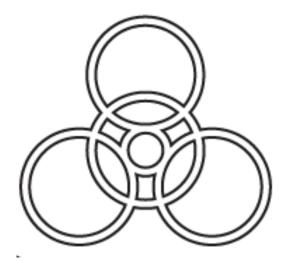
#### St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church



An Anglican Methodist Partnership

**Summer 2025** 

# NEXUS



Open Hearts, Open Minds

Exploring the Mystery of God

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SAPLC is an Anglican Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership. A place where everyone is encouraged to be themselves, wherever they might find themselves in life; wherever they might find themselves on a journey of faith.

We are a congregation seeking to follow the way of Jesus. We ask questions and wonder at answers, as we celebrate life in all it fullness and travel deeper into exploring the mystery of God.

We are an inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We are on a journey of faith. Come and join us.

Cover picture: Poppies; photo by Andrew Hindmarsh

#### **Letter from Naomi**

A pastoral letter will resume in the next edition.

## **Getting to Know You**

A series where we interview a member of our community. This month it is Emma Handy.

What brought you to Sheffield?

My Ecology and Conservation Biology course at the University of Sheffield. I wanted to be able to specialise straight away and not many universities allowed you to do that (in fact Sheffield doesn't any more either). The course in Sheffield looked better than the one in Edinburgh and was closer to my home in Huddersfield.



#### What keeps you in Sheffield?

I am currently in my second year and next year I will be on a placement with ecological consultants in Ashbourne. I deliberately chose a placement near to Sheffield so I could come back at weekends to enjoy the company of friends and the societies I belong to. SAPL is also a big thing bringing me back, especially now I have been elected to the Ecumenical Church Council. Then I will be back for my final year.

Why St Andrew's Psalter Lane?

When I arrived in Sheffield I participated in the Christian Union 'church search' scheme where you could accompany a group of students to local churches and find one that suited you. I ended up at Christ Church Endcliffe but, like all the church's on the CU 'church search' it was quite

evangelical. After a while, during a tough time in my life, I decided it wasn't what I needed and I thought I might not go back to church at all. I decided to give church one last try and decided to look for a gay-friendly church on the 'Inclusive Church Network' website and came across SAPL. I immediately felt really comfortable; I loved the hymns, the prayers, the liturgy, and the people were so friendly and genuine – it was exactly what I wanted. Christ Church had been all about challenging yourself and could at times feel really uncomfortable; SAPL is more about equipping and nurturing you to be more loving. It has saved me and my faith.

#### What work will you do?

When I finish my course I hope to work in government in some form, perhaps in DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) or Natural England.

#### What do you do with your time?

I love walking and wildlife watching. I am the Hiking Secretary for the APS (Animal & Plant Sciences) Society and organise walks around Sheffield and in the Peak District. I have also recently joined the University Swimming Club and swim regularly at King Edward's pool. And I do a lot with friends, meeting in the pub or watching TV in one of our houses.

#### What would be a perfect day?

My birthday is coming up and I am going to have a pretty much perfect day: a swim in the morning, a hike in the Peak District, a pub lunch, and a gathering of friends in the evening.

#### What is your favourite hymn?

Let love be real by Michael Forster. I have the lyrics up on the wall next to my bed and they show how everyday things can bring about God's kingdom. Simple but lovely.

Is there a book or film or piece of music you keep going back to?

By the Ash Tree by Slow Meadow. This was the music in my headphones as I came down the mountain after a week of hiking in the Alps going from one alpine hut to another. It is a slow piano piece and the most beautiful I have ever heard.

#### **United or Wednesday?**

I only watch England, both the women and the men. I have friends who support both United and Wednesday but I don't really care.

# **Contemplation**

A few days ago I was looking at A Rocha's website where I read an article about the big threats to the Swift population and the precious colonies visiting each summer. When we learn more about the mercy of God, we notice it in action; when we learn more about God's creation, we notice his handiwork. Knowledge helps us notice.

One of the reasons Swifts are in decline is that they have fewer places to breed. Nesting under the eaves of buildings and in the crevices in walls, their habitat is being destroyed as more new houses are built with fewer and fewer nooks and crannies. Add to this demolition, renovation and insulation and the future of the Swifts begins to look bleak. Eating thousands of flying insects a day, many can't find enough food to sustain themselves. So we can help insect populations to grow by not using pesticides and by leaving areas of our gardens, verges and fields for them to live and breed.

Not only are the Swifts crying out but the whole of God's creation is too.

Marilyn Godber

#### **A Prayer for Creation**

Dear God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator.

