



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

NEXUS

Christ in Nether Edge & Us



February 2019 – March 2019

www.standrewspalterlane.org.uk

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

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(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow)

Welcome

Welcome to all readers of NEXUS. Spring is on the way as afternoons lengthen and bulbs start to flower. This edition includes the Welcome Manifesto for asylum seekers developed by churches in Italy and an article on sanctuary in the UK. Our gardening correspondent has contributed a heartfelt plea on global heating. There is also information about a Sheffield based pilgrimage to Palestine, organised by the Amos Trust. There are links to further information within the text and it will be easier to access those links from our web page

<http://www.standrewspalterlane.org.uk/> Nexus is curated by Anne Hollows 07723407054, anne.hollows@gmail.com The next edition of Nexus will cover April and May 2019. Contributions are welcome and will be needed by Wednesday 20th March.

Letter from Gareth

Dear friends,

Jean and I always spend a few days in London around the new year as part of our post-Christmas break. This involves meeting up with friends, visiting bookshops and art galleries and going to a concert or two, and in addition I sometimes like to drop in to a few of London's impressive and diverse churches.

One of the first places I tend to visit is Westminster Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Cathedral close to Victoria Station – partly because of the excellent St Paul's bookshop next door, but mainly because of the inspiring beauty of its design. The Stations of the Cross were created by the sculptor Eric Gill in 1914, but the most stunning feature of the interior of the building is probably the mosaics, with their remarkably rich colours, in both the main body of the church and the smaller chapels. The upper half of the Cathedral is unfinished, and I rather hope it remains so, for the sense of mystery and depth you have as you gaze up into the darkness.

In recent years, I've visited a very different (and much smaller) cathedral: the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Dormition, found among the opulent dwellings of Knightsbridge. This is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Sourozh, the Russian diocese for Great Britain and Ireland, and it was originally built as an Anglican church in 1849 before being converted into a Russian Orthodox church in 1978. As with all Orthodox churches, the walls are covered with icons, most of them fairly recently painted (or, more correctly, "written"), and the Cathedral invites contemplation of the great themes of Christian faith and spirituality.

Very different again is Friends' House, to be found opposite Euston Station. As the name suggests, Friends' House is the national headquarters of the Quakers, and as well as being a place of worship it also functions as a conference venue and houses an excellent bookshop, library and café. As you would imagine, the building is much plainer than either of the other two, but it has a classical beauty and encourages a sense of calm and groundedness as you walk through its corridors.

London abounds in places of worship of all faiths, of course. This year, we were staying in Willesden Green, a suburb new to us, and I took

the opportunity to visit a place of worship that I'd known about but never been to, two stops along the Jubilee Line in Neasden. This was the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, to my knowledge one of the two largest Hindu temples in the UK. The Swaminarayan tradition was founded in Gujarat in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and although it has its own distinctive approach to the Hindu faith, Hindus of all traditions visit the temple in Neasden, not least to marvel at its wonderful architecture and authentic devotional carvings.

There are other places I could mention, and I know that several members of SAPLC have favourite London churches that have particular meaning for them; and I'm conscious that I haven't mentioned any of the Anglican and Methodist churches that might be high on people's lists. Religious faith is about much more than buildings, but places of worship, whether for regular worshippers, pilgrims or visitors to the area, provide a physical space and home for our spiritual consciousness. As T.S. Eliot wrote of the church at Little Gidding: "You are here to kneel/ Where prayer has been valid."

Peace and love,
Gareth



CONTEMPLATION

KINDNESS

Although I am grateful,

I rarely appreciate the kindness of others
as deeply or as warmly as I should.

Help me to be attentive to the kindness which comes to me,
for the small courtesies and considerations,
for the delicate movements of graceful politeness.

Help me, I pray, to remain kind my words and in my attitudes,
in my habits and in my spontaneous actions.

Give me a kindly spirit,
kind words
and a kind heart.

Save me from the cynical and cruel tendencies which lie within.

Save me too from being anodyne or dull.

Save me most of all from the curse of patronising niceness.

May I be neither a giver nor a receiver
of anything bland or diminishing.

Make me robust and kind,
honest and kind,
compassionate and kind.

Make me a good companion to others, many others,
whether our time together is marked
by decades or seconds.

Give me the gift of kindness.

