex couples can't get married in most churches, there are battles that still need fighting.

And so we'll be marching on the 29th July because God is an LGBT+ ally, the God to whom are all 'queerly beloved'.

Theology Everywhere:

Giving ourselves away by Sally Coleman

I like going to the hairdressers. I must admit that that was not the opening phrase I had anticipated opening a post for Theology Everywhere with, but I like going to the hairdressers. The time is booked, and I usually anticipate being there for an hour, wash, cut, blow dry, coffee, being pampered, but for me that is not the key thing. The real and lasting enjoyment comes not from a new haircut but from a deep engagement, and conversation with someone who I might not otherwise encounter.

Over the years, talk over the mirror has been about many things, from motherhood and daily life to deep spiritual things, especially when people find out who I am (I was going to write what I do, but I won't unpack that now, that would probably be the subject for a different post). I have been asked about ghosts and angels, whether I believe in the supernatural, about multi-faith issues, politics, justice, sexuality and so much more. The space is not my space; it is a commercial space where people come and go, a space I must respect and honour, and where I must win the opportunity to engage in conversation. Very often though, I find that those I have met over the years, who have held the power of scissors over my head, are hungry for spiritual engagement and want to talk.

I have found the same in other contexts too, in coffee shops, in placing stalls into town festivals, music festivals, and into Mind Body Spirit Exhibitions, not in order to win people to the church, but to meet with them where they are and to offer a space to talk. Perhaps the best thing about all of this is that each of these encounters has pushed me to think

more deeply about the God that I do and don't believe in, and to encourage those I meet to do the same.

As I reflect upon the Gospels in the light of this, I notice the way that Jesus simply encountered people where they were, how he encouraged them to drive the conversation, to express their needs, voice their doubts and ask questions. His responses were given in parables which again offered those with the desire the opportunity to delve deeper to seek out the meaning, and those stories, simple though they seem, are so nuanced that they still speak to us today.

As a member of a church that is asking deep questions of its future, what challenges me, and what I learn from Jesus' itinerant ministry, makes me wonder how we might create safe spaces for the type of conversation that I have been describing. How might it look if instead of being curators of Methodism and what it stands for, if we were to become chaplains, meeting people along the way and daring to journey with them. How might it look if we were able to find a way of making the most of our resources, relinquishing buildings and using those that are fit for purpose to their full potential. I know this has been an ongoing debate, and that it has its own problems, pains, and frustrations but we can't cling on to what is not the answer, and never was. The story of the people of God has always been one of journey/ pilgrimage; even the exilic accounts can and should inform our sense of who we are, and while there are encouragements to settling down (Jeremiah 29: 4-9), they are set in the context of blessing the people that we find ourselves amongst, which may again demand a new thing of us.

Yet none of this is new, these are questions that we have been returning to repeatedly, but so often with the underlying assumption that this is about the survival of Methodism and what it means to be Methodist, and while the theology of the Methodist Church is what has won my heart to Christ and the Christian walk in so many ways, I want to ask what would happen if we were to give ourselves away. To ask not what Methodism is for the present and future age, but to learn from the encounters that we have with those around us. I leave you with the words of Jesus.

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10: 39)

Sally Coleman is a Methodist minister in the Sheffield Circuit

Global Church

While our prayer focus has recently been on the shocking events close to home, the great hunger crisis in Africa hasn't gone away. TEARFUND resources for July paint a heart rending picture of the effect on families and communities of endemic, unremitting hunger. "Hunger is a killer, but it is also a thief; hunger can steal your dreams, your hopes for the future, relationships and your self esteem".

In Malawi alone 6.7 million people are in the grip of a protracted food crisis. Many of the men have abandoned their families in a search for survival, leaving young women who themselves have hardly known freedom from hunger, to find something with which to feed their children and elderly relatives. One young woman told an aid worker "All of my life I have struggled to feed my family. When I have nothing left to give them I give them anything I can find to ease their hunger; I know that soon we will run out of food completely. Hope is in the work of local churches and their development partners, providing training in better farming methods and bringing people together to share burdens, ideas and resources,

Please pray for all those suffering long term hunger: 795 million world wide, whether through drought and climate change or through the ruthless violence of groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria Let us remember them whenever we pray 'Give us this day...'