Our selfishness, greed, neglect and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him.

May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord.

Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen

From the A Rocha UK website

#### **A Joint Statement**

From Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the Revd Justin Welby (formerly the Archbishop of Canterbury), 2021

Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.

# **News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre**

#### **Forthcoming Events**

 Tuesday 10 June, 6:00 pm. Food and friendship at Shirley House



- Monday 16 June, 7:30 pm. Talk by Rev Andi
   Phillips on Artificial Intelligence and a Religious Response at Shirley House
- Thursday 14 August. 6:00 pm. Food and friendship at Shirley House

All Shirley House Interfaith meetings are live in Shirley House but include a Zoom link for those unable to attend in person. Links are available by contacting: shirleyhouseinterfaith@gmail.com.

See www.sheffieldinterfaith.org.uk, the noticeboard outside Shirley House, or SAPLC weekly newsletters and website for more information.

## **Annual Church Meeting**

The Annual Church Meeting was held on Sunday 11th May 2025 after Morning Service.

**Election results:** 

Stewards: Alastair Morris, Mary Mitchell

Churchwardens: Jan Owen

ECC members: Bill Atherton, Jenny Carpenter, Caroline Cripps, John Cripps, Joseph Dey, Emma Handy, John Harding, Anna Harvey, Anne Hollows, Clare Loughridge, Janet Loughridge, Peter Mitchell, Rachel Morris, Judith Roberts, Pete Sandford. Many thanks to them all for standing for office.

The ECC also has ex-officio members: Naomi Cooke (Minister), Anna Calvert and Julie Jordan Brown (Deanery Synod reps), Jenny Bywaters (Representing the Circuit), a Quaker Representative when there is relevant business, Circuit Superintendent.

# **Poetry**

#### **How To Read The Bible**

I'll read the Bible with a microscope,
The many hidden blessings there to find,
The gold that well repays my searching hope,
The jewels of the heart and of the mind.

With telescope the Bible I will read, So far and vast its shining glories are, So swiftly truths to ardent truths succeed, A bright-heaped galaxy of sun and star. I'll read the Bible with a garden spade
For hosts of seedling thoughts are growing there.
Transplanted to my life, they give me shade
And healthful fruit, and flowers richly fair.

I'll read the Bible with a light-poised boat, With crowding sail or with a labouring oar, For it has many a fairy-land remote, And many winding channels to explore.

I'll read the Bible with a miner's pick, For deep in solid rock its wealth is found; But ah, the secret veins are rich and thick, And glorious Eldorados here abound.

All instruments, all modes of eager quest, Find here their recompense of high reward, Find here the wisest, worthiest and best, The free and waiting treasures of the Lord.

Amos Russel Wells 1862-1933 (American poet, editor, author and academic)

#### **King David**

You won't know about rose-tinted spectacles Many people in our age wear chunks of glass
on our faces to see more clearly.
Perhaps you had an expression for viewing the past
as a softer, happier place?
Where all was green pastures and still waters,
you lay in the sun and the sheep never strayed.
In your head God, nearby, guards them with his crook,
and you were never afraid.

Or perhaps you imagine God as a king like you?

Enmeshed with endless enemies and wars, but more powerful; he can set a feast before battle, invite both friend and enemy to join him.

That God would not stay in the palace and send to battle the soldier whose wife you took.

Now, truly old, you look forward again, in hope, to dwelling in mercy forever.

Caroline Cripps

#### **Christian Aid Week**

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have been busy visiting neighbours and collecting donations for Christian Aid, and to all of you who donated. This year the collection has focused on indigenous farmers in Guatemala, whose crops and livelihoods are being devastated by both big businesses and climate change. Funds raised will go to vital agricultural training so they can change their farming methods and grow resilient crops. This will help to prevent malnutrition in children.

We don't yet have the final total for what we raised this year: I wonder if we can beat last year's total of £3,000?

**Caroline Cripps** 

# **Theology Everywhere**

#### The Church Through Different Eyes

There are not many books which get a review in both *The Church Times* and *The Financial Times*, but *The Divine Economy: How Religions* 

Compete for Wealth, Power and People by Paul Seabright (Princeton University Press, 2024) achieved this unusual honour.

The thesis of the book is in the title. Seabright looks at religious organisations (mainly Christian, but not exclusively) as though they were the same as any other commercial organisation, which wanted to succeed in today's world. It does not look at theological issues as such (although they are often close to the surface) but the effect churches have in a social setting.