Stephen Cherry

***This is the last of a series of four poems following Simplicity,
Patience & Courage, provided by Marilyn Godber***

Talking Point :

In the first of a series of Talking Points on ‘Radical Hospitality’ here is a reprint of a recent post from JPIT,

If you are not a migrant but part of a community or society that is receiving migrants, International Migrants’ Day (December 18th) is a day to think about offering a hand of welcome and friendship.

If you are a migrant yourself, it is a day to think about your experiences of arrival and settling.

For all of us, it is a day to acknowledge and celebrate the richness that migration brings in terms of sharing culture and to give thanks for the welcome and friendship that is extended (whether that is from people arriving or people receiving!).

An example of what receiving communities can do has been the work of our partner churches in Italy through the [Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy \(FCEI\)](#). In August the FCEI Council approved a statement, a “Welcome Manifesto”, which declares the intention of the church to be a place of welcome and hospitality. The text of this declaration is below. The FCEI wants people to know that the Church stands for humanitarian protection, respect of human rights and human dignity, supports solidarity between nations and which challenges racism and xenophobia.

The Welcome Manifesto is grounded in scripture and calls for a transformation attitudes and policies with regards to the question of how receiving communities respond to refugees and migrants.

**What would your church’s Welcome Manifesto look like?
What are the points that you would like to make to society and to politicians?**

And what areas of the Church’s life need to be included in ensuring that we belong to churches that welcome?

In the last week, new global agreements on how governments respond to refugees and migrants have been adopted. You can read more about the United Nations process around these, which the World Council of Churches and the ACT Alliance have engaged in and helped shape, at <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/>

Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI) has developed the

following Welcome Manifesto

This is a church which welcomes...

“In as much as you have done this for one of the least of my brothers, you have done this for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

God comes to us as a stranger: by pushing away those who seek our help we close the door to Jesus who looks for us and reaches out his hand to us.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)

We declare that faith in Christ commits us to welcoming those who knock at our door in search of help, protection and care.

“On the day that God created humankind, he did so in his own image.” (Genesis 5:1b)

We affirm that every man, woman and child is a creature of God, made in his own image and, therefore, that no one may be discriminated against on the basis of colour, religion or gender identity. Every form of racism is, for us, a theological heresy.

“Cursed is he who tramples on the rights of the foreigner.” (Deuteronomy 27:19)

We are called to defend the lives, dignity and rights of migrants, asylum seekers, Roma, ethnic and religious minorities, and all those who are persecuted and marginalised.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek...because you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

The Gospel of Christ tears down ethnic differences and calls us to be a Church which is open to encounter and exchange, in which Italians and immigrants live the Christian faith together.

“A man came down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and was set upon by bandits who stripped him, beat him and then went off, leaving him half dead. [...] A Samaritan, on seeing him, had compassion for him; he went to him, bound his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them, put him on his own mount, took him to an inn and took care of him.” (Luke 10:30, 33-34)

We value and support those who save the lives of migrants and victims of human trafficking, and those who guarantee humanitarian rescue both

in the Mediterranean and in the Alpine passes.

....and so

We reject as false the assertion that welcoming migrants is at odds with meeting the needs of Italians, because a country which is amongst the richest in the world has the resources to guarantee both and because we know that, in time, new immigrants will themselves constitute a resource for a country such as Italy which is in significant demographic decline.

We are committed to guaranteeing humanitarian corridors for the benefit of asylum seekers which provide a safe and legal means for them to arrive in Europe. We do so ecumenically and always in accordance with European law.

We believe in the need to integrate immigrants into a welcoming society, capable of promoting intercultural encounter and exchange according to the principles of the Italian Constitution.

We oppose the Italian and European policy of closing borders, deportation and reducing guarantees of international protection for asylum seekers, all the more so when UN institutional sources attest to systematic violation of human rights in countries of departure and transit.

We ask all – but most particularly those with institutional responsibilities – to adopt language which respects the dignity of migrants and to evidence in their actions their opposition to xenophobic and racist attitudes.

We denounce and criticise the political campaign against immigrants and asylum seekers which, given reducing numbers of arrivals, perfectly sustainable within in a framework of European solidarity, serves only to exacerbate and sensationalise public debate.

We appeal to our sister churches in Europe because they too welcome a share of the world's asylum seekers and urge their governments to promote a policy of sharing migratory flows in a framework of solidarity and shared responsibility.

Remembering the words of the apostle: “If I speak in the tongues of men and angels but have no love, I am but a clanging gong or a sounding cymbal.” (1 Corinthians 13:1), we affirm that the love of God for

humanity is stronger than our personal or national self-interest and that we are called to witness to this every day with joy, hope and trust.