A prayer by Jonathan Pye, Chair of the Bristol District of the Methodist Church

You are generous Lord

You open your hands and you fill our lives with your blessings

You open your heart and fill our lives with your love

Teach us to be generous as you are generous and free us to share all that we have and are with our sister and brothers whoever they may be.

Make us compassionate in all things so that what we do in your name kindles hope in others and reflects your loving concern for all creatures.

(From Methodist Prayer Handbook Day 7. A new version of the handbook will soon be available).

Opportunities to travel to Israel/Palestine

Yorkshire youth tour of Palestine and Israel

In summer 2018 a tour of Palestine (West Bank) and Israel is planned for a group of young people (16-23) from the 3 Methodist Districts in Yorkshire. This will be organised through the Amos Trust who have organised a number of similar programmes in recent years. The travel is planned to coincide with the Bet Lahem Live festival in Bethlehem and will include opportunities to meet young people in both Palestine (West Bank) and Israel. Information available shortly.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage

In October 2018, led by Rev John Hudson Charles who writes:

Give me my scollop-shell of quiet

My staff of faith to walk upon,

My scrip of joy, immortal diet,

My bottle of salvation.

My gown of glory, hope's true gage:

And then I take my pilgrimage.

(Sir Walter Raleigh 1552-1618)

Throughout my ministry I have led pilgrimages to the Holy Lands. In retirement I have created a fresh approach with a different focus from the more usual pilgrimage programmes. We shall take longer at the places we visit, which are all key places in the life and ministry of Our Lord. I am very grateful to McCabe Travel, a well respected and highly experienced pilgrim tour company for their help and support in creating this journey

The details of our tour are contained in the brochures which are available in the church narthex. We intend to have an introductory evening at St. Andrews during the first week of October which will be one year from our departure in 2018.

The pilgrimage of 7 days, 6 nights, has been carefully prepared to fulfill two objectives: to introduce people to pilgrimage and visiting the Holy Lands; and to give those who have been to the Holy Land in the past an opportunity visit afresh some of the places they journeyed to in previous years. The programme is planned so that we make visits in the mornings, perhaps early afternoons leaving time to ourselves to be able to

absorb those things we have read about so often in the Bible. I hope to have an opportunity to invite someone who is working in the Holy Land to speak to us of their experiences.

We shall move from The Annunciation to The Resurrection, travelling from Nazareth to Jerusalem and concluding at the monastery at Abu Gosh just outside Jerusalem. That is where Our Lord was recognised in the breaking of the bread. We too shall break bread there, before returning home. We came as disciples, we leave as apostles, with stories to tell, experiences to relate, our faith encouraged.

My wife Rosemary and I look forward to welcoming you to share this journey.

Food and feasting:

Summer special: some cocktails without the alcohol. For those when you can't, or choose not to, drink the heavy stuff. Thanks to John Cooper from Christian Aid who collected these on Facebook.



Orange juice and cranberry juice 50/50, half a lime squeezed per person and top with soda.
Mojito-no: mix mint leaves, juice of half a lime, 75 mls apple juice and top up with lemonade.

Easy Pimms: 1/2 tsp Balsamic vinegar, 50/50 lemonade and ginger ale, mint leaves and lots of fruit and ice.

Elderflower cordial diluted with cranberry juice and topped up with lemonade.

Equal measures of cranberry juice and raspberry juice (or get the combined juice) topped with ginger ale and served over ice.

Pina Colada: 4oz coconut cream, 4 oz pineapple juice, 2 cups ice, blend and garnish with pineapple slice and maraschino cherries.