A theme often revisited is, 'Why do poor people give money and help to richer people?' Seabright instances a young Ghanaian girl, Grace, who earns a pittance selling ice to motorists stuck in traffic jams in Accra. On a Sunday she donates more than a tithe to a church with a wealthy pastor bedecked with gold jewellery. On a less dramatic scale the same question often went through my mind when I received the collection plate at a church I served in the 1970s, in a very rundown area of Leeds, containing many (then very poor) pensioners. Although we as a family felt we were just scraping by, our standard of living was considerably higher than many in the congregation.

Seabright suggests that Grace 'benefits' from an opportunity to dress up, to be treated with respect, to find friends (and possibly a husband); she can sing and express herself, act as a 'greeter' and be responsible for younger and more vulnerable people than herself. I also think of a village chapel where many of the women who had known each other for years, and who were in service as maids etc, called each other 'Mrs' because the church was the only place they received that respect from others. Perhaps treating people with 'respect' is one of the most powerful evangelical tools available to the church.

Perhaps the most penetrating insight of the book, at least to me, is that it looks on church organisations as 'platforms' rather than as organisations. The word 'platform' conjures up today the digital universe of social media, search engines and apps, but Seabright argues that platforms, 'are organisations that facilitate relationships

that could not form, or could not function as effectively, in the platforms' absence.' It occurred to me, as I read Seabright, that Mr Wesley was ahead of his time in creating a connexional 'platform' which was more about relationships, with travelling preachers and class leaders, rather than an organisation. A platform facilitates relationships into which people can opt in or out as they wish or as they feel the need.

Seabright uses the idea of the platform to examine three areas which a platform understanding can address. First, what are the needs in individual human beings which religious movements address? Time and again he comes back to 'purpose.' 'Human beings find purpose in activities that have a collective dimension.' And religious organisations (unlike other purpose-creating organisations such as political parties) 'have access to historical traditions, and stories from those traditions, that give them a powerful edge.'

The second series of questions are organisational. For example, why do different religious movements flourish, split, or die? Seabright concludes, 'they turn around questions of mission, of structure, of strategy, and of message. The way in which religious movements make these choices bear a marked resemblance to the ways that secular businesses do.'

The final questions are about the use of power. One insight I found particularly illuminating was the way in which religious organisations are more eloquent about the need for the sacrifice, that violence strategies require, than secular organisations. They can articulate the need for sacrifice (and Christian organisations have an advantage here with the centrality of the Cross) more successfully that a political organisation, which may need to base its appeal to 'country.' Think of the Crusades, the churches on both sides in World War One, and the Russian Orthodox Church today. Perhaps one of the reasons the churches struggle today is that sacrifice (giving, service and commitment) are not popular in a culture of me, me, me.

I am, in conclusion, aware that a contribution to Theology Everywhere, which is about a book which is not about theology, may seem an odd choice. But my grounding in the sociology of religion has been a constant insight into the theology I have tried to proclaim, and the church leadership I have tried to offer.

John Lampard

# **Church Social Weekend (14-15 June)**

In place of our postponed Church Family Weekend we will have two social events. Everyone is most welcome to attend either or both.

#### Social Evening with Games, Quiz and Supper

Fun activities for all, whatever your age and abilities. Join in with as much or as little as you like.

Saturday 14 June: 5:30 - 8:30pm in Room 1, Shirley House

Please sign up at the link below or the form in church for supper so we know how much to order and any dietary requirements. We will adopt a "pay what you can" policy so that everyone is able to join.

#### Sign up here

If you would like to volunteer to bring cakes or biscuits or help with practical things on the day, please let Rachel Morris know (rachelamymorris@gmail.com, 07759062709)

#### **Social Walks at Longshaw**

Emma Handy will be leading walks on the Longshaw Estate. Meet in the car park by the visitors' centre.

Sunday 15 June: 2pm Short walk - just under 2 miles, then time together in the cafe.

3:30pm Longer walk - just over 4 miles.

# **Gardening Notes**

The biggest number of Swifts that I have seen this year is three! We used to watch clouds of 30 or more high in the sky. A memory shared with my daughter is of lying on the floor in the back yard together amazed as the black dots



resolved into birds swirling down towards us. But they are one of the casualties of industrial pesticide use and global heating. For some time



The Honeysuckle on our shed roof

I told myself that the bug splatters had gone off the car windscreen because of the more aerodynamic shape of modern cars. But early May's explosion of greenfly numbers put that theory into the bin. It was like old times with the windscreen covered. The clouds of greenfly were caused by the particular weather conditions we were having. Dry weather made the plants more susceptible to insect attack; warm days

allowed the greenfly to multiply. The cold nights triggered the drop in food supply that switched on the winged gene in the greenfly. They only fly when the availability of food drops in the plant they are on. So, the next generation get wings! Neat, eh! The bright sun in the day followed by the arctic air at night brought us lots of insects.