This “Welcome Manifesto” was approved on 8th August 2018 by the Council of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI).

Vacancy: Curator/Editor of Nexus

During the past three years I have edited Nexus and tried to add some new features. Most editions take around 4 days of my time, as contributions are hard to come by and much of the material is written or sourced by me. As I have taken on a demanding new role in relation to refugees in Sheffield, it will be difficult to continue this role – and I’m uncertain how much you enjoy the new features. I am prepared to continue for the remainder of 2019, giving time for a willing volunteer to work alongside me for a few issues to get the hang of it all. Please let me know if you would be interested either by email anne.hollows@gmail.com or by phone 07723407054

Christian Aid Roadshow

Don’t miss this opportunity to find out more about key challenges in moving to a more just and equal world. February 25th at St Andrews Psalter Lane 7pm – 9pm. See the back page of this edition of Nexus for more details

Interfaith News

News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre

One thing I enjoy about publicising our interfaith events is taking flyers round to local shops. Down to Earth Wholefoods in Sharrowvale has a huge noticeboard

behind the door with advertisements for lots of other interesting activities and talks, often based on various approaches to spiritual well-being. And both

newsagents there are run by Muslims who are keen to talk about our



events and what we share in our beliefs. On one occasion I met a Sikh customer in the shop and was able to tell him about the talk we had just heard on Sikhism; of course he knew the speaker so he was almost a friend of a friend. Though none of these shopkeepers has attended Shirley House, they welcome our posters and do not charge, as a gesture of interfaith friendship. Beyond these contacts, some people turn up at our events because they have seen our noticeboard outside Shirley House or our flyers in the shops. If you regularly visit a shop or community building with a noticeboard for local events, please take a notice for our forthcoming events- it might lead to interesting conversations and even new friendships.

Forthcoming Events:

Sun 13th Jan. Art & Craft afternoon (with tea & cakes) 2.30-4.30 pm. Includes joint tea with the Quakers around 3.45.

Thursday 24th Jan. SIF Food & Friendship dinner 6.00-8.00 pm

Monday 11th Feb. 7.30. Talk about the Faith Action Survey carried out to ascertain the social actions carried out by faith groups in the city, either working separately or as interfaith teams.

Tuesday 19th Feb. SIF Food & Friendship dinner 6.00-8.00 pm

Tuesday 19th March. 7.30. Film show (film still to be decided)

Caroline Cripps

From the World Church

Providing sanctuary should be ‘source of national pride’

Methodist Recorder, 11th January 2019 By John Singleton

As groups of migrants continued to attempt to cross the English Channel in small boats to seek asylum in the UK, policy advisor to the Methodist Church in Britain Steve Hucklesby said “our ability to provide

sanctuary to those who are fleeing persecution should be a source of national pride. While controls are needed, we must not allow ourselves to become hard-hearted towards those who put their lives on the line to find security for themselves and their families,” he told the **Methodist Recorder**. “Sadly, there have been times when the UK’s ‘hostile environment’ has lacked compassion and warmth. It is not right that asylum-seekers in the UK become destitute due to the restrictions placed upon them while their claims are processed. If an asylum claim has not been assessed within six months, then the applicant should have the right to work and earn a living,” said Mr Hucklesby.

With more than 240 people reaching the UK in small boats since November last year, a Royal Navy patrol ship has been sent to the English Channel to deter migrant crossings. The UK Border Force also has two coastal patrol vessels in the Channel, as well as two cutters, which can rescue several boat loads of people at once. The Navy’s involvement was requested by Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who said it would be an interim measure until two more cutters were redeployed from the Mediterranean (where they have been assisting with much greater numbers of migrants). Mr Javid has defended his decision to escalate the UK’s response, saying that the number of attempted crossings had increased rapidly.

Morally

Former President of the Methodist Conference the Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, a founder and president of the City of Sanctuary movement, said there was a real human being and a genuine human story in every asylum-seeker. “The numbers [crossing the channel] are quite small in the context of the total refugee figures globally,” he said. “Everyone is legally and morally due a proper and full attention for a decision. This needs to be done with the mind of hospitality for people who come here seeking sanctuary.” Dr Bhogal said it was a tragedy that people who were fleeing war and persecution were driven by “inhospitable EU immigration rules” into the hands of unscrupulous criminal gangs and ended up paying huge amounts of money to travel by unsafe means and routes. “If rules permitted, they could arrive here safely by plane for a lot less,” he said. “We need immigration policies and procedures that

show love and mercy and are not mean. Long term, the only solution to this situation is building a world without war and violence”.