Elderflower cordial, tonic, ice, slice of lemon, gin (whoops, no gin!)

Gardening Notes

There were House Martins over Brincliffe Edge in June and July. There has not been room for them until the end of August before this year as the sky is normally full of Swifts. Where have the Swifts gone?



Their numbers are down to about half what there used to be. The Gatekeeper butterfly is missing this year too. It has been replaced by the Ringlet and Comma. I saw what must have been a Hummingbird hawk moth mid July. Very direct flight with wings so fast I couldn't see them.

After a cold start the year has been a good one for growing. You will have made several cuts of any hedges you have and the grass won't stop growing unless it gets very dry. If it does dry up what do you spend time and effort watering? Even after you have added humus to the soil and covered it with a mulch, if it is windy and sunny for long periods things will need help. Don't bother with the grass. It will be fine. Your pot plants, on the other hand, will not. They will need the water. I recommend a saucer of some sort under each pot. Recently planted subjects, trees on a dwarfing rootstock and vegetables all need the help. Courgettes, peas & beans when they are cropping and the greenhouse.

The balancing act with the tomatoes is to give them enough water so you get a good crop but not so much that they taste of nothing. If possible do your watering before mid-day. The afternoon is when the heat puts most stress on the plants. Water at the roots, (Sprinklers are for putting out fires!) that way you don't waste a valuable resource, and doing it in the morning gives the slugs less encouragement when they come out at night. If you are recycling water be careful with the soapsuds, the plants don't like them. If you have a butt fed by your downspout keep it covered to prevent growth of algae and mosquitos. When it is hot and sunny the greenhouse needs ventilating. The smaller it is the more it will need it. At the surprisingly low temperature of 27degrees C tomatoes don't like it. I have had the flowers fall off in protest already this year. Ventilation and shading are essential if you want more than just leaves with stalks! I have put a proprietary brand of whitewash on the outside of mine.

The Allotment Show is on September 2nd this year. It is a 1-day event. Staging from 08:30 , Judging from 11:15 and open to the public at 14:00. It is an event that has only missed one year since it started in 1939. Come and see. Bill

Speaking out in defence of creation

On 12th July, Jane Leach, a Methodist minister and director of Wesley House, Cambridge, said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme that "For anyone covenanted to the long term flourishing of the earth, its creatures, and its peoples, there will be many setbacks along the way; contracts will need to be made that take seriously immediate effects; some contracts will get broken; yet truly covenantal commitments endure." She was speaking about the Paris Climate Change Agreement, which was described by 19 of the leaders who met for the G20 gathering of nations in Hamburg, Germany, at the week-end as "irreversible". The statement about the agreement being irreversible was not endorsed by just one major economy. We're looking for similar expressions of support for climate action under the Paris Agreement by faith leaders equally worried about preserving life on Earth as we know it. If you are such a leader, post your opinion on social media using the hashtag #Faith4Paris. Here is the full transcript of what Jane Leach said:

"For those of us who rejoiced last April at the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the news that President Trump is definitely withdrawing the US from it is a bitter disappointment, little mitigated by the insistence of the other 19 nations that the agreement is irreversible. If the most powerful nation involved can come out of the agreement, what on earth does irreversible mean?

Accustomed as we are to thinking about life in contractual terms, it's difficult to see how the US withdrawal will not only fail to reduce carbon emissions across its own territories, but also undermine the very basis of the whole agreement. Unsurprisingly some developing nations are already voicing their fears about whether the compensation levels that secured their participation can be maintained without America's commitment.

A contract, though, is not the only kind of agreement: 'I'll do this, if you do that, and if not all bets are off'. In the biblical tradition there's another kind of agreement in which the commitment of the parties is not only to the terms, but to what lies behind them. So God makes a series of covenants with the human race. Despite the repeatedly demonstrated capacity of human beings for faithlessness, God remains faithful. Perhaps the most vivid and well known of these covenants is the one made with Noah and sealed with a rainbow: a sign that God will not

seek to wipe out the human race and start again with the earth, but will patiently work with us towards its fulfilment.