We had the most sunshine in April for 100 years. This March was the dryest on record. Last March was the wettest. What can we do? If you can fit a water butt in your garden, please do. Your soils can hold a lot of water if there is enough humus in it. Back to my song about making and adding leaf mould and using it as a mulch. Don't worry if your lawn goes brown. It will be fine. Potted plants need watering and standing

in saucers. Any fruit trees you have want water too. But hasn't the dry/cool weather given us beautiful flowers!

I have never before had plants that I raised from seed die within a week of planting. But the scorching sun did that in May. Those that survived had better shading. Shading has been essential in the greenhouse. Even with that the tomatoes are showing signs of stress. I have sewn green manure plants more this year, Mustard, Clover and Fenugreek. Planting lettuce,



Comma butterfly on Apple blossom

radish or other quick growing edibles in the spaces you need to leave



I can't remember the name of this flower, but it is beautiful

for brassicas gets a quick return on that space. It also covers the soil to prevent leaching. That is me anticipating a problem we haven't had yet this year. The dry weather has meant very little damage from slugs.

For all I know it will be pouring with rain by the time you read this.

When planting flowers growing those shaped like daisies will give more benefit to the insets. As summer progresses the weather warms and

the predators that eat greenfly will turn up. It is the larval stage that consume most of the greenfly. The adults need pollen and nectar.

Sunflowers are magnificent. Snapdragons are fun.

I think I mention recently that there are good podcasts about gardening. I have found them useful and interesting.

Enjoy your garden, big or small. Don't forget the suncream!

Bill

## **Church and Community**

#### **Knit and Knatter**

Mondays, 10-12:00, Shirley House

Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638

#### 17th Sheffield Brownies

Mondays, 17:45-19:15, St Andrew's Hall Contact: Chris Venables, 07950 432487

#### The Tuesday Café

Tuesday 14:00-16:00 Shirley House



Young Jesus at Bath Time

The Tuesday Café is our café for people living with memory loss or dementia and their carers.

# **Church Family**

Congratulations to **Sophie Peel-Yates** who has been appointed as Lay Worker for Hospitality, Pastoral Care and Children. Sophie has a huge amount of experience working with people of all ages and we very much look forward to working with her. Sophie will be based at SAPLC and will also lead the parent and toddler group at Highfield Trinity Church, working with the dedicated team there. We hope that Sophie will start in this role in August and ask that you pray for her as she prepares for this new role.

We were delighted to hear that our good friend **Cyril** had received an invitation to take part in the VE day celebrations in London and to have tea at Buckingham Palace. You may have caught a glimpse of him on television, watching the parade, seated directly behind Princess Charlotte and Prince George.

We pray for those with health concerns: Pam Frost, Q Ackom-Mensah, Helen Mannion (Barbara and John Booler's daughter), Tom Reavey, Hilary Jowett, Mark Stone, Blanca and Fiona, Maggie and Pete, Hanna and Jan Birch

We were very sorry to hear of the deaths of three of our members:

**Trevor Mann** came to worship at SAPLC from Carterknowle Methodist Church with his wife, Margaret, some years ago. Following Margaret's death, he continued to join us on Sunday mornings while his health permitted. Please remember Lisa and Jonathan and all the family in your prayers.

**Sandra Snook**. Sandra and Mike have been much loved and valued members of Psalter Lane Methodist Church and then of SAPLC since the formation of the LEP. Please hold Sandra's family, especially Mike, and all those who love her in your prayers.

John Kenward. John was a much loved and valued member of Psalter Lane Methodist Church and then SAPLC. John and Mary were both very involved in the discussions and decision-making when the LEP was formed in 1997-8. John will be sorely missed. We send our love and condolences to Mary, Debbie and Nigel and all the family.

Finally, special greetings to all those of you who can't get to church but who join us online for worship or who keep in touch with us through your Church Links visitor. We do think of you and value your prayers and support.

#### **Services**

Services are held in the Church every Sunday and are also livestreamed and recorded. The links to online services will be sent by email on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to all on our list, and are also on the Home Page of the SAPLC website.