The Church of England has urged greater compassion in the migration debate as new figures revealed an influx of lone child refugees among the boatloads of people crossing the channel. Bishop of Dover the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott said it was “crucial to remember that we are dealing with human beings here”. “Across the nation we have been celebrating the season of hope and goodwill as we remember Christ’s birth – let’s not forget so soon that every person is precious”.

Chair of the Methodist South East District the Rev John Hellyer supported Bishop Willmott’s comments. “The people who are making the perilous journey across the channel by boat need to be met with sensitivity and compassion,” he said. “They have almost certainly had their desperation and vulnerability exploited by people-traffickers and need to be taken to a place of safety where their stories can be heard. As Bishop Trevor has said, this kind of response is at the heart of the Christmas message.”

Workplace chaplain in the Birmingham District the Rev David Butterworth, who is involved in asylum-seekers projects in the city, said that in working with Citizens UK, and the charity SafePassage, “we see that the legal access points and signposts are simply not working, even after a number of years. In my view, it is forcing some ‘legal refugees’ and ‘legal asylum-seekers’ to use illegal extortionate smugglers ... Legally processed child refugees in Calais can wait years in dangerous squalor to be reunited with families in Britain,” he said. “Asylum-seekers and refugees held in France were, of course, to some extent, invisible, but now they are arriving on our shores it’s a whole new ball game,” said Mr Butterworth. “It is abhorrent that if some are picked out of the sea, they will be denied asylum. We, the Churches and local partnerships, must raise our voices. It’s in the listening and questions that will bring about changes.”

Mr Butterworth said that for months the Church had been encouraging Methodists and others to have better connections with their MPs and decision-makers “and one wonders how many have ... to a point

where they make their thoughts and presence in the community heard”. “But we must hold in tension, too, that some of our church members will be the ones fanning the flames of non-reception. At a recent service in Birmingham I encouraged the community to ask the questions and give space to the tension so that balanced feedback and views can be offered to our Government,” he said.

Our prayers must be for all those seeking asylum and for their protection during the perilous journeys they make to seek safety. We pray, too, for those who work to support them and for those in our churches who do not fully understand the reasons for seeking sanctuary that they may come to a fuller understanding of Christian love and charity. Alongside that there are a number of other concerns at present.

Please pray:

for the DRC, following what seem to have been flawed elections. The Catholic Church is protesting that the declared winner was not in fact the true winner. DRC is also trying to respond to outbreaks of Ebola.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/13/african-nations-call-for-recount-in-drc-election?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

for China where increasing pressures on the 60 million Christians are causing concerns. Limitations on places of worship, jailing of pastors and attempts to create a Chinese version of Christianity, including writing a ‘Chinese Bible’, are discussed in the article below.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/13/china-christians-religious-persecution-translation-bible?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

for Zimbabwe where there have been riots following significant price rises on food and petrol. At the time of writing a party of Methodists from Cliff College are confined to their hotel because of the dangerous situation outside.

And finally an article in the Guardian tells us that one third of all Christians in Asia are at risk of persecution, including India and Pakistan as well as China and North Korea.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/16/one-in-three-christians-face-persecution-in-asia-report-finds?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Pilgrimage to Palestine

Following our fundraising for the Gaza hospital, I have been in touch with the Amos Trust about the possibility of a Sheffield pilgrimage.

The tour would be developed according to the priorities of the group on the pilgrimage but as an example, I am sharing the details of a similar tailor-made tour for people who attended the Greenbelt Festival. Our pilgrimage could be similar or could have other elements. Part of the idea would be for a group of people to travel together and subsequently form a core group in Sheffield of people who had shared the experience. Every day would include opportunities for reflection and worship, and the group would be able to accommodate people from different faiths and none. The likely cost would be in the region of £1500 including flights, though there would be no objections to people arranging their own flights and staying longer.

The pilgrimage would be based in Bethlehem and Nazareth with time in Jerusalem, Hebron, on the shores of Lake Galilee and in the Judean wilderness.