The Noah story begins with the building of an ark into which two of every species on the earth are herded in order to conserve them. In the news this weekend has been an announcement by the Lynx Trust that they are about to apply to reintroduce six lynx into Kielder Forest in Northumberland, 1300 years after they were hunted to death for their fur. The public argument is between environmentalists and sheep farmers about relative economic and aesthetic benefits, pitting a pastoral idyll against a wilder spectacle. Perhaps for most of us this is a curiosity for the Sunday papers and not something to get excited about per se. Yet for those committed to the rehabilitation of the lynx this work is part of a wider jigsaw of bio-diversity and global eco-systems – a goal beyond any short term benefit or cost that can be written into a trial reintroduction agreement like this.

For anyone covenanted to the long term flourishing of the earth, its creatures, and its peoples, there will be many setbacks along the way; contracts will need to be made that take seriously immediate effects; some contracts will get broken; yet truly covenantal commitments endure. So in the context of the Paris Agreement, Emmanuel Macron has said this weekend of Donald Trump: 'I never despair of convincing him because I think it's my duty.' The South American theologian, Rubem Alves, put it like this: 'We must live by the love of what we do not see; and a stubborn commitment to the future of our grandchildren.'

Eco Church: Carbon Conversations have now started!

In the last Nexus, I wrote about the Carbon Conversations course we were about to start at SAPLC. The first meeting (of 6) took place on 12th July and we planned the autumn dates for the rest of the course. If you would like to join, it's not too late – just let Chris Lowry or the Church Office know.

A reminder of what the course is about: at SAPLC (an eco-church) most or all of us believe climate change is a reality, and human activity contributes to that. As temperatures rise, there will be an impact on

everyone's life – it may affect our children and grandchildren more than us. But we can see the changes in weather, and we know of changes round the world. Inevitably, the poorest nations suffer first and most. So, trying to reduce our individual carbon footprint will help the quality of life for our own descendants and people round the world, some of whose landmass is already disappearing below rising sea waters. So, would **you** like to tread more gently on the planet? In the informal meetings, each of us will think about what we can reasonably do to reduce carbon emissions at home, at work, when travelling, through what we buy.

Interested? Here are the remaining dates and venues:

Wednesday 20th September; Tuesdays 3rd and 24th October, and 7th and 21st November. Cost: £20 each, for materials and refreshments.

Comments from previous Sheffield participants in Carbon Conversations

"I enjoyed the sharing and the no-guilt approach."

"Coming together with people from different backgrounds was eye opening and encouraging."



**THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
South Pennine Group**

www.southpenninehps.btck.co.uk

Also see us on Facebook



**AUTUMN PLANT SALE 2017
Sheffield Botanical Gardens**

**Sunday 17th September
11.00 am - 3.00 pm**

Wide selection grown by our members.

Free admission : Everyone welcome.

To carry your plants home and to help protect the environment by cutting down on the use of plastics bags, it would be helpful if you would kindly bring your own.

Church in the Community

Please note the article on the Nether Edge Festival and check the Church Diary to see the wide variety of activities taking place at SAPLC during the Festival.

Knit and Knatter

Mondays 10-12 noon Knit and Knatter. In Shirley House. Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638.

Nosh & Natter

The Nosh & Natter group is held on the third Tuesday each month. Much of the time is spent reminiscing about “old Nether Edge” events and buildings and I try to make a note of any special memories in one of the History Group’s Memories Books. Between 6 – 12 people attend each month, some on a regular basis and others occasionally. Most people enjoy one of Gareth’s tasty pub lunches or snacks. The next meetings are 14th August, 18th September (a week later to coincide with the Nether Edge Festival), 9th October, 13th Nov. and 11th December. Hope to see you there! Join us in the Union Hotel, 1 Union Rd, S11 9EF. Bring a friend. Everyone welcome. Contact: Chris Venables tel. 255 0805 email chrisvenables@blueyonder.co.uk or Sue Pass tel 255 6551