#### **Sunday Services Each Month**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Morning Worship	10:30 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	9:15 am
	Morning Worship	10:30 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30 am

Please note that this is not a set pattern – please check the list below, the church website or the weekly newsletter for up-to-date details.

Gluten free bread is always available in our Sunday communion services. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are normally used.

Junior Church takes place during the main 10:30 am services (except All Age Worship services). Children between 2 and 3 can join in with a parent/carer.

#### **Wednesday Services**

Every Wednesday 10:30 am

Sacred Space 7:30 pm, last Thursday of the month

# **Church Diary**

### **Services**

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	10:30 am	Morning Worship	Judith Roberts
	31 August	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	
	_	·	Rev Naomi Cooke

#### **Other Events**

Saturday 7 June	9:30 am onwards	Working Party	Church Grounds
Wednesday I I June	7:30 pm	Eco Group meeting	Interfaith Room, Shirley House
Saturday 14 June	5:30 - 8:30pm	Social evening with games, quiz and supper	Room 1, Shirley House
Sunday 15 June	2:00 pm Short walk 3:30 pm Longer walk	Social walks, led by Emma Handy	Longshaw Estate
Monday 16 June	7:30 pm	Interfaith event: Rev Andi Phillips speaking on 'Artificial Intelligence and Theology'	Shirley House Landing
Tuesday 17 June	7:30 pm	Worship Planning Meeting	Room 3
Sunday 22 June	12 noon	NENG Farmers Market	
Saturday 5 July	9:30 am onwards	Working Party	Church Grounds
Wednesday 16 July	7:30 pm	Property & Finance Meeting	Shirley House Landing
Tuesday 22 July	7:30 pm	ECC meeting	Narthex
Monday 28 July	2:00 pm	Interfaith Committee meeting	Interfaith Room, Shirley House
Saturday 6 August	9:30 am onwards	Working Party	Church Grounds

# **Who's Who and Contact Details**

Minister	Rev Naomi Cooke	minister@standrewspsalterlane.org.uk	250 8251
Other clergy in the ministry team	Rev Cheryl Collins	cheryl62collins@btinternet.com	0774 055 7944
	Rev Michael Wildgust	michael.wildgust@hotmail.com	255 1485 0778 910 6765
Local	Jenny Carpenter	jennyc106@btinternet.com	266 4532
Preachers	John Harding	john.harding13@virginmedia.com	201 1531
	Mary Kenward *	jandmkenward@blueyonder.co.uk	281 1284
	Mary Boshier *		
	Josie Smith *	f.josie.smith@gmail.com	266 2491
	Chris Sissons	csissons079@aol.com	0788 735 2841
Readers	Judith Roberts Pastoral worker	robertsjm4@gmail.com	236 1531
	* Not currently taking appointments		

Ecumenical Church Council			
Wardens and Stewards	Jan Owen Alastair Morris Mary Mitchell	janowen@doctors.org.uk morris@alastairmorris.com mary.e.mitchell14@gmail.com	0777 626 1594 0795 602 1439 0781 744 3993
Chair	Anna Calvert	annacalvert1@gmail.com	0742 929 2898
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	janet.loughridge.45@gmail.com	258 4164

Church Office	Staffed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings		
Administrator	Chris Heald	office@standrewspsalterlane.org.uk	267 8289
Policies and Communic- ations Officer	Clare Loughridge	clare@standrewspsalterlane.org.uk	258 4164

Church Booking			
Caretaker	Linnea Pettersson	bookaroom@ standrewspsalterlane.org.uk	255 3787
St Andrew's Ha	ll Booking		
Booking	John Fieldsend	nicrite@btopenworld.com	258 2631
Church Arrange	ements		
Flowers	Barbara Booler	john.booler14@gmail.com	258 7697
Music	Liz Bentley	elizabethbentley@live.co.uk	0791 745 1190
Baden Powell (	Organisations which	n meet in St Andrew's Hall	
Brownies <i>Monday</i>	Chris Venables	chris.venables@blueyonder.co.uk	0795 0432487
Guides <i>Monday</i>	Jacqui Ford	jaxtimford@gmail.com	230 8040
Beavers	Nick Dulake	beavers.72ndstandrews@gmail.com	
Cubs	Rich Wain	richardcwain@gmail.com.com	0799 052 8783
Scouts	Tim Major	tmajor@hotmail.co.uk	0791 445 0882
Explorers	See www.hallamscouts.org.uk/explorers.html A District Group which meets at Ringinglow		

# **Next Edition**

Closing date for the Harvest issue: 22 August 2025

All contributions to: ashindmarsh@outlook.com