You will have opportunities to do some or all of the following, or include other options including a visit to the ancient city of Nablus:

- visit the historic and biblical sights in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth;
- see for yourself the impact on Palestinian life today, of the illegal Separation Wall, settlement expansion and the street closures such as in Hebron's Old City.
- meet Amos' inspirational partners; visit the young people of [Alrowwad Cultural Centre](#) in Aida Refugee camp and hear how they promote 'Beautiful non-violent Resistance'.
- hear about the issues facing women on the West Bank at [Wi'am Reconciliation Centre](#) (mentioned by Rev John Howard) and enjoy a BBQ in the shadow of the Separation Wall and stand in solidarity with [Holy Land Trust](#) at the Sumud Peace Camp in the South Hebron

Hills.

- visit Banksy's [Walled Off Hotel](#) in Bethlehem; the inspirational [Tent of Nations](#) and one of the homes that Amos Trust has rebuilt;
- hear Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers talk of their hopes and struggles.
- meet local people and enjoy incredible Palestinian hospitality; take part in a cooking workshop and eat fantastic food (suitable for vegans);
- explore, shop and wander around the streets of Bethlehem and Nazareth.
- take time to stop and be still on the shores of Lake Galilee and in the Judean wilderness, including the Loaves and Fishes church and the Mount of the Beatitudes.
 - This trip would be full board and includes return flights from London Luton (or in our case Manchester) to Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. Prices are based on two people sharing. Single rooms are available upon payment of a supplementary fee.

A participant on a similar tour said "Amos Trust has the most incredible partners. I met so many local people and went to places I could never have gone to on my own or on a regular trip."

Judith, 2016

Eco Church

Welcome, both to this article and to a New Year now well under way. Our Church's Eco-Group has not met since last October and our next meeting is not due until this Nexus has gone to press, but, we do have something to report.

Our sub-group has drawn up a working document containing an outline plan for the eco-development of the large area approximately to the west of the church. Much of this needs to be finalised and agreed but we have been able to "crack" ahead with the tidying of the so-called orchard and the adjacent area under the trees. It has been here that most of the Church's garden waste has been dumped for several years now, and it was not a pretty sight/site. The writer has separated the waste into 3 distinct piles: compost or compostable; non-compostable; twigs and branches for shredding. This last took place a couple of weeks before Christmas, thanks to the trio of hard-workers who gave huge

time and effort to this. Now the remaining piles will be moved to the gated compound behind the church where proper composting facilities have been set up. When this is complete, the whole orchard and adjacent trees area will be raked over ready for planting with more fruit trees, wild flowers and natural plants that can flourish in shade. In the meantime the huge goat willow which hangs over a good part of the orchard will, with the correct permissions from City Council and Church, be severely cut back(pruned), and the resulting wood shredded – what joys await us!

As I write at the beginning of January, there are snowdrops blooming here and there, further reminders of The Light that has come into the world. Blessings to you all.
Antony Ashwell



Gardening Notes:

Global Heating

Otherwise known as ‘Global Warming’. We all enjoy being warm. The word ‘warm’ is often associated with ‘cosy’. I fear we have been let down by our vocabulary. Because of the rise in temperature happening to the planet we live on, it is not going to be ‘cosy’ much longer. Apparently, according to a UN report, we have 12 years to do something about it. Not 11 years or 13 years. They are surprisingly precise about this. It seems related to the volume of ice that remains in the Arctic.

Disinvestment of your pension funds from major CO2 emitting companies, changing your electrical supplier to one that only uses renewable sources of energy and turning down the thermostat in your home are not really in the remit of an article about gardening. But in the not too distant future, whether or not these have been done will affect more than just our gardens. The exquisite little inconveniences that have already landed at our garden gate include the Leek Moth. This pest arrived from the continent about 10 years ago. If it gets into your leek

crop early, occasional plants will be lost from the row before most rot off. If infestation is after the plants are established, what had been handsome plants will wilt and turn to mush in the autumn. The only effective coping strategy is protection. This needs a fine, robust, nylon net, put over the leeks as early as possible. Control of the pest is best started early in the year. It is a small fragile insect that can't fly far and doesn't like being disturbed in the cold weather. So hoeing the ground where you last grew any of the onion family will help expose the hibernation stage of the moth. Remove any debris from that area too. Bag it and put it in your dustbin. Have the council incinerate it. Peat bogs cover less than 3% of the land area of the globe but contain 30% of all carbon stored on land. We need to use less peat in our potting composts. The quality of the reduced peat and peat free composts has improved considerably in the last few years. I have taken to using them more and more. Re use whatever medium you grew last year's tomatoes and peppers in, if you remove the old root ball, shake it up and add some fertiliser it will grow good lettuce and pumpkins this year. It works for me. It saves resources and cash, a win on two counts.