Parent and Baby Group

New baby in the family? Join our friendly group of parents - Mums and/or Dads with babies up to 12 months. Friday mornings during term time 10.00 – 11.30 at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. It's a chance to meet other new parents in friendly relaxed surroundings. Refreshments teas, coffees, other beverages and home made cakes. Cost: £1.50 per family per week Contact Muriel on 2551473 or Jean 2550198

17th Sheffield Monday Brownies

Mondays at St Andrew’s Hall from 5.45pm – 7.15pm. If you are at all interested, please contact me for further information.
Chris Venables. 07950 432487.

Church Family

Our congratulations and good wishes go to

Florence Body graduating with a BA in French and Spanish from Birmingham University

Alex Groves, graduating with a MChem in Chemistry from York University and commencing PhD studies at University College London

Caitlin Procter commencing a research fellowship in the Centre for Middle East Studies at Harvard University

Jean Callin on the award of an honorary B.Ed. from the University of Roehampton. This was awarded to those who had originally received Certificates in Education from colleges linked with London University before 1980, and was also given for services to education.

Jean graduated from Southlands College in 1942.

Margaret and Trevor Mann on their Golden Wedding

John Naylor following his 90th, and May Swabey following her 80th birthday

The families of Phoebe and Alfred Badger and Amira and Gabriel Bratton following their baptisms

We remember with gratitude

Jack Timmins, a former member of Horizon and a longstanding resident of Southcroft, who died in June aged 99

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Anna Harvey following the death of her father

Muriel Roberts in hospital

Young SAPLC

Sandcastles: Our monthly service for younger children and their parents/carers is on the second Sunday of the month at 9.15. All church members are welcome to attend these services and share in the worship with this part of the church family.

Junior Church: (Pebbles 3-5, Stones 6-10,) is during the main service at 10.30 – apart from Worship All Together Sundays. Children between

2 and 3 can join in the youngest group (Pebbles) with a parent/carer)

Rocks A monthly discussion group for 11-14 on the second Sunday of the month, during the morning service (10.30)

Boulders is a discussion group for teenagers with breakfast at 9.00 am, normally on the 3rd

Sunday in the month.



About our services

Sunday Services

Normal pattern: 10.30 am Service: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays Holy Communion service; 2nd and 4th Sunday, Morning Worship

Monthly services: 2nd Sunday – Sandcastles at 9.15 am

4th Sunday – Holy Communion at 9.15 am (using the Book of Common Prayer)

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion at Southcroft, 6.30 pm

Please note that the bread used in our communion services is gluten free. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are used.

Wednesday Services

At the 10.00 Communion service on Wednesdays, we reflect together on a piece of spiritual writing. This may be from one of the Christian traditions, or sometimes from another tradition of faith. The person leading the service will make copies of the piece of writing to give out to everyone. Come and enjoy an oasis of reflective calm in the middle of a busy week, and join us for coffee or tea afterwards.

Church Diary & Services

CHURCH DIARY

AUGUST

Thursday 3 rd	9.30 am	Church Office Volunteers meeting	Church Office
Saturday 5 th	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 10 th	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Wednesday 23 rd	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Sheffield Interfaith Food and Friendship	Shirley House