I had reduced the number of fires I had on my allotment to 2 a year. (They are now prohibited in the summer months.) But I will be binning it all so that the carbon in my rubbish can be turned in to heat & power in the Bernard Rd Incinerator. I hope you have a successful year.

Bill

Ed note: If anyone would be interested in a visit to the Bernard Road Incinerator (I am told it is fascinating) please let me know as I can arrange a guided tour.

Food and Feasting: It has to be pancakes... or, while we can still celebrate our engagement with Europe, it's all about crepes – with thanks to Felicity Cloake of The Guardian

The crepe says a lot about the difference between France and the UK –

in the popular imagination, at least. Though a close relative of the ordinary British pancake, with the same ancient roots, it has evolved into a slimmer, more elegant, more luxurious dish altogether – rich in cream and alcohol, with edges as thin as chantilly lace. It makes our own plainer, homelier kind look like the unsophisticated country cousin. There will always be a place for that dear familiar cousin at my table; the fancy crepe will never displace a pile of pancakes, soft and ever-so-slightly doughy, crunchy with tart, lemon-soaked sugar, as the crowning glory of my Shrove Tuesday supper – but they might well become the appetite-whetter.

I prefer the crisper crepe in a savoury context, and it is undeniably better suited to fancier preparations, where lightness and richness are desirable. But without one of those special hot plates and a tiny paddle, how do you make crepes to rival those dispensed from tiny, cramped stands at any French fair or market?

Plain wheat flour is the most popular choice, although buckwheat flour is a common alternative, especially in Brittany, the home of the savoury galette bretonne, and Caroline Conran gives a recipe for crepes made with chestnut flour in her award-winning *Sud de France*. Both the recipes I try use equal parts wheat and alternative flours, presumably because, as Conran observes, even with this mixture “they are not as light as pancakes made with white flour”. Indeed, both are the heaviest I make, though they do have an interesting flavour – the buckwheat slightly bitter and earthy, the chestnut sweeter and nuttier. Both are available from health-food shops and are well worth a try if you’re feeling adventurous.

Ruth van Waerebeek’s book *The Taste of Belgium* offers a yeasted buckwheat pancake recipe from her grandmother Marie that, although it is puffy and slightly risen rather than wafer thin, deserves a special mention. It is like a cross between a crepe and a crumpet, and I love the idea of wrapping them around cheesy, creamy endives, as she suggests. Everyone uses eggs in their batter (though Julia Child goes yolk only), but the other liquids are a matter of debate. Plainest of all is Child, who uses equal parts milk and water – which would even seem parsimonious for a British pancake, and hardly in the spirit of Fat Tuesday.

Michel Roux demands that the milk should be brought to the boil, then allowed to cool before use for reasons I’m not entirely clear about – this is suggested in breadmaking, apparently because it stops the

whey proteins in the milk hampering the bread's rise, but here, with an unleavened pancake, it doesn't seem to make any sense (or difference). Roux, however, has 70 years' experience and a batch of Michelin stars, so if anyone can shed any light on the matter, please do.

I can, however, understand why he also uses double cream in the batter for his crepes in *The Essence of French Cooking*. It makes them meltingly rich and soft, and just as luxurious as you would hope for from such a dish. However, I prefer the flavour of the butter used by Child, Paula Wolfert's *The Cooking of South-West France*, Richard Olney's *The French Menu Cookbook* and Van Waerebeek.

Though Olney calls for milk in his master recipe, his introduction intrigues me: "It is not necessary to remain terribly loyal to precise ingredients or measurements. Crepes are good made with milk or beer." I take him at his word, and he's right; the beer makes them wonderfully light and lacy, and adds a subtle malty flavour. I like it in his sweet pancakes, but it would be truly superb in a savoury context. I find many of the batters far too thick – they are difficult to spread around the pan, which means the results are somewhat lumpy. Olney, Child and Roux all have the right idea: a crepe batter should be the consistency of single, rather than double, cream.

Sugar is, of course, a must in a sweet crepe, balanced with just a pinch of salt. Most recipes I try also add a little alcohol. Child suggests orange liqueur, rum or brandy, the last also endorsed by Pierre Koffman's *Memories of Gascony*, in the form of armagnac, and by Olney in the form of cognac. Roux goes for curaçao (he is making crepes suzette, after all) and Wolfert uses Pernod. This last is the only flavour I would strongly counsel against; although I'm keen enough on a milky glass of pastis on a warm evening, the aniseed is overpowering in this context. Wolfert and Conran use orange flower water in their crepes, with the former also adding lemon zest and almond extract. They are all great ideas, depending on what you're serving with the crepes, though none are strictly necessary.

Method

Child insists you use a food processor to whiz up your ingredients, presumably to ensure a silky-smooth consistency, and Wolfert confides that "the secret of these farmhouse crepes is to strain the batter so that it is perfectly smooth" I have a very hard time getting her batter

through my sieve, and conclude that it is easier, and creates less washing up, if you give the batter a good and thorough whisk, as everyone else suggests. Don't overdo it, though – once it's smooth, leave it be, or you'll encourage gluten formation, which will make them tough.

Olney does away with the usual resting time for the batter, which ranges from an hour (Conran, Roux, Van Waerebeek) to three (Wolfert), explaining: "I do not find it essential to let the batter stand before cooking, but this may of course be done." He's right; it's not essential, but it does seem to make them smoother – according to Harold McGee, "an hour or more allow[s] the proteins and damaged starch to absorb water and air bubbles to rise and escape".

Cook them in a hot pan – butter is my preferred medium, but you could use Wolfert's goose fat in a savoury context if you prefer, or oil (or clarified butter) if you're making a lot and are worried about the butter burning. Toppings I generously leave up to you – from Coran's delectable-sounding rum and chestnut cream to Roux's orange sauce or Olney's fines herbes, it's all a matter of taste.

(Serves 6)

For sweet crepes

125g plain flour

2 tbsp caster sugar

Pinch of salt

3 eggs, beaten

300ml milk

75g butter, melted, plus extra to cook

2 tbsp brandy

1 tsp orange flower water (optional)

Zest of ½ a lemon, finely grated

For savoury crepes

125g plain flour (or 60g plain flour, 60g buckwheat flour)

Pinch of salt

2 eggs, beaten

300ml beer (I used a malty Belgian number)

75g butter, melted, plus extra to cook

The method for both is the same. Sift the flour into a bowl and whisk with the sugar, if using, and salt. Make a well in the middle and whisk in

half the eggs, followed by half the milk or beer. Add the remaining eggs and liquid, then stir in the melted butter and brandy and other flavourings, if using. The mixture should be the consistency of single cream – if it's too thick, stir in a little more milk or beer. Cover and leave to stand for at least an hour, although longer won't hurt. Give it a good whisk to recombine before cooking.

Set a small frying pan over a medium-high heat and grease thoroughly with butter, tipping out the excess for the next one. Test with a little batter – it should sizzle as it hits the pan. Once it does, pour in a half ladleful of batter (or adjust to fit the size of your pan – the first crepe will always be a test one) and quickly tilt the pan to cover the base, tipping any excess back into the bowl.

Leave to cook until you can see the edges turning brown, then loosen with a palette knife or spatula and flip. Cook until spottily golden on the other side, then serve immediately, or keep warm until you're ready.

And our own feasting...

On Sunday March 3rd there will be a pancake breakfast at 9.15 am, prior to our morning service. We look forward to serving plenty of pancakes. This event will raise money for the Church Urban Fund

This year's Seder

A reminder that, just before Easter, we will be holding our now annual Seder meal. Full details will be in the Notices, and a sign-up sheet in the narthex nearer the time.

Quite a few people are regular attenders at the Seder, which is a meal preceded by the re-telling of the Passover story. This re-telling is known as a haggadah, and includes a lot of interesting ritual. However, the haggadah is more than just a historical story; the circumstances then of the Jews in Egypt are related to modern parallel situations, of which there are many round the world.

Do ask for more information. and keep your eyes open for details. It's

always an enjoyable evening, and gives us the chance to share a ceremony which, for us, comes from the Old Testament, and for our Jewish friends (some of whom always attend and support us) is part of their important festival of Pesach (Passover). This year Pesach and Easter coincide.

Chris Lowry

Church and Community

Knit and Knatter

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

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 Chris Venables. 07950 432487 for further information.

The Tuesday Café

The Tuesday Café, our café for people living with memory loss or dementia and their carers opened in the middle of March. The café takes place in the narthex in church on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon . We intend that it will be open every Tuesday of the year (except Christmas Day!) The café offers hot drinks, biscuits and homemade cakes, music, memory activities, and the opportunity for a chat. The café already has a good group of volunteers from the congregation and we are also grateful to those who have offered to bake for us. If you know anyone who might be interested in coming to the café, do please take flyer with all the information. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Judith Roberts.