SEPTEMBER

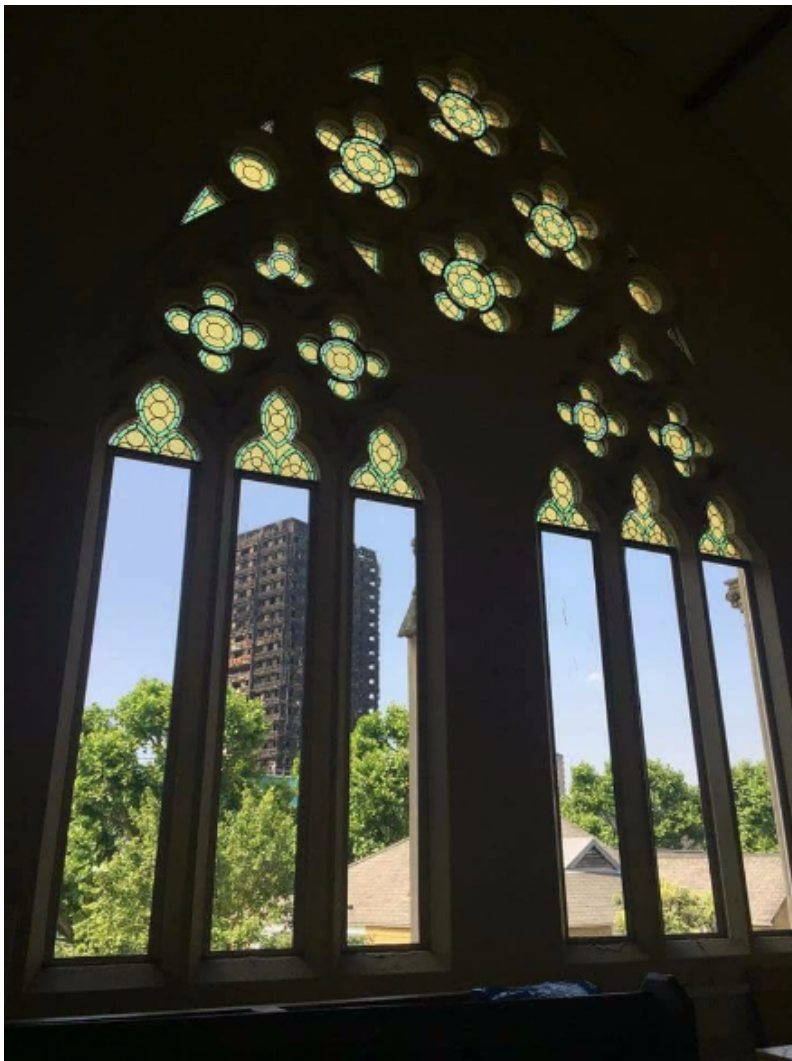
Saturday 2 nd	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Tuesday 5 th	7.30 pm	Property and Finance Meeting	Interfaith Room
Wednesday 6 th	7.30 pm	Leadership Team	Narthex
Thursday 7 th	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Wednesday 13 th	7.30 pm	Worship Planning	
Sunday 17 th	12 noon – 4 pm	NENG Farmers' Market (Nether Edge Festival event)	
Monday 18 th	7.30 – 9.00 pm	Sounds of the Spirit (2) (Nether Edge Festival event)	Church
Wednesday 20 th – Thursday 21 st	3.00 – 6.00 pm	Young Artists' Exhibition (Nether Edge Festival event)	Church
Tuesday 19 th	7.30 pm	ECC meeting	Narthex
Saturday 23 rd	12 noon – 4 pm	Community Art & Craft Fair (Nether Edge Festival event)	Church

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER SERVICES

August 6th	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion and Baptism	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
August 13th	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
August 20th	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
August 27th	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
September 3rd	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
September 10th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9.15 am	Sandcastles	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
September 17th	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 am	Boulders Breakfast	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
September 24th	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>

Last words

This month 'last words' is a photograph to ponder. It is the view from the window of Notting Hill Methodist Church, a church that found itself at the centre of support work after the Grenfell tower disaster. In your thoughts and prayers, please continue to remember all the individuals and organisations who work with all those who have been affected by this terrible disaster, and who will continue to do so in the months and years to come



St Andrews Psalter Lane Church will be open daily from 11 am to 3pm throughout the month of September for quiet meditation, reflection and prayer. People of all faiths and none are welcome to come into the church between these hours and if appropriate to find someone to listen to their concerns. Refreshments will be available.