Church Family

Congratulations to

Jan and Alan Birch and family following the wedding of Kate and Mark on 22nd December.

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Joan Francis and her family, following the death of Michael
Mark Carrick and his family, following the death of his mother Christine
those with health concerns: Chris Lowry, John Kenward, Alistair Dempster, Peter Rothwell, Pam Frost, George Glover, Lisa Solk and Margaret Abbey

those recently in hospital: Barbara Shuker, Geoffrey Terry

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

Christmas Card Tree for HARC

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to HARC. This year, the nineteenth year we have been collecting using the tree, we had a record number of cards and the largest collection ever. The sum of £503.27 was raised which, together with Gift Aid on £300, increased the donation to £578.27. Magnificent, so thank you. Rodney & Marilyn

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 Common Worship and 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

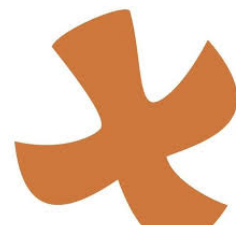
At the 10.00 Communion service on Wednesdays, we reflect together on a piece of spiritual writing. This may be from one of the Christian traditions, or sometimes from another tradition of faith. The person leading the service will make copies of the piece of writing to give out to everyone. Come and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

TAIZE IN LENT

Quiet reflective prayer with repetitive singing, starting at 7.00pm in the Chancel on Wednesdays during Lent

(excluding Ash Wednesday but including the Wednesday of Holy Week).

March 13th, 20th & 27th, April 3rd, 10th & 17th.



CHURCH DIARY

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2 nd	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Wednesday 6 th	7.30 pm	Leadership Team meeting	Narthex
Thursday 7 th	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Friday 8 th	7.30 pm	Sheffield Music Club concert – Block 4 recorder quartet	Room 1, Shirley House
Tuesday 12 th	7.30 pm	ECC meeting	Narthex
Monday 25 th	7.00 – 9.00 pm	Christian Aid Roadshow - Journeying to a more just and equal world	Church
Wednesday 27 th	1.30 pm	Openness Group meeting	Church

MARCH

Saturday 2 nd	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 7 th	9.30 am onwards	Working Party	
Thursday 7 th	7.30 pm	Property & Finance Meeting	Interfaith Room
Tuesday 12 th	7.30 pm	Church Links meeting	Narthex
Wednesday 20 th	7.30 pm	Leadership Team meeting	Narthex

FEBRUARY – MARCH SERVICES

February 3rd	4th Sunday after Epiphany	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
February 10th	5th Sunday after Epiphany	
9.15 am	Sandcastles	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Mark Carrick</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
February 17th	6th Sunday after Epiphany	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Christopher Gardner</i>
February 24th	7th Sunday after Epiphany	
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
March 3rd	Transfiguration Sunday	
	Last Sunday before Lent	

10.30 am	Holy Communion. We will be joined at this service by friends from the Nether Edge Quaker meeting	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
March 6th	Ash Wednesday	
To be announced	Imposition of Ashes at St Peter & St Oswald's	
March 10th	First Sunday in Lent	
9.15 am	Sandcastles	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
6.30 pm	Holy Communion at Southcroft	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
March 13th		
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Lent	
March 17th	Second Sunday in Lent	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
March 20th		
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Lent	
March 24th	Third Sunday in Lent	
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
March 27th		
7.00 pm	Taizé Prayer for Lent	
March 31st	Mothering Sunday	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>

Last words

Let us do something incredible this New Year.
 Let us try to see the world from the window of other cultures.

Mehmet Murat ildan (Turkish playwright)

CAMPAIGNS ROADSHOW

Journeying to a more just and equal world

Monday, 25th February, 7-9pm

St. Andrew's Psalter Lane

Join us to:

- **Reflect** on how far we've come as a movement for justice.
- **Learn** how you can campaign confidently in your church and local community.
- **Hear** the latest on our Big Shift climate campaign.

We'll share tips, plan actions, and work together to create the dignity, equality and justice we want to see in the world. You'll come away feeling inspired. There's work to be done!



When: Monday 25th February, 7-9pm

Where: St Andrew's Psalter Lane, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8YL

Contact: Sarah, campaigns@christian-aid.org

Find out more: SheffieldBigShift.eventbrite.co.uk